

Properties of Rational Exponents

Let a and b be real numbers and let m and n be rational numbers, such that the quantities in each property are real numbers.

Property Name	Definition	Example
Product of Powers	$a^m \cdot a^n = a^{m+n}$	$5^{1/2} \cdot 5^{3/2} = 5^{(1/2+3/2)} = 5^2 = 25$
Power of a Power	$(a^m)^n = a^{mn}$	$(3^{5/2})^2 = 3^{(5/2 \cdot 2)} = 3^5 = 243$
Power of a Product	$(ab)^m = a^m b^m$	$(16 \cdot 9)^{1/2} = 16^{1/2} \cdot 9^{1/2} = 4 \cdot 3 = 12$
Negative Exponent	$a^{-m} = \frac{1}{a^m}, a \neq 0$	$36^{-1/2} = \frac{1}{36^{1/2}} = \frac{1}{6}$
Zero Exponent	$a^0 = 1, a \neq 0$	$213^0 = 1$
Quotient of Powers	$\frac{a^m}{a^n} = a^{m-n}, a \neq 0$	$\frac{4^{5/2}}{4^{1/2}} = 4^{(5/2-1/2)} = 4^2 = 16$
Power of a Quotient	$\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^m = \frac{a^m}{b^m}, b \neq 0$	$\left(\frac{27}{64}\right)^{1/3} = \frac{27^{1/3}}{64^{1/3}} = \frac{3}{4}$

TASK 2: Use properties of exponents to simplify expressions.

a) $2^{3/4} \cdot 2^{1/2}$

$\frac{3}{4} + \frac{1}{2} = 2$
 $2^{3/4 + 1/2} = 2^2 = 4$

b) $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{4}$

$\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{4} = \frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$
 $2^{1/2} = \sqrt{2}$

c) $\left(\frac{20^2}{5^2}\right)^{1/3}$

$\left(\frac{20^2}{5^2}\right)^{1/3} = \left(\frac{20}{5}\right)^{2/3} = (4)^{2/3} = \sqrt[3]{16} = \sqrt[3]{8} = 2$

d) $\left(5^3 \cdot 7^4\right)^{1/3}$

$\left(5^3 \cdot 7^4\right)^{1/3} = 5 \cdot 7^{3/4}$
 $5 \cdot \sqrt[4]{7^3}$

Simplifying Radical Expressions

Properties of Radicals

Let a and b be real numbers and let n be an integer greater than 1.

Property Name	Definition	Example
Product Property	$\sqrt[n]{a \cdot b} = \sqrt[n]{a} \cdot \sqrt[n]{b}$	$\sqrt[3]{4 \cdot \sqrt[3]{2}} = \sqrt[3]{8} = 2$
Quotient Property	$\sqrt[n]{\frac{a}{b}} = \frac{\sqrt[n]{a}}{\sqrt[n]{b}}, b \neq 0$	$\frac{\sqrt[4]{162}}{\sqrt[4]{2}} = \sqrt[4]{\frac{162}{2}} = \sqrt[4]{81} = 3$

TASK 3: Simplify the radical expression.

a) $\sqrt[3]{135} = \sqrt[3]{27 \cdot 5} = \boxed{3\sqrt[3]{5}}$

b) $\sqrt[5]{\frac{7}{8}}$

b) $\sqrt[5]{\frac{7}{8}}$

c) $\sqrt[3]{4 \cdot \sqrt[3]{128}} = \sqrt[3]{512} = \boxed{8}$

Rationalizing the Denominator

TASK 4: Rationalize the denominator by multiplying the conjugate.

Reminder about conjugates $a\sqrt{b} + c\sqrt{d} + a\sqrt{b} - c\sqrt{d}$!!!

a) $\frac{1}{5+\sqrt{3}} \cdot \frac{(5-\sqrt{3})}{(5-\sqrt{3})} = \boxed{\frac{5-\sqrt{3}}{22}}$

b) $\frac{1}{\sqrt{7}-2} \cdot \frac{(-\sqrt{7}+2)}{(-\sqrt{7}+2)} = \frac{-\sqrt{7}+2}{-11}$

c) $\frac{3}{6-\sqrt{2}} \cdot \frac{(6+\sqrt{2})}{(6+\sqrt{2})} = \frac{18+3\sqrt{2}}{34}$

Adding & Subtracting

a) $7\sqrt[3]{12} - 1\sqrt[3]{12} = \boxed{6\sqrt[3]{12}}$

b) $4(9^{\frac{2}{3}}) + 8(9^{\frac{2}{3}}) = \boxed{12(9^{\frac{2}{3}})}$

c) $\sqrt[3]{5} + 2\sqrt[3]{5} = \boxed{3\sqrt[3]{5}}$

d) $5\sqrt{y} + 6\sqrt{y} = \boxed{11\sqrt{y}}$

e) $12\sqrt[3]{2z^5} - z\sqrt[3]{54z^2} = \boxed{12\sqrt[3]{2z^2} - 3z\sqrt[3]{2z^2}}$

f) $\sqrt{9w^5} - w\sqrt{w^3} = \boxed{3w^2\sqrt{w} - w\sqrt{w}}$

Simplifying Variable Expressions

a) $\sqrt[3]{27q^9} = \sqrt[3]{3 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cdot q \cdot q \cdot q \cdot q \cdot q \cdot q \cdot q} = \boxed{3q^3}$

b) $\sqrt[4]{\frac{x^4}{y^{16}}} = \frac{\sqrt[4]{x^4}}{\sqrt[4]{y^{16}}} = \frac{x}{y^4}$

c) $\frac{14xyz^3}{2x^4z^{-6}} = \frac{7x^{\frac{1}{4}}y^{\frac{1}{4}}z^{\frac{9}{4}}}{1}$

Still need help with:

$\frac{x}{y^4}$