

PROPERTIES OF EXPONENTS

Frequency: ★

I. Multiplying with the Same Base

When multiplying with the same base, add the exponents:

$$x^a x^b \Leftrightarrow \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$x^3 x^4 \rightarrow (\underline{\hspace{1cm}}) \cdot (\underline{\hspace{1cm}}) \rightarrow \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

II. Dividing with the Same Base

When dividing with the same base, subtract the exponents:

$$\frac{x^a}{x^b} \Leftrightarrow \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad (x \text{ cannot equal } 0)$$

$$\frac{x^5}{x^3} = \frac{x \cdot \cancel{x} \cdot \cancel{x} \cdot \cancel{x} \cdot \cancel{x}}{\cancel{x} \cdot \cancel{x} \cdot \cancel{x}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad (\text{because there are 2 more } x\text{'s in the numerator})$$

$$\frac{x^3}{x^5} = \frac{\cancel{x} \cdot \cancel{x} \cdot \cancel{x}}{x \cdot x \cdot \cancel{x} \cdot \cancel{x} \cdot \cancel{x}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad (\text{because there are 2 more } x\text{'s in the denominator})$$

III. Base and a Power to a Power

When you have a base and power to a power, multiply the exponents:

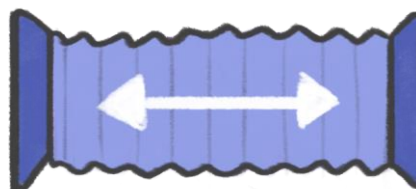
$$(x^a)^b \Leftrightarrow \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$(x^3)^4 \rightarrow (\underline{\hspace{1cm}}) \cdot (\underline{\hspace{1cm}}) \cdot (\underline{\hspace{1cm}}) \cdot (\underline{\hspace{1cm}}) \rightarrow \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

IV. Distributing Exponents

$$(xy)^a = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)^a = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad (y \text{ cannot equal } 0)$$



V. The Zero Power

$$x^0 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad (x \text{ cannot equal } 0)$$