A College Algebra Student's Guide to Factoring Polynomials


Otherwise, find 2 numbers whose product is $a^{*} c$ and whose sum is $b$.

Then, fill in the blanks.
$a x^{2}+b x+c=a x^{2}+_{-} x+{ }_{-} x+c$
Now, factor by grouping.

Once you have factored a polynomial, check each factor to make sure it is completely factored.
Then, use the distributive property to multiply all of the factors and check your answer.

