

2.4 Multiplying and Dividing Powers

Key Ideas

Powers with the same base can be simplified using various Exponent Laws

Multiplication Law Add exponents	$a^m \times a^n = a^{m+n}$	$10^7 \times 10^2 = 10^{7+2} = 10^9$
Division Law Subtract exponents	$a^m \div a^n = a^{m-n}$	$\frac{2^7}{2^3} = 2^{7-3} = 2^4$
Power Law Multiply exponents	$(a^m)^n = a^{m \times n}$	$(5^4)^3 = 5^{4 \times 3} = 5^{12}$

$2^3 \times 2^2 = (2 \times 2 \times 2) \times (2 \times 2) = 2^{3+2} = 2^5$
 $\frac{2^7}{2^3} = \frac{2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2}{2 \times 2 \times 2} = 2^4$
 $(5^4)^3 = (5^4)(5^4)(5^4)$

Note: The Exponent Laws only work when the bases are the same.

For example: $2^5 \times 3^4 \neq 6^9$ can't be simplified using the Exponent Laws

Simplify the following in exponent form.

1. $(-3)^4(-3)^7 = (-3)^{4+7} = (-3)^{11}$

2. $(\frac{1}{2})^8 \div (\frac{1}{2})^2 = (\frac{1}{2})^{8-2} = (\frac{1}{2})^6$

3. $(6^3)^7 = 6^{3 \times 7} = 6^{21}$

4. $(x^5)^4 \div (x^2)^7 = x^{5 \times 4} \div x^{2 \times 7} = x^{20} \div x^{14} = x^{20-14} = x^6$

5. $(a^5)^3 \times (a^2)^2 \div (a^3)^3 = a^{5 \times 3} \times a^{2 \times 2} \div a^{3 \times 3} = a^{15} \times a^4 \div a^9 = a^{15+4-9} = a^{10}$

Replace the so that the statement is true

6. $8^2 = 2^{\square}$

7. $9^2 = \square^4$

$8 = 2^3$
 $\therefore 8^2 = (2^3)^2 = 2^{3 \times 2} = 2^6$
 *replace '8' with 2^3

$9 = 3^2 \rightarrow 9^2 = (3^2)^2 = 3^{2 \times 2} = 3^4$

NotesReview Exponent Laws

$$x^4 \times x^3 = x^{4+3} = x^7 \quad a^8 \div a^2 = a^{8-2} = a^6 \quad (x^5)^4 = x^{5 \times 4} = x^{20} \quad a^0 = 1$$

Practice: Simplify as powers

$$\begin{aligned} 1) 2^3 \times 2^7 \div 2^6 \\ = 2^{10} \div 2^6 \\ = 2^4 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2) (10^4)^5 \div (10^2)^8 \\ = 10^{20} \div 10^{16} \\ = 10^4 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 3) \frac{(-3)^6 \times (-3)^1}{(-3)^4} \\ = \frac{(-3)^7}{(-3)^4} = (-3)^3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 4) \frac{(5^7)(5^5)}{(5^4)^2} \\ = \frac{(5)^{12}}{5^8} = 5^4 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 5) (7^4)^2 (7) \\ = 7^8 (7)^1 \\ = 7^9 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 6) 6^{11} \div (6^3)^3 \\ = 6^{11} \div 6^9 \\ = 6^2 \end{aligned}$$

Simplify as a power, then evaluate.

$$\begin{aligned} 1) (2^3)^4 \div 2^9 \\ = 2^{12} \div 2^9 \\ = 2^3 \\ = 8 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2) (5^2)^3 \times 5 \div 5^4 \\ = 5^6 \times 5 \div 5^4 \\ = 5^7 \div 5^4 \\ = 5^3 \\ = 125 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 3) (-2)^7 \div (-2)^3 \\ = (-2)^4 \\ = 16 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 4) -5^2 \\ = -25 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 5) (-5)^2 \\ = 25 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 6) -(-5)^2 \\ = -25 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 7) (-5)^3 \\ = -125 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 8) 5 \times 10^0 \\ = 5 \times 1 \\ = 5 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 9) -10^0 \\ = -1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 10) -(-10)^0 \\ = -1 \end{aligned}$$

Writing powers with the lowest base.

Many numbers can be written with base 2.

For example: $4 = 2 \times 2 = 2^2$, $8 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 2^3$, $16 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 2^4$
 $25 = 5 \times 5 = 5^2$, $125 = 5 \times 5 \times 5 = 5^3$

Knowing how to show some numbers in lower bases can help simplify powers

Examples:

$$2^{\boxed{3}} = 8$$

$$3^{\boxed{3}} = 27$$

$$6^{\boxed{2}} = 36$$

$$2^{\boxed{6}} = 4^3 \\ (2^2)^3$$

$$2^{\boxed{12}} = 8^4 \\ (2^3)^4$$

$$2^{\boxed{8}} = 16^2 \\ (2^4)^2$$

$$5^{\boxed{4}} = 25^2 \\ (5^2)^2$$

$$5^{\boxed{6}} = 25^3 \\ (5^2)^3$$

$$3^{\boxed{6}} = 27^2 \\ (3^3)^2$$

Now try these.

$$1) 2^{12} = 4^{\boxed{6}} \\ (2^2)^{\boxed{6}} \\ = (2^2)^6 \\ = 2^{12}$$

$$2) 9^{\boxed{3}} = 27^2 \\ (3^2)^{\boxed{3}} = (3^3)^2 \\ (3^2)^3 = (3^3)^2 \\ 3^6 = 3^6$$

$$3) 5^6 = 125^{\boxed{2}} \\ 5^6 = (5^3)^2 \\ 5^6 = 5^6$$