

8-1 Radicals

- I can simplify radical expressions

$$\sqrt{x^2} = \pm x$$

$$\sqrt{38}$$

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8-1 Radicals

Definition
nth root

$$\sqrt[n]{b} = a \text{ means } b = a^n$$

- if $n \geq 2$ and even then a and b must be greater than or equal to 0. (positive)
- if $n > 3$ and odd, then a and b can be any real number.

In $\sqrt[n]{b}$: $\ln b^{\frac{1}{n}} = \frac{1}{n} \ln b$

The symbol $\sqrt{\quad}$ is called the radical

n is called the index

b is called the radicand

if there is no written index, an index of 2 is implied

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Know your powers and roots

$1^2 = 1$	$\sqrt{1} = 1$	$1^3 = 1$	$\sqrt[3]{1} = 1$
$2^2 = 4$	$\sqrt{4} = 2$	$2^3 = 8$	$\sqrt[3]{8} = 2$
$3^2 = 9$	$\sqrt{9} = 3$	$3^3 = 27$	$\sqrt[3]{27} = 3$
$4^2 = 16$	$\sqrt{16} = 4$	$4^3 = 64$	$\sqrt[3]{64} = 4$
$5^2 = 25$	$\sqrt{25} = 5$	$5^3 = 125$	$\sqrt[3]{125} = 5$

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Evaluate

Handwritten work for evaluating radicals:

- $\sqrt{9} = 3$
- Factor tree for 16: 16 → 2, 8 → 2, 4 → 2, 2
- $\sqrt[4]{16} = \sqrt[4]{2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2} = \sqrt[4]{2^4} = 2$
- Factor tree for 64: 64 → 2, 32 → 2, 16 → 2, 8 → 2, 4 → 2, 2
- $\sqrt[3]{64} = \sqrt[3]{2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2} = \sqrt[3]{2^6} = 2^2 = 4$
- Factor tree for 8: 8 → 2, 4 → 2, 2
- $\sqrt[3]{-8} = -\sqrt[3]{2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2} = -2$

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You try

$$\sqrt{121} = 11$$

121
/ \

11 · 11

$$\sqrt[3]{125} = 5$$

$$\sqrt[3]{-216} = -6$$

$$\sqrt[5]{32} = 2$$

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Simplify

$$\sqrt{18}$$

18
/ \

2 9
② 3 3
③ ③

$3\sqrt{2}$

$$\sqrt{48}$$

48
/ \

2 24
/ \

2 12
/ \

2 6
/ \

2 3

$2 \cdot 2 \sqrt{3} = 4\sqrt{3}$

$$5\sqrt[3]{24}$$

24
/ \

2 12
/ \

2 6
/ \

2 3

$5 \cdot 2 \sqrt[3]{3} = 10\sqrt[3]{3}$

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

32
/ \ / \ / \

2 2 2 2

$2\sqrt[4]{2} = 2\sqrt{2}$

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Simplifying

If $n \geq 2$ is a positive integer and a is a real number, then

$$\sqrt[n]{a^n} = a \quad \text{if } n \geq 3 \text{ is } \underline{\text{odd}}$$

$$\sqrt[n]{a^n} = \underline{|a|} \quad \text{if } n \geq 2 \text{ is even} \quad \underline{\pm a} \quad |a|$$

For example

$$\sqrt{x^2} = |x| \quad \sqrt[3]{x^3} = x \quad \sqrt[4]{x^4} = |x| \quad \text{and so on}$$

But to make our life easier some instructions will say "Assume all variables are greater than or equal to zero." In which case:

$$\sqrt{x^2} = x \quad \sqrt[3]{x^3} = x \quad \sqrt[4]{x^4} = x \quad \text{and so on}$$

SO READ YOUR INSTRUCTIONS!!!

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Reduce. Assume all variables are greater than or equal to zero.

$$\sqrt{x^2} = \sqrt{x \cdot x} = x \quad \sqrt[5]{x^5} = x$$

$$\sqrt[3]{x^3} = x \quad \sqrt[6]{z^6} = z$$

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Reduce Assuming all variables are greater than or equal to zero.

(You can either do these using rational exponents or not.)

$$\sqrt{x^6} = \sqrt{\underbrace{x \cdot x \cdot x \cdot x \cdot x \cdot x}_{x \cdot x \cdot x = x^3}}$$

$$\sqrt[3]{x^{12}} = x^4$$

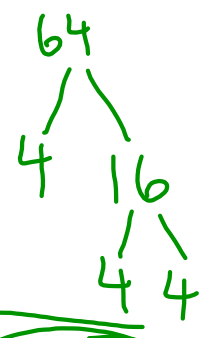
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You try

(remember $\sqrt{x^2} = |x|$)

$$\sqrt{100a^2} = \sqrt{10 \cdot 10 \cdot a \cdot a} = |10a|$$

$$\sqrt[3]{64x^3} = \sqrt[3]{4 \cdot 4 \cdot 4 \cdot x \cdot x \cdot x} = 4x$$



$$\sqrt{12p^2q}$$

$$\sqrt{128x^2} = 8x\sqrt{2}$$

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Reduce Assