

Power Rules

General notation (n is a whole number):

$$a^n = a \times a \times a \times \dots \times a \text{ (} n \text{ times)}$$

Special cases:

$a^0 = 1$	read: a -to-the-zero
$a^1 = a$	is just itself ' a '
$a^2 = a \times a$	read: a -squared
$a^3 = a \times a \times a$	read: a -cubed

Properties:

$$(ab)^n = ab \times ab \times ab \times \dots \times ab \text{ (} n \text{ times)}$$
$$(ab)^n = (a \times a \times a \times \dots \times a) \times (b \times b \times b \times \dots \times b) \text{ (} n \text{ times)}$$
$$(ab)^n = a^n \times b^n$$

Similarly:

$$a^n a^m = (a \times a \times a \dots) \times (a \times a \times a \dots) \text{ (} n \text{ and } m \text{ times, respectively)}$$
$$a^n a^m = a \times a \times a \dots \times a \times a \text{ (} n+m \text{ times)}$$
$$a^n a^m = a^{n+m}$$
$$\frac{a^n}{a^m} = a^{n-m}$$
$$a^n = \frac{1}{a^{-n}}$$
$$a^{-n} = \frac{1}{a^n}$$

Classwork

1. Solve the following equations:

(a) $5 - x = -4 - 2x$

(b) $7 - 2(1 - x) = -5$

(c) $\frac{x+2}{x-1} = 3$

2. If you take half my age and add 7, you get my age 13 years ago. How old am I?

3. Simplify:

(a) $\frac{(x^2y^2)x^3}{x^2y^5}$

(b) $(3y^3 \cdot y^5)^2$

4. Let $a = 2 \cdot 10^8$, $b = 10^5$. Compute $a^2 \cdot b$, $\frac{a}{b}$, $a^2 \div b^3$ (Hint: use $(a \cdot b)^n = a^n b^n$ and $(a^n)^m = a^{mn}$)

5. How many cubic centimeters are there in one cubic kilometer? (1km = 1000m, 1m=100cm)

6. It is known that $2^{10} = 1024$, which is very close to 10^3 . Use this to estimate the value of 2^{20} , 2^{32}

7. Evaluate:

(a) $(x - 5)(2x + 1) =$

(b) $(x + 7)(x^2 - 2x) =$

8. Solve:

(a) $2^{-2} \cdot (2^2 + 4^2) =$

(b) $6^3 \cdot (2^{-3} + 3^{-3}) =$

9. **One** can measure temperature using either the Fahrenheit scale (common in the US and Britain) or the Celsius scale (in most other countries). The relation between the two is given by

$$C = \frac{5}{9}(F - 32) \quad [C \text{ in the temperature in Celsius, } F \text{ - in Fahrenheit}]$$

(a) Is there a temperature which gives the same value on both scales ($F = C$)?

(b) Is there a temperature which in Fahrenheit scale is twice as large as in Celsius ($F = 2C$)?

10. **There** are three buckets: 10 liters, 4 liters, and 3 liters. The 10-liter bucket is full of water. There is no other water available. Divide the water so that there is exactly 5 liters in the 10-liter bucket, 1 liter in the 3-liter bucket, and 4 liters in the 4-liter bucket. You may only pour back and forth between the three given buckets. Describe how to do that using a table below. First and last columns are done for you.

10-l bucket						5
4-l bucket						4
3-l bucket						1