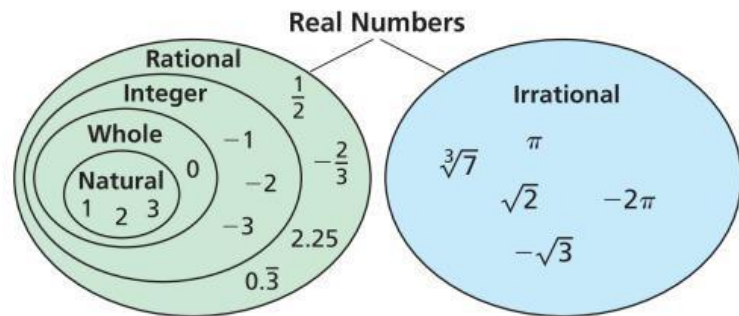


Classifying Real Numbers

A **rational number** is a number that can be written as the ratio of two integers. An **irrational number** cannot be written as the ratio of two integers.

- The square root of any whole number that is not a perfect square is irrational. The cube root of any integer that is not a perfect cube is irrational.
- The decimal form of an irrational number neither terminates nor repeats.

Rational numbers and irrational numbers together form the set of **real numbers**.



Example 1 Classify each real number in as many ways as possible.

	Number	Subset(s)	Reasoning
a.	$\sqrt{18}$	Irrational	18 is not a perfect square.
b.	$0.\overline{33}$	Rational	$0.\overline{33}$ is a repeating decimal.
c.	$-\sqrt{4}$	Integer, Rational	$-\sqrt{4}$ is equal to -2 .
d.	$\frac{56}{7}$	Natural, Whole, Integer, Rational	$\frac{56}{7}$ is equal to 8.
e.	$\sqrt[3]{5}$	Irrational	5 is not a perfect cube.

Practice

Check your answers at BigIdeasMath.com.

Classify the real number in as many ways as possible.

- $\sqrt{17}$ irrational
- $\frac{1}{5}$ rational
- 0.25 rational
- $\frac{48}{6}$ natural, whole, integer, rational
- $-\sqrt{25}$ integer, rational
- $\sqrt[3]{32}$ irrational

Determine whether the statement is *always*, *sometimes*, or *never* true. Explain your reasoning.

- A natural number is a whole number.
always; The set of whole numbers includes the natural numbers.
- A natural number is negative.
never; The natural numbers are positive.
- A rational number is a real number.
always; The set of real numbers is made up of all rational and irrational numbers.
- An integer is a natural number.
sometimes; The set of integers includes natural numbers, as well as their opposites and 0.
- A real number is an irrational number.
sometimes; The set of real numbers includes irrational numbers, as well as rational numbers.
- A whole number is an irrational number.
never; Whole numbers can be written as the ratio of two integers, so they are not irrational.