

1) Algebraic expressions

[1.1\) Index laws](#)

[1.4\) Negative and fractional indices](#)

1.1) Index Laws

Worked example

Simplify:

$$(a^5)^3 \times 4a^7$$

$$(5xy^4)^3$$

Your turn

Simplify:

$$(a^3)^2 \times 2a^2$$

$$2a^8$$

$$(4x^3y)^3$$

$$64x^9y^3$$

Worked example

Simplify:

$$7x^3(6 - 5x) - 4x(3 - 2x^3)$$

$$\frac{5x^4 + 3x^2}{6x^3}$$

Your turn

Simplify:

$$2x^2(3 + 5x) - x(4 - x^2)$$

$$11x^3 + 6x^2 - 4x$$

$$\frac{x^3 - 2x}{3x^2}$$

$$\frac{1}{3}x - \frac{2}{3x}$$

Worked example

Simplify:

$$4^x \times 5^x$$

$$7^{x+1} \times 6^{x+1}$$

Your turn

Simplify:

$$2^{x-4} \times 3^{x-4}$$

$$6^{x-4}$$

Worked example

Simplify:

$$(x^2)^3$$

$$(2x^3y^4)^5$$

$$(4ab^2c^4)^3$$

Your turn

Simplify:

$$(5a^7bc^5)^3$$

$$125a^{21}b^3c^{15}$$

Worked example

Simplify:

$$\sqrt{16x^2y^6z^4}$$

$$\sqrt[3]{27x^4y^6z}$$

Your turn

Simplify:

$$\sqrt{9a^3b^6c^2d}$$

$$3a^{\frac{3}{2}}b^3cd^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Worked example

Write in index form:

$$32 \times 128$$

$$3 \times 27 \times 81$$

Your turn

Write in index form:

$$5 \times 25 \times 625$$

$$5^7$$

Worked example

Write 25^3 as 5^n

Write 16^5 as 2^n

Your turn

Write 27^4 as 3^n

3^{12}

Worked example

Write $81^4 \times 9^7$ as 3^n

Write $8^{\frac{1}{2}} \times 128^{-\frac{3}{4}}$ as 2^n

Your turn

Write $25^{\frac{1}{3}} \times 125^{-\frac{2}{5}}$ as 5^n

$$5^{-\frac{8}{15}}$$

Worked example

Write $0.04^5 \times 0.2^3$ as 5^n

Your turn

Write $0.125^3 \times 0.5^7$ as 2^n

$$2^{-16}$$

Worked example

Write $\frac{81^4}{9^7}$ as 3^n

Write $\frac{16^3}{32^7}$ as 2^n

Your turn

Write $\frac{25^4}{125^6}$ as 5^n

$$5^{-10}$$

1.4) Negative and fractional indices

[Chapter CONTENTS](#)

Worked example

Prove that:

$$x^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sqrt{x}$$

$$x^{\frac{1}{3}} = \sqrt[3]{x}$$

Your turn

Prove that:

$$x^{\frac{1}{4}} = \sqrt[4]{x}$$

Proof

Worked example

Evaluate:

$$64^{-\frac{2}{3}}$$

$$81^{-\frac{5}{4}}$$

Your turn

Evaluate:

$$64^{-\frac{3}{2}}$$

$$\frac{1}{512}$$

Worked example

Given that $y = \frac{1}{125}x^3$ express the following in the form kx^n where k and n are constants

- a) $y^{\frac{1}{3}}$
- b) $5y^{-2}$

Your turn

Given that $y = \frac{1}{16}x^2$ express the following in the form kx^n where k and n are constants:

- a) $y^{\frac{1}{2}}$
- b) $4y^{-1}$
- a) $\frac{x}{4}$
- b) $64x^{-2}$

Worked example

If $125\sqrt{5} = 5^k$, determine the value of k .

Your turn

If $9\sqrt{3} = 3^k$, determine the value of k .

$$k = \frac{5}{2}$$

Worked example

Given that

$$\left(3^{\frac{1}{4}}\right)^n = \frac{3^x}{81^y}$$

Express n in terms of x and y .

Your turn

Given that

$$\left(2^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)^n = \frac{2^x}{8^y}$$

Express n in terms of x and y .

$$n = 2x - 6y$$

Worked example

Given that $y = 3^x$, express the following in terms of y .

$$\frac{1}{27^{5x-2}}$$

Write your expression in its simplest form.

