

Reviewing the Exponent Laws

Exponent Laws	
Product Rule $a^m \cdot a^n = a^{m+n}$	$(ab)^m = a^m b^m$
Quotient Rule $a^m \div a^n = a^{m-n}$	$\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^m = \frac{a^m}{b^m}$
$a^0 = 1$	$a^{-m} = \frac{1}{a^m}$
"Power of a Power" Rule $(a^m)^n = a^{m \times n}$	$\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^{-m} = \left(\frac{b}{a}\right)^m$
$a^{m/n} = \sqrt[n]{a^m} = (\sqrt[n]{a})^m$ ← next lesson... 😊	

A. Simplify. Express answers with positive exponents.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) } & (5u^2v^4w^8)(-2uv^2w^{-3}) \\ & = 5(-2)u^{2+1}v^{4+2}w^{8+(-3)} \\ & = -10u^3v^6w^5 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b) } & (-3x^2y^4)^2 \\ & = (-3)^2(x^2)^2(y^4)^2 \\ & = 9x^4y^8 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{c) } & \left(\frac{3x^3}{y^4}\right)^{-2} \\ & = \left(\frac{y^4}{3x^3}\right)^2 \\ & = \frac{y^8}{9x^6} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{d) } & \left(\frac{36a^8b^6c^3}{-9a^3b^4c^2}\right)^2 \\ & = (-4a^5b^2c)^2 \\ & = 16a^{10}b^4c^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{e) } & \frac{(-5m^{-2}n^{-1})(-4m^{-3}n^{-2})}{-10m^2n^{-3}} \\ & = \frac{20m^{-5}n^{-3}}{-10m^2n^{-3}} \\ & = -2m^{-7}n^0 \\ & = -2\left(\frac{1}{m^7}\right)(1) \\ & = -\frac{2}{m^7} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{f) } & \frac{(2p^2q^{-3})^{-2}(4pq^{-1})^3}{(-3p^3q^{-2})^{-2}} \\ & = \frac{2^{-2}p^{-4}q^6 \cdot 4^3p^3q^{-3}}{(-3)^{-2}p^{-6}q^4} \\ & = \frac{\frac{1}{4}(4^3)p^{-1}q^3}{(-3)^2p^{-6}q^4} \\ & = 144p^5q^{-1} \\ & = \frac{144p^5}{q} \end{aligned}$$

B. Evaluate each of the following.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) } \left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^{-3} &= \left(\frac{5}{2}\right)^3 \\ &= \frac{5^3}{2^3} \\ &= \frac{125}{8} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b) } \frac{(-4)^0}{2^{-3}} &= \frac{1}{2^{-3}} \\ &= 2^3 \\ &= 8 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{c) } \frac{3^{-1} + 3^{-2}}{3^{-3}} &= \frac{\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3^2}}{\frac{1}{3^3}} \\ &= \frac{\left(\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{9}\right)}{\left(\frac{1}{27}\right)} \\ &= \frac{\left(\frac{4}{9}\right)}{\left(\frac{1}{27}\right)} \\ &= \frac{4}{9} \times \frac{27}{1} \\ &= 12 \end{aligned}$$

or

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{3^{-1} + 3^{-2}}{3^{-3}} \times \frac{3^3}{3^3} &\leftarrow \text{"Clear" the negative exponents} \\ &= \frac{3^2 + 3^1}{3^0} \\ &= \frac{9 + 3}{1} \\ &= 12 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{d) } \left(\frac{4^{-112} + 4^{-111}}{4^{-110} - 4^{-112}}\right) \times \frac{4^{112}}{4^{112}} &\leftarrow \text{"Clear" the negative exponents} \\ &= \frac{4^0 + 4^1}{4^2 - 4^0} \\ &= \frac{1 + 4}{16 - 1} \\ &= \frac{5}{15} \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{e) } 3^x(3^{-x} - 3^{-3-x}) &= 3^{-x+x} - 3^{-3-x+x} \\ &= 3^0 - 3^{-3} \\ &= 1 - \frac{1}{3^3} \\ &= \frac{1 \times 27}{1 \times 27} - \frac{1}{27} \\ &= \frac{26}{27} \end{aligned}$$

Rational Exponents

Use a calculator to complete the following.

