
Common Algebra Mistakes

Fragment: Simplify a Linear Expression

The Mistake Fragment

Find the algebra mistake:

$$2x - \frac{1}{2}(y - 2) = -1 + 2x - \frac{1}{2}y$$

Need a hint? Look carefully at the red part of the algebra:

$$2x - \frac{1}{2}(y - 2) = -1 + 2x - \frac{1}{2}y$$

The Correction

$$2x - \frac{1}{2}(y - 2) = 1 + 2x - \frac{1}{2}y$$

An Explanation

All together now: *a negative times a negative is a positive.*