Your turn

Given that $y = 2^x$, express the following in terms of y .

$$\frac{1}{4^{2x-3}}$$

Write your expression in its simplest form.

$$\frac{64}{y^4}$$

Worked example

Simplify:

$$(16x^2y^6z^4)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$(27x^4y^6z)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

Your turn

Simplify:

$$(9a^3b^6c^2d)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$
$$3a^{\frac{3}{2}}b^3cd^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Worked example

Convert to fraction form:

$$9^{-1}$$

$$5^{-2}$$

$$2^{-3}$$

$$x^{-5}$$

$$3y^{-4}$$

Your turn

Convert to fraction form:

$$5b^{-2}$$

$$\frac{5}{b^2}$$

Worked example

Convert to index form:

$$\frac{1}{2}$$

$$\frac{1}{100}$$

$$\frac{3}{x}$$

$$\frac{9}{x^2}$$

$$\frac{15}{\sqrt{x}}$$

Your turn

Convert to index form:

$$\frac{7}{x^3}$$

$$7x^{-3}$$

$$\frac{12}{\sqrt[3]{x}}$$

$$12x^{-\frac{1}{3}}$$

Worked example

Your turn

Evaluate:

$$2^4$$

$$3^5$$

$$4^0$$

$$5^{-1}$$

$$6^{-2}$$

$$7^{-3}$$

$$9^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$8^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

$$16^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$125^{-\frac{1}{3}}$$

$$25^{\frac{3}{2}}$$

$$64^{-\frac{2}{3}}$$

Evaluate:

$$36^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\frac{1}{6}$$

$$123456789^0$$

$$1$$

$$27^{-\frac{4}{3}}$$

$$\frac{1}{81}$$

Worked example

Write $\frac{1}{243}$ as 3^n

Write 0.04 as 5^n

Your turn

Write 0.125 as 2^n

$$2^{-3}$$

Worked example

Evaluate:

$$3^{-4}$$

$$2^{-5}$$

Your turn

Evaluate:

$$5^{-3}$$

$$\frac{1}{125}$$

Worked example

Write as a fraction:

$$x^{-5}$$

$$y^{-4}$$

Your turn

Write as a fraction:

$$z^{-3}$$

$$\frac{1}{z^3}$$

Worked example

Write as a fraction:

$$3x^{-5}$$

$$5y^{-4}$$

Your turn

Write as a fraction:

$$2z^{-3}$$

$$\frac{2}{z^3}$$

Worked example

Simplify the following:

$$(r^{-3})^4$$

$$(s^5)^{-2}$$

Your turn

Simplify the following:

$$(t^{-4})^5$$

$$t^{-20}$$

Worked example

Simplify the following:

$$(2r^{-3})^4$$

$$(3s^{-4})^{-2}$$

$$(5t^{-2})^3$$

Your turn

Simplify the following:

$$(3u^{-4})^{-3}$$

$$\frac{u^{12}}{27}$$

Worked example

Simplify the following:

$$(2r^{-3}s^4)^5$$

$$(3t^{-4}u^5)^{-2}$$

Your turn

Simplify the following:

$$(5x^3y^{-2})^{-3}$$

$$\frac{y^6}{125x^9}$$

Worked example

Simplify the following:

$$\frac{15x^7}{3x^{-4}}$$

$$\frac{56y^{-8}}{8y^{-7}}$$

Your turn

Simplify the following:

$$\frac{42x^{-5}}{6x^{-3}}$$

$$7x^{-2} = \frac{7}{x^2}$$

Worked example

Simplify the following:

$$\left(\frac{a^2 b^{-3}}{c^4}\right)^5$$

Your turn

Simplify the following:

$$\left(\frac{a^{-4} b^3}{c^2}\right)^3$$
$$\frac{b^9}{a^{12} c^6}$$

Worked example

Simplify the following:

$$\left(3a^{\frac{4}{5}}\right)^5$$

Your turn

Simplify the following:

$$\left(4b^{\frac{2}{3}}\right)^3$$

$$64b^2$$

Worked example

Your turn

Evaluate:

$$64^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$64^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

$$64^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

Simplify the following:

$$125^{-\frac{1}{3}}$$

$$\frac{1}{5}$$

Worked example

Your turn

Evaluate:

$$64^{\frac{3}{2}}$$

$$64^{\frac{2}{3}}$$

$$64^{-\frac{3}{2}}$$

Simplify the following:

$$125^{-\frac{2}{3}}$$

$$\frac{1}{125}$$

Worked example

Your turn

Evaluate:

$$81^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$81^{\frac{1}{4}}$$

$$81^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

Simplify the following:

$$27^{-\frac{1}{3}}$$

$$\frac{1}{3}$$

Worked example

Your turn

Evaluate:

$$81^{\frac{3}{2}}$$

$$81^{\frac{3}{4}}$$

$$81^{-\frac{3}{2}}$$

Simplify the following:

$$27^{-\frac{4}{3}}$$

$$\frac{1}{81}$$

Worked example

Evaluate:

$$\left(\frac{32}{243}\right)^{-\frac{3}{5}}$$

Your turn

Simplify the following:

$$\left(\frac{64}{125}\right)^{-\frac{2}{3}}$$

$$\frac{25}{16}$$

Worked example

Write in index form:

$$\sqrt[3]{25}$$

$$\sqrt{27}$$

Your turn

Write in index form:

$$\sqrt[4]{32}$$

$$2^{\frac{5}{4}}$$

Worked example

Write in index form:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{25}}$$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{27}}$$