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \text{i) } 9^{\frac{1}{2}} = \underline{3} \quad \text{and} \quad \sqrt[2]{9} = \underline{3} \quad \therefore \\
 \text{ii) } 64^{\frac{1}{3}} = \underline{4} \quad \text{and} \quad \sqrt[3]{64} = \underline{4} \quad \therefore \\
 \text{iii) } 16^{\frac{1}{4}} = \underline{2} \quad \text{and} \quad \sqrt[4]{16} = \underline{2} \quad \therefore
 \end{array}
 \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{l} \text{i) } \\ \text{ii) } \\ \text{iii) } \end{array}} \right\} a^{1/n} = \sqrt[n]{a}$$

Rules: i) $a^{\frac{1}{n}} = \sqrt[n]{a}$, where $\sqrt[n]{a}$ is called a **radical** and means the n^{th} root of a .

$$\text{ii) } a^{\frac{m}{n}} = \sqrt[n]{a^m} \quad \text{or} \quad a^{\frac{m}{n}} = \left(\sqrt[n]{a}\right)^m$$

Ex. 1: Write in radical form.

a) $x^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sqrt{x}$

b) $a^{\frac{4}{5}} = \left(\sqrt[5]{a}\right)^4$

c) $125^{-\frac{2}{3}} = \left(\sqrt[3]{125}\right)^{-2}$

$$= \sqrt[5]{a^4}$$

$$= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{125}}\right)^2$$

Ex. 2: Write as a power using rational exponents and simplify.

a) $\sqrt[3]{12} = 12^{\frac{1}{3}}$

b) $\frac{1}{\sqrt[5]{(-6)^3}} = \frac{1}{(-6)^{\frac{3}{5}}}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{c) } \sqrt[3]{2x^6} &= \left(2x^6\right)^{\frac{1}{3}} \\
 &= \left(2x^6\right)^{\frac{1}{6}} \\
 &= 2^{\frac{1}{6}} x^1 \\
 &= 2^{\frac{1}{6}} x
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{d) } \left(\sqrt[3]{x^2}\right)\left(\sqrt[4]{x^3}\right) &= \left(x^{\frac{2}{3}}\right)\left(x^{\frac{3}{4}}\right) \\
 &= \left(x^{\frac{8}{12}}\right)\left(x^{\frac{9}{12}}\right) \\
 &= x^{\frac{17}{12}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Ex. 3: Evaluate. Show all steps. Give final answers as fractions in lowest terms, where applicable (no decimal answers).

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) } 625^{\frac{1}{4}} &= \sqrt[4]{625} \\ &= 5 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b) } (-64)^{\frac{1}{3}} &= \sqrt[3]{-64} \\ &= -4 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{c) } 16^{0.75} &= 16^{\frac{3}{4}} \\ &= (\sqrt[4]{16})^3 \\ &= (2)^3 \\ &= 8 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{d) } \left(\frac{49}{25}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} &= \frac{\sqrt{49}}{\sqrt{25}} \\ &= \frac{7}{5} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{e) } 625^{-\frac{3}{2}} &= \left(\frac{1}{625}\right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{25}\right)^3 \\ &= \frac{1}{15625} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{f) } (-32)^{-\frac{2}{5}} &= \left(\frac{1}{-32}\right)^{\frac{2}{5}} \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{-2}\right)^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{g) } \left(9^{\frac{3}{7}} \times 3^{\frac{1}{7}}\right)^{14} &= 9^{\frac{3}{7} \cdot 14^2} \times 3^{\frac{1}{7} \cdot 14^2} \\ &= 9^6 \times 3^2 \\ &= 9^6 \times 9 \\ &= 9^7 \\ &= 4\,782\,969 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{h) } \sqrt[3]{\sqrt{64}} &= \left[(64)^{\frac{1}{2}}\right]^{\frac{1}{3}} \\ &= [8]^{\frac{1}{3}} \\ &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{i) } (\sqrt[3]{5^2})(\sqrt[3]{5}) &= 5^{\frac{2}{3}} \cdot 5^{\frac{1}{3}} \\ &= 5^{\frac{3}{3}} \\ &= 5 \end{aligned}$$

