

1-2: Exponent Rules

$$a \cdot X^n$$

Diagram illustrating the components of the expression $a \cdot X^n$:

- a is labeled as the **coefficient** (in blue).
- X is labeled as the **base** (in green).
- n is labeled as the **exponent** (in red).

Coefficient: The number in front of the variable

Base: The number/variable being multiplied - attached to the exponent

Exponent (power): how many times the base is multiplied by itself.

Example:

2^3 could be re-written $2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$

3^5 could be re-written $3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 3 = 243$

a^7 could be re-written $a \times a \times a \times a \times a \times a \times a$

******DO NOT confuse 2^3 with 2×3 ******

They are NOT the same!

Product Rule for exponents

$$a^m \cdot a^n = a^{m+n}$$

Simplify: Watch base/coefficient!

mult. is
commutative
 $2 \cdot 3 = 3 \cdot 2$

$$\begin{aligned} & \underline{2}^2 \cdot \underline{2}^3 \\ & 2^{(2+3)} \\ & 2^5 = \boxed{32} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \underline{3}z^2 \cdot \underline{4}z^4 \\ & \underline{34}z^2 \cdot z^4 \\ & \underline{12}z^{(2+4)} \\ & = \boxed{12z^6} \end{aligned}$$

You try

$$\begin{aligned} & \underline{(-3)}^2 \cdot \underline{(-3)}^3 \\ & = \underline{(-3)}^{(2+3)} \\ & = \underline{(-3)}^5 \\ & = \boxed{-243} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \underline{5}x^2 \cdot \underline{(-2)}x^5 \\ & \underline{-10}x^{(2+5)} \\ & = \boxed{-10x^7} \end{aligned}$$

Quotient Rule for exponents

$$\frac{a^m}{a^n} = a^{m-n} \quad \text{if } a \neq 0$$

Simplify: Watch base vs coefficient. Write all out and cancel ($x/x = 1$)

$$\frac{||}{||} = 1$$

$$\frac{||3}{||3} = 1$$

$$\frac{X}{X} = 1$$

$$\frac{8^5}{8^3} = \frac{\cancel{8} \cdot \cancel{8} \cdot \cancel{8} \cdot 8 \cdot 8}{\cancel{8} \cdot \cancel{8} \cdot \cancel{8}} = 8^2$$

OR

$$8^{(5-3)} = 8^2$$

Same

$$\frac{27z^9}{12z^4} = \frac{9z^5}{4}$$

You try

$$\frac{y^8}{y^6} = \frac{\cancel{y} \cdot \cancel{y} \cdot \cancel{y} \cdot \cancel{y} \cdot y \cdot y \cdot y \cdot y}{\cancel{y} \cdot \cancel{y} \cdot \cancel{y} \cdot \cancel{y} \cdot \cancel{y} \cdot \cancel{y}} = y^2$$

OR

$$y^{(8-6)} = y^2$$

$$\frac{-24b^5}{16b^3} = \frac{-3b^2}{2}$$

Zero-exponent Rule

$$a^0 = 1 \quad \text{if } a \neq 0$$

Simplify

$$3^0$$

|

$$\pi^0$$

|

$$3x^0 = 3 \cdot 1 = 3$$

$$(\partial\theta + \Phi\Omega - \delta\epsilon)^0$$

|

Negative-exponent Rule

$$a^{-n} = \frac{1}{a^n} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{1}{a^{-n}} = a^n \quad \text{if } a \neq 0$$

Simplify: only move base, not coefficient!

$$\frac{3^{-4}}{3^4} = \frac{1}{81}$$

stays ↓

$$\frac{4x^{-5}}{x^3}$$

$$\frac{1}{3^{-2}} = 3^2 = 9$$

You try

$$5^{-3}$$

$$\frac{1}{5^3} = \boxed{\frac{1}{125}}$$

stays

$$\frac{5}{y^{-3}} = \boxed{5y^3}$$

Simplify

$$\frac{-24b^5}{16b^{-3}}$$

$$\frac{-3b^5 \cdot b^3}{2}$$

$$= \frac{-3b^{(5+3)}}{2} = \boxed{\frac{-3b^8}{2}}$$

$$\frac{50s^2t}{15s^5t^{-4}}$$

$$\frac{10s^{(2-5)}t^{1+4}}{3}$$

$$\frac{10s^{-3}t^{(1+4)}}{3}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{10t^5}{3s^3}}$$

How do YOU think we do this?
(hint: write it all the way out!)

$$\begin{array}{l}
 (3^2)^4 \\
 (3^2)(3^2)(3^2)(3^2) \\
 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \\
 \left. \vphantom{3 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 3} \right\} \\
 3^8 \leftarrow
 \end{array}$$

Power rule for exponential expressions

$$(a^m)^n = a^{m \cdot n}$$

Simplify

$$\begin{array}{l}
 (4^3)^5 \\
 4^{3 \cdot 5} = 4^{15} \\
 \boxed{1073741824}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 [(-3)^3]^2 \\
 (-3)^{3 \cdot 2} \\
 = (-3)^6 = \boxed{729}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 (6^3)^0 \\
 6^{3 \cdot 0} \\
 6^0 = \boxed{1}
 \end{array}$$

