**Showing Multiplication in Algebra**

Never use “x” for multiplication in Algebra, it can be confused with the variable *x*. If there are no variables, you may still use “x.”

Instead, use “•,” or “\*,” or separate the factors using parentheses to show multiplication. If you are using parentheses, the parentheses can go on each factor or on all factors except the first.

Examples:

 3•4 3\*4 3(4) (3)(4) **NEVER** (3)4

When the factors involve variables, you do not need any symbols to show multiplication. You should use as few symbols as necessary.

Great examples: *xyz* 4*n* 3*x*2*y*

Mediocre examples: 4•n 4(n) x•y•z

WRONG examples: n4 x3y 4x*n* (4)n

Whenever numbers and variable are multiplied together, the number, called a COEFFICIENT, belongs first. Variables should be in alphabetical order. When in doubt, use as few symbols as possible.