Ex. 4: Solve for x.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) } 2^{x+1} &= 16 \\ &\text{rewrite LS and RS with same base} \\ 2^{x+1} &= 2^4 \\ \because \text{bases are equal} \\ x+1 &= 4 \\ x &= 4-1 \\ \therefore x &= 3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b) } 4^{3x} &= \frac{1}{64} \\ &\text{rewrite LS and RS with same base} \\ 4^{3x} &= 4^{-3} \\ \because \text{bases are equal} \\ 3x &= -3 \\ \therefore x &= -1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{c) } x^3 &= -\frac{1}{216} \\ &\text{need to isolate base of } x^1 \\ (x^3)^{\frac{1}{3}} &= \left(-\frac{1}{216}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}} \\ x^1 &= \sqrt[3]{-\frac{1}{216}} \\ x &= \frac{-1}{6} \\ \therefore x &= -\frac{1}{6} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{d) } 2x^{\frac{4}{3}} &= 162 \\ 2x^{\frac{4}{3}} &= \frac{162}{2} \\ x^{\frac{4}{3}} &= 81 \\ (x^{\frac{4}{3}})^{\frac{3}{4}} &= (81)^{\frac{3}{4}} \\ x^1 &= (3)^3 \\ \therefore x &= 27 \end{aligned}$$

Solving Exponential Equations

- In an exponential equation, the variables appear as exponents
- If $a^x = a^y$, then $x = y$ for all $a \neq 0, 1, -1$
- Methods for solving exponential equations:
 - rewrite the powers with the same base
 - remove a power as a common factor

1. Solve for x by rewriting the powers with the same base.

a) $9^{x+1} = 3^{x-1}$

$$3^{2(x+1)} = 3^{x-1}$$

$$3^{2x+2} = 3^{x-1}$$

\therefore bases are equal

$$2x+2 = x-1$$

$$2x-x = -1-2$$

$$\therefore x = -3$$

b) $25^{3x+1} = 125^x$

$$5^{2(3x+1)} = 5^{3(x)}$$

$$5^{6x+2} = 5^{3x}$$

\therefore bases are equal

$$6x+2 = 3x$$

$$6x-3x = -2$$

$$3x = -2$$

$$\therefore x = -\frac{2}{3}$$

c) $2^{x^2+2x} = 2^{x+6}$

\therefore bases are equal

$$x^2+2x = x+6$$

$$x^2+2x-x-6=0$$

$$x^2+x-6=0$$

$$(x+3)(x-2)=0$$

$$\therefore x = -3, 2$$

d) $27^{x-1} = \left(\frac{1}{9}\right)^{2x+5}$

$$3^{3(x-1)} = \left(3^{-2}\right)^{2x+5}$$

$$3^{3x-3} = 3^{-4x-10}$$

\therefore bases are equal

$$3x-3 = -4x-10$$

$$3x+4x = -10+3$$

$$7x = -7$$

$$\therefore x = -1$$

$$e) 81 = \frac{9^{x+4}}{27^{x-1}}$$

$$3^4 = \frac{3^{2(x+4)}}{3^{3(x-1)}}$$

$$3^4 = \frac{3^{2x+8}}{3^{3x-3}}$$

$$3^4 = 3^{(2x+8)-(3x-3)}$$

\therefore bases are equal

$$4 = (2x+8)-(3x-3)$$

$$\begin{aligned} 4 &= 2x+8-3x+3 \\ 4-8-3 &= 2x-3x \\ -7 &= -x \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore x = 7$$

$$f) 36^{2x+4} = \sqrt{1296^x}$$

$$6^{2(2x+4)} = \sqrt{6^{4x}}$$

$$6^{4x+8} = (6^{4x})^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$6^{4x+8} = 6^{2x}$$