Your turn

Write in index form:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt[4]{32}}$$

$$2^{-\frac{5}{4}}$$

Worked example

Simplify:

$$(64a^6)^{\frac{3}{2}}$$

$$(64a^6)^{\frac{2}{3}}$$

Your turn

Simplify:

$$(27b^6)^{\frac{2}{3}}$$

$$9b^4$$

Worked example

Your turn

Evaluate:

$$\left(\sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}\right)^4$$

$$\left(\sqrt{\frac{5}{7}}\right)^4$$

Evaluate:

$$\left(\sqrt{\frac{3}{8}}\right)^4$$

$$\frac{9}{64}$$

Worked example

Express 243 as a power of 9

Express 32 as a power of 4

Your turn

Express 125 as a power of 25

$$25^{\frac{3}{2}}$$

Worked example

Express in index form:

$$\sqrt[3]{x^4}$$

$$\sqrt{x^5}$$

Your turn

Express in index form:

$$\sqrt[4]{x^7}$$

$$x^{\frac{7}{4}}$$

Worked example

Express in index form:

$$\frac{1}{x}$$

$$\frac{1}{x^2}$$

$$\frac{1}{x^3}$$

Your turn

Express in index form:

$$\frac{1}{x^4}$$

$$x^{-4}$$

Worked example

Express in index form:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{x}}$$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt[5]{x}}$$

Your turn

Express in index form:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt[7]{x}}$$

$$x^{-\frac{1}{7}}$$

Worked example

Express in index form:

$$\frac{2}{x}$$

$$\frac{3}{x^2}$$

$$\frac{5}{x^3}$$

Your turn

Express in index form:

$$\frac{7}{x^4}$$

$$7x^{-4}$$

Worked example

Express in index form:

$$\frac{2}{\sqrt{x}}$$

$$\frac{5}{\sqrt[3]{x}}$$

$$\frac{7}{\sqrt[5]{x}}$$

Your turn

Express in index form:

$$\frac{3}{\sqrt[7]{x}}$$

$$3x^{-\frac{1}{7}}$$

Worked example

Express in index form:

$$\frac{2}{3\sqrt{x}}$$

$$\frac{5}{7\sqrt[3]{x}}$$

$$\frac{1}{4\sqrt[5]{x}}$$

Your turn

Express in index form:

$$\frac{2}{5\sqrt[7]{x}}$$

$$\frac{2}{5}x^{-\frac{1}{7}}$$

Worked example

Simplify fully:

$$\sqrt{a^{\frac{2}{3}} \times a^{\frac{4}{7}}}$$

$$\sqrt{b^{\frac{2}{5}} \times b^{\frac{6}{7}}}$$

Your turn

Simplify fully:

$$\sqrt{a^{\frac{3}{4}} \times a^{\frac{3}{5}}}$$
$$a^{\frac{27}{40}}$$

Worked example

Solve:

$$5^x = 125$$

$$2^x = 16$$

$$3^x = 243$$

Your turn

Solve:

$$7^x = 343$$

$$x = 3$$

Worked example

Solve:

$$5^{x-2} = 25$$

$$2^{2x+3} = 32$$

$$3^{1-3x} = 81$$

Your turn

Solve:

$$2^{2-5x} = 16$$

$$x = -\frac{2}{5}$$

Worked example

Solve:

$$5 = 25^x$$

$$3 = 27^x$$

$$2 = 16^{x-1}$$

Your turn

Solve:

$$7 = 343^{x-2}$$

$$x = \frac{7}{3}$$

Worked example

Solve:

$$5^x = \frac{1}{125}$$

$$3^x = \frac{1}{9}$$

$$2^x = \frac{1}{16}$$

Your turn

Solve:

$$7^x = \frac{1}{343}$$

$$x = -3$$

Worked example

Solve:

$$5^{-x} = \frac{1}{125}$$

$$3^{-x} = \frac{1}{9}$$

$$2^{-x} = \frac{1}{16}$$

Your turn

Solve:

$$7^{-x} = \frac{1}{343}$$

$$x = 3$$

Worked example

Solve:

$$5^{-x} = 125$$

$$3^{-x} = 9$$

$$2^{-x} = 16$$

Your turn

Solve:

$$7^{-x} = 343$$

$$x = -3$$

Worked example

Solve:

$$125^x = \frac{1}{5}$$

$$9^x = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$8^x = \frac{1}{2}$$

Your turn

Solve:

$$343^x = \frac{1}{7}$$

$$x = -\frac{1}{3}$$

Worked example

Solve:

