

pg 221 problem "a"

$$\textcircled{a} \quad \frac{1}{2} + \frac{7}{9}a - \frac{4}{9}a + \frac{3}{10}$$

circle the like terms with the variable "a," including the sign

$$\left(\frac{7}{9}a - \frac{4}{9}a\right) + \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{10}\right)$$

group like terms (Commutative Property)

$$\left(\frac{3}{9}a\right) + \left(\frac{5}{10} + \frac{3}{10}\right)$$

combine like terms (to get $\frac{3}{9}a$), and use the LCD to rename fractions with unlike denominators (so $\frac{1}{2}$ becomes $\frac{5}{10}$)

$$\frac{1}{3}a + \frac{8}{10}$$

reduce $\frac{3}{9}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$, and add $\frac{5}{10} + \frac{3}{10}$

$$\frac{1}{3}a + \frac{4}{5}$$

reduce $\frac{8}{10}$ to $\frac{4}{5}$
This is the final answer. You cannot combine $\frac{1}{3}a$ with $\frac{4}{5}$ because they are not like terms.