\therefore bases are equal

$$4x+8 = 2x$$

$$4x-2x = -8$$

$$2x = -8$$

$$\therefore x = -4$$

2. Solve the following system of exponential equations.

- reduce to a linear system of equations
- solve the linear system algebraically **by elimination**

$$\begin{cases} 5^{-3x+2y} = \frac{1}{25} \text{ (1)} \rightarrow 5^{-3x+2y} = 5^{-2} & \because \text{bases are equal} & \therefore -3x+2y = -2 \text{ (3)} \\ 2^{-10x+3y} = 256 \text{ (2)} \rightarrow 2^{-10x+3y} = 2^8 & \because \text{bases are equal} & \therefore -10x+3y = 8 \text{ (4)} \end{cases}$$

$$[-3x+2y = -2] \text{ (3)} \times 3$$

$$[-10x+3y = 8] \text{ (4)} \times 2$$

Subtract to eliminate y:

$$\begin{array}{r} -9x + 6y = -6 \\ - -20x + 6y = 16 \\ \hline 11x + 0y = -22 \end{array}$$

Sub $x = -2$ into (3):

$$-3(-2) + 2y = -2$$

$$6 + 2y = -2$$

$$2y = -2 - 6$$

$$2y = -8$$

$$\therefore y = -4$$

Solve for x:

$$11x = -22$$

$$\therefore x = -2$$

\therefore the solution to the system is $(-2, -4)$

HW: p. 23-25 #1-3 (ace), 4-10 (odd parts), 19ab, 20bc, 22ac, 23

PLUS: **Solve each system:**

$$i) \begin{cases} 2^{2x+y} = 32 \\ 2^{x-3y} = \frac{1}{2} \end{cases} \quad ii) \begin{cases} 9^{x+2y} = \frac{1}{9} \\ 3^{2x+y} = 81 \end{cases}$$

Answers

i) $(x=2, y=1)$

ii) $(x=3, y=-2)$

Solving Advanced Exponential Equations

1. Solve for x algebraically by removing a power as a common factor. Note: using the law for multiplying powers with the same base in reverse, we can see that $a^{x+b} = (a^x)(a^b)$.

a) $2^{x+2} - 2^x = 12$

$$2^x(2^2 - 1) = 12$$

$$2^x(4-1) = 12$$

$$\frac{2^x(3)}{3} = \frac{12}{3}$$

$$2^x = 4$$

$$2^x = 2^2$$

∴ bases are equal

$$\boxed{x = 2}$$

← common factor using the lowest exponent...
i.e. 2^x

b) $8^{x-1} - 8^{x-2} = 7$

$$8^{x-2}(8^1 - 1) = 7$$

$$\frac{8^{x-2}(7)}{7} = \frac{7}{7}$$

$$8^{x-2} = 1$$

$$8^{x-2} = 8^0$$

∴ bases are equal

$$x-2 = 0$$

$$\boxed{x = 2}$$

← common factor using the lowest exponent...
i.e. 8^{x-2}

2. Solve each of the following quadratic exponential equations! Note: using the power of a power rule in reverse, we can see that $a^{bx} = (a^b)^x$ or $(a^x)^b$.

a) $2^{2x} - 6(2^x) + 8 = 0$

$$(2^x)^2 - 6(2^x) + 8 = 0 \quad \text{Let } a = 2^x$$

$$a^2 - 6a + 8 = 0$$

$$(a-2)(a-4) = 0$$

$$a = 2 \quad \text{or} \quad a = 4$$

$$2^x = 2 \quad \text{or} \quad 2^x = 4$$

$$2^x = 2^1 \quad \text{or} \quad 2^x = 2^2$$

∴ bases are equal

$$\boxed{\therefore x = 1, 2}$$

← quadratic

b) $5^{2x} = 125 - 20(5^x)$

$$(5^x)^2 + 20(5^x) - 125 = 0 \quad \text{Let } b = 5^x$$

$$b^2 + 20b - 125 = 0$$

$$(b+25)(b-5) = 0$$

$$b = -25 \quad \text{or} \quad b = 5$$

$$5^x = -25 \quad \text{or} \quad 5^x = 5$$

no soln ∴ bases are equal

$$\boxed{\therefore x = 1}$$

← quadratic