

EXPONENT RULES & PRACTICE

- 1. PRODUCT RULE:** To multiply when two bases are the same, write the base and ADD the exponents.

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

Examples:

A. $x^3 \cdot x^8 = x^{11}$

B. $2^4 \cdot 2^2 = 2^6$

C. $(x^2y)(x^3y^4) = x^5y^5$

- 2. QUOTIENT RULE:** To divide when two bases are the same, write the base and SUBTRACT the exponents.

$$\frac{x^m}{x^n} = x^{m-n}$$

Examples:

A. $\frac{x^5}{x^2} = x^3$

B. $\frac{3^5}{3^3} = 3^2$

C. $\frac{x^2y^5}{xy^3} = xy^2$

- 3. ZERO EXPONENT RULE:** Any base (except 0) raised to the zero power is equal to one.

$$x^0 = 1$$

Examples:

A. $y^0 = 1$

B. $6^0 = 1$

C. $(7a^3b^{-1})^0 = 1$

- 4. POWER RULE:** To raise a power to another power, write the base and MULTIPLY the exponents.

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

Examples:

A. $(x^3)^2 = x^6$

B. $(3^2)^4 = 3^8$

C. $(z^5)^2 = z^{10}$

- 5. EXPANDED POWER RULE:**

$$(xy)^m = x^m y^m \quad \left(\frac{x}{y}\right)^m = \frac{x^m}{y^m}$$

Examples:

A. $(2a)^3 = 2^3 a^3 = 8a^3$

C. $\left(\frac{x^2}{y}\right)^4 = \frac{(x^2)^4}{y^4} = \frac{x^8}{y^4}$

B. $(6x^3)^2 = 6^2 (x^3)^2 = 36x^6$

D. $\left(\frac{2x}{3y^2}\right)^3 = \frac{(2x)^3}{(3y^2)^3} = \frac{2^3 x^3}{3^3 (y^2)^3} = \frac{8x^3}{27y^6}$

- 6. NEGATIVE EXPONENTS:** If a factor in the numerator or denominator is moved across the fraction bar, the sign of the exponent is changed.

$$x^{-m} = \frac{1}{x^m} \quad \frac{1}{x^{-m}} = x^m \quad \left(\frac{x}{y}\right)^{-n} = \left(\frac{y}{x}\right)^n$$

Examples:

A. $x^{-3} = \frac{1}{x^3}$

B. $4^{-2} = \frac{1}{4^2} = \frac{1}{16}$

C. $-4x^5y^{-2} = \frac{-4x^5}{y^2}$

D. $\left(\frac{x^2}{y}\right)^{-3} = \left(\frac{y}{x^2}\right)^3 = \frac{y^3}{x^6}$

E. $(3x^{-2}y)(-2xy^{-3}) = -6x^{-1}y^{-2} = \frac{-6}{xy^2}$

F. $\frac{a^{-2}b^3}{c^{-4}d^{-1}} = \frac{b^3c^4d}{a^2}$

G. $(-2x^2y^{-4})^{-2} = \left(\frac{-2x^2}{y^4}\right)^{-2} = \left(\frac{y^4}{-2x^2}\right)^2 = \frac{y^8}{4x^4}$

CAUTION: $-x \neq \frac{1}{x}$ For example: $-3 \neq \frac{1}{3}$

REMEMBER: An exponent applies to only the factor it is directly next to *unless* parentheses enclose other factors.

Examples:

A. $(-3)^2 = (-3)(-3) = 9$

B. $-3^2 = -9$

EXPONENTS PRACTICE

Simplify:

1. $3 \cdot 4^3$
2. $4x^3 \cdot 2x^3$
3. $x^5 \cdot x^3$
4. $2x^3 \cdot 2x^2$
5. $\frac{6^5}{6^3}$
6. $\frac{x^4}{x^7}$
7. 8^0
8. $-(9x)^0$
9. $(y^4)^3$
10. $(x^2y)^4$
11. $\frac{6x^7}{2x^4}$
12. $\frac{8x^5}{4x^2}$
13. $(2cd^4)^2(cd)^5$
14. $(2fg^4)^4(fg)^6$

15. $\frac{x^5y^6}{xy^2}$
16. $\frac{x^2y^5}{xy^4}$
17. $\left(\frac{4x^5y}{16xy^4}\right)^3$
18. $\left(\frac{5x^3y}{20xy^5}\right)^4$
19. y^{-7}
20. 7^{-2}
21. $\frac{1}{x^{-5}}$
22. $\frac{1}{2^{-4}}$
23. $x^5 \cdot x^{-1}$
24. x^{-6}
25. $x^9 \cdot x^{-7}$
26. $(j^{-13})(j^4)(j^6)$

27. $\frac{x^{-1}}{x^{-8}}$
28. $\frac{52x^6}{13x^{-7}}$
29. $f^{-3}(f^2)(f^{-3})$
30. $\frac{x^{-4}}{x^{-9}}$
31. $\frac{24x^6}{12x^{-8}}$
32. $\frac{3x^2y^{-3}}{12x^6y^3}$
33. $(2x^3y^{-3})^{-2}$
34. $\frac{2x^4y^{-4}}{8x^7y^3}$
35. $(4x^4y^{-4})^3$
36. $5x^2y(2x^4y^{-3})$
37. $\left(\frac{-7a^2b^3c^0}{3a^3b^4c^3}\right)^{-4}$
38. $\left(\frac{-2a^3b^2c^0}{3a^2b^3c^7}\right)^{-2}$

EXPONENTS PRACTICE ANSWERS

1. 192
2. $8x^6$
3. x^8
4. $4x^5$
5. 36
6. $\frac{1}{x^3}$
7. 1
8. -1
9. y^{12}
10. x^8y^4
11. $3x^3$
12. $2x^3$
13. $4c^7d^{13}$
14. $16f^{10}g^{22}$
15. x^4y^4

16. xy
17. $\frac{x^{12}}{64y^9}$
18. $\frac{x^8}{256y^{16}}$
19. $\frac{1}{y^7}$
20. $\frac{1}{49}$
21. x^5
22. 16
23. x^4
24. $\frac{1}{x^6}$
25. x^2
26. $\frac{1}{j^3}$
27. x^7
28. $4x^{13}$

29. $\frac{1}{f^4}$
30. x^5
31. $2x^{14}$
32. $\frac{1}{4x^4y^6}$
33. $\frac{y^6}{4x^6}$
34. $\frac{1}{4x^3y^7}$
35. $\frac{64x^{12}}{y^{12}}$
36. $\frac{10x^6}{y^2}$
37. $\frac{81a^4b^4c^{12}}{2401}$
38. $\frac{9b^2c^{14}}{4a^2}$