$$2^{3x-2} = \frac{1}{64}$$

$$3^{2-5x} = \frac{1}{81}$$

Your turn

Solve:

$$5^{3-2x} = \frac{1}{25}$$

$$x = \frac{5}{2}$$

Worked example

Solve:

$$2^x = \sqrt[3]{16}$$

$$3^{x-2} = \sqrt{27}$$

Your turn

Solve:

$$5^{x+1} = \sqrt[4]{25}$$

$$x = -\frac{1}{2}$$

Worked example

Solve:

$$2^{3x-1} = \sqrt[4]{32}$$

$$3^{2-5x} = \sqrt{243}$$

Your turn

Solve:

$$5^{3-2x} = \sqrt[3]{25}$$

$$x = \frac{7}{6}$$

Worked example

Solve:

$$2^{3x-5} = \frac{16}{\sqrt[5]{64}}$$

Your turn

Solve:

$$3^{2x-5} = \frac{27}{\sqrt{243}}$$

$$x = \frac{11}{4}$$

Worked example

Solve:

$$16 \times 2^{3x-1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{32}}$$

Your turn

Solve:

$$27 \times 3^{5x-2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{9}}$$

$$x = -\frac{1}{3}$$

Worked example

Solve:

$$(16^x)^3 = \frac{1}{8}$$

Your turn

Solve:

$$(9^x)^5 = \frac{1}{27}$$

$$x = -\frac{3}{10}$$

Worked example

Solve:

$$\sqrt{2} \times 8^{2x-5} = \frac{1}{16}$$

Your turn

Solve:

$$\sqrt{3} \times 9^{4x-3} = \frac{1}{27}$$

$$x = \frac{5}{16}$$

Worked example

Solve:

$$\frac{16^{4x-3}}{8^{5-2x}} = 4$$

Your turn

Solve:

$$\frac{9^{3-5x}}{27^{4x-3}} = 81$$

$$x = \frac{1}{2}$$

Worked example

Express y in terms of x , given:

$$2^x \times 2^y = 8$$

$$3^x \times 3^y = \sqrt{27}$$

Your turn

Express y in terms of x , given:

$$5^x \times 5^y = 125$$

$$y = 3 - x$$

Worked example

Express y in terms of x , given:

$$2^{3x} \times 8^{5y} = \frac{1}{4}$$

Your turn

Express y in terms of x , given:

$$5^{3x} \times 25^{4y} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{125}}$$

$$y = -\frac{3}{8}x - \frac{3}{16}$$

Worked example

Express y in terms of x , given:

$$\frac{2^{3x}}{2^{5y}} = 2\sqrt{2}$$

$$\frac{3^{4x}}{3^{2y}} = \frac{1}{27}$$

Your turn

Express y in terms of x , given:

$$\frac{5^x}{5^{4y}} = 125\sqrt{5}$$

$$y = \frac{x}{4} - \frac{7}{8}$$

Worked example

Express y in terms of x , given:

$$\frac{2^{3x}}{8^{5y}} = 2\sqrt{2}$$

$$\frac{3^{4x}}{9^{2y}} = \frac{1}{27}$$

Your turn

Express y in terms of x , given:

$$\frac{5^x}{25^{4y}} = 125\sqrt{5}$$

$$y = \frac{x}{8} - \frac{7}{16}$$

Worked example

Solve $\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^x = 8$

Solve $25^{3-4x} = \frac{1}{125}$

Your turn

Solve $\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^x = 9$

$x = -2$

Solve $9^{4-3x} = \frac{1}{81}$

$x = 2$

Worked example

Solve $x^{\frac{1}{2}} = 5$

Solve $x^{\frac{1}{3}} = 6$

Your turn

Solve $x^{\frac{1}{4}} = 2$

$x = 16$

Worked example

Solve $x^{-2} = 25$

Solve $x^{-3} = 216$

Your turn

Solve $x^{-4} = 16$

$$x = \frac{1}{2}$$

Worked example

Given that $5^{-n} = 0.4$, find the value of $(5^3)^n$

Your turn

Given that $3^{-n} = 0.2$, find the value of $(3^4)^n$

625

Worked example

Express $\frac{(3+\sqrt[3]{x})^2}{x}$ as powers of x .

Your turn

Express $\frac{(2+\sqrt{x})^2}{x}$ as powers of x .

$$4x^{-1} + 4x^{-\frac{1}{2}} + 1$$

Worked example

Express $\frac{(x + \sqrt[3]{x})^2}{4\sqrt[3]{x}}$ as powers of x .

Your turn

Express $\frac{(x + \sqrt{x})^2}{2\sqrt{x}}$ as powers of x .

$$\frac{1}{2}x^{\frac{3}{2}} + x + \frac{1}{2}x^{\frac{1}{2}}$$