

4.6 Applying the Exponent Laws (Part 1)

$a^m \cdot a^n = a^{m+n}$	$\frac{a^m}{a^n} = a^{m-n}$	$(a^m)^n = a^{mn}$
$(ab)^n = a^n b^n$	$\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^n = \frac{a^n}{b^n}$	$a^0 = 1 \quad (a \neq 0)$
$a^{1/n} = \sqrt[n]{a}$	$a^{m/n} = (\sqrt[n]{a})^m = \sqrt[n]{a^m}$	$a a^{-n} = \frac{1}{a^n} \quad (a \neq 0)$

Ex.1) Simplify by writing as a **single power**. Do not leave negative exponents in your answers.

a) $0.6^4 \cdot 0.6^{-7}$

$$= 0.6^{-3}$$

$$= \left(\frac{6}{10}\right)^{-3}$$

$$= \left(\frac{10}{6}\right)^3$$

$$= \left(\frac{5}{3}\right)^3$$

c) $\frac{(1.5^{-3})^{-5}}{1.5^5}$

$$= \frac{1.5^{15}}{1.5^5}$$

$$= 1.5^{10}$$

b) $\left[\left(-\frac{4}{5}\right)^2\right]^{-3} \div \left[\left(-\frac{4}{5}\right)^4\right]^{-5}$

$$= \left(-\frac{4}{5}\right)^{-6} \div \left(-\frac{4}{5}\right)^{-20}$$

$$= \left(-\frac{4}{5}\right)^{-6 - (-20)}$$

$$= \left(-\frac{4}{5}\right)^{14}$$

d) $\frac{9^{5/3} \cdot 9^{-1/3}}{9^{1/3}}$

$$= \frac{9^{5/3 + (-1/3)}}{9^{1/3}}$$

$$= \frac{9^{4/3}}{9^{1/3}}$$

$$= 9^{4/3 - 1/3}$$

$$= 9^{3/3}$$

$$= 9^1$$

$$= 9$$

Ex. 2) Simplify each expression, then evaluate:

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

$$\begin{aligned} \text{c) } & \left[\left(\frac{-12}{5}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}}\right]^6 \\ & = \left(\frac{-12}{5}\right)^{\frac{1}{3} \cdot 6} \\ & = \left(\frac{-12}{5}\right)^2 \\ & = \frac{144}{25} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b) } & \frac{(-5)^{\frac{2}{3}}}{(-5)^{\frac{4}{3}}} \\ & = (-5)^{\frac{2}{3} - \frac{4}{3}} \\ & = (-5)^{\frac{6}{3}} \\ & = (-5)^2 \\ & = 25 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{d) } & \frac{0.2^{\frac{3}{4}}}{0.2^{\frac{7}{4}}} \\ & = 0.2^{\frac{3}{4} - \frac{7}{4}} \\ & = 0.2^{-\frac{4}{4}} \\ & = 0.2^{-1} \\ & = \left(\frac{2}{10}\right)^{-1} \\ & = \left(\frac{10}{2}\right)^1 \\ & = 5^1 \\ & = 5 \end{aligned}$$

4.6 Applying the Exponent Laws (Part 2)

$$a^m \cdot a^n = a^{m+n} \quad \frac{a^m}{a^n} = a^{m-n} \quad (a^m)^n = a^{mn} \quad (ab)^n = a^n b^n$$

$$\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^n = \frac{a^n}{b^n} \quad a^0 = 1 \quad (a \neq 0) \quad a^{-n} = \frac{1}{a^n} \quad (a \neq 0)$$

Ex. 1) Simplify. Do not leave negative exponents in your answers.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) } m^4 n^{-2} \cdot m^2 n^3 \\ = m^4 \cdot m^2 \cdot n^{-2} \cdot n^3 \\ = m^6 n^1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{b) } \frac{6x^4 y^{-3}}{14xy^2} = \frac{3}{7} x^3 y^{-5} = \frac{3x^3}{7y^5}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{c) } (a^4 b^2)^{3/2} \\ = a^{4 \cdot 3/2} \cdot b^{2 \cdot 3/2} \\ = a^6 b^3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{d) } (x^3 y^{-3/2})(x^{-1} y^{1/2}) \\ = x^3 \cdot x^{-1} \cdot y^{-3/2} \cdot y^{1/2} \\ = x^2 \cdot y^{-2/2} \\ = x^2 y^{-1} = \frac{x^2}{y} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{e) } \frac{12x^{-5} y^{5/2}}{3xy^{-1/2}} \\ = 4x^{-6} y^{6/2} \\ = \frac{4y^3}{x^6} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{f) } \left(\frac{50x^2 y^4}{2x^4 y^7}\right)^{-1} \\ = \frac{2x^4 y^7}{50x^2 y^4} \\ = \frac{1}{25} x^2 y^3 \end{aligned}$$

Ex. 2) Evaluate the expression for $a = 2$ and $b = -3$:

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{a^{-8} b^2}{a^{-10} b^5}\right)^{-1} &= \frac{a^{-10} b^5}{a^{-8} b^2} \\ &= a^{-2} b^3 \\ &= \frac{b^3}{a^2} \end{aligned}$$

$$a=2, b=-3$$

$$\frac{(-3)^3}{2^2} = \frac{-27}{4}$$