You try

$$(2^2)^3$$

$$2^{(2 \cdot 3)}$$

$$2^6 = \boxed{64}$$

$$(z^3)^{-6}$$

$$z^{(3 \cdot -6)}$$

$$z^{-18} = \boxed{\frac{1}{z^{18}}}$$

$$(s^{-3})^{-7}$$

$$s^{(-3 \cdot -7)}$$

$$\boxed{s^{21}}$$

Product to a power

$$(a \cdot b)^n = a^n \cdot b^n$$

Simplify. This case happens with PARENTHESES

$$(3z)^4$$

$$3^4 \cdot z^4$$

$$\boxed{81z^4}$$

$$(3y^{-2})^{-3}$$

$$3^{-3} \cdot y^{(2 \cdot -3)}$$

$$\frac{1y^6}{3^3}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{y^6}{27}}$$

$$(-3a^2)^2$$

$$(-3)^2 \cdot a^{(2 \cdot 2)}$$

$$\boxed{9a^4}$$

You try

$$(5y)^3$$

$$5^3 \cdot y^3$$

$$\boxed{125y^3}$$

$$(4a^3)^{-2}$$

$$4^{-2} \cdot a^{(3 \cdot -2)}$$

$$\frac{1a^{-6}}{4^2}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{1}{16a^6}}$$

Quotient to a power

$$\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^n = \frac{a^n}{b^n} \quad \text{if } b \neq 0$$

$$\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^{-n} = \left(\frac{b}{a}\right)^n \quad \text{if } a \neq 0, b \neq 0$$

Simplify

$$\left(\frac{w}{4}\right)^3$$

$$\frac{w^3}{4^3} = \boxed{\frac{w^3}{64}}$$

$$\left(\frac{2w^2}{y^3}\right)^4$$

$$\frac{(2w^2)^4}{(y^3)^4}$$

$$\frac{2^4 w^{(2 \cdot 4)}}{y^{(3 \cdot 4)}}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{16w^8}{y^{12}}}$$

flip

$$\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^5$$

$$\frac{(2/x)^5}{2^5}$$

$$\frac{2^5}{x^5} = \boxed{\frac{32}{x^5}}$$

You try

$$\left(\frac{z}{3}\right)^4$$

$$\frac{z^4}{3^4} = \boxed{\frac{z^4}{81}}$$

flip

$$\left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^2$$

$$\frac{(3/4)^2}{3^2}$$

$$\frac{9}{4^2} = \boxed{\frac{9}{16}}$$

$$\left(\frac{3a^{-2}}{b^4}\right)^3$$

$$\frac{(3a^{-2})^3}{(b^4)^3}$$

$$\frac{3a^{(-2 \cdot 3)}}{b^{(4 \cdot 3)}}$$

$$\frac{3a^{-6}}{b^{12}}$$

$$\frac{3}{a^6 b^{12}}$$

Rules

$$a^0 = 1 \quad \text{if } a \neq 0$$

$$a^{-n} = \frac{1}{a^n} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{1}{a^{-n}} = a^n \quad \text{if } a \neq 0$$

$$a^m \cdot a^n = a^{m+n}$$

$$\frac{a^m}{a^n} = a^{m-n} \quad \text{if } a \neq 0$$

$$(a^m)^n = a^{m \cdot n}$$

$$(a \cdot b)^n = a^n \cdot b^n$$

$$\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^n = \frac{a^n}{b^n} \quad \text{if } b \neq 0$$

$$\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^{-n} = \left(\frac{b}{a}\right)^n \quad \text{if } a \neq 0, b \neq 0$$

Simplify

$$\frac{a^3 b^{-1}}{(a^2 b)^3} = \frac{a^3 b^{-1}}{a^{2 \cdot 3} \cdot b^3} = \frac{a^3 b^{-1}}{a^6 b^3}$$

$$= \frac{a^3}{a^6 b^3 b^1} = \frac{\cancel{a} \cdot \cancel{a} \cdot \cancel{a}}{\cancel{a} \cdot \cancel{a} \cdot \cancel{a} \cdot \underbrace{a \cdot a \cdot a}_3 \cdot \underbrace{b \cdot b \cdot b \cdot b}_4}$$

$$= \boxed{\frac{1}{a^3 b^4}}$$

Simplify

$$\left(\frac{3xy}{x^2 y^{-2}} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{9x^2 y^{-3}}{x^3 y^2} \right)^{-1}$$

$$\left(\frac{3xy}{x^2 y^{-2}} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{x^3 y^2}{9x^2 y^{-3}} \right)$$

$$\left(\frac{3xy \cdot y^2}{x^2} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{x^3 y^2 \cdot y^3}{9x^2} \right)$$

$$\frac{3x^{(1+3)} \cdot y^{(2+2+3)}}{9x^{(2+2)}} = \frac{3x^4 y^7}{9x^4} = \frac{y^7}{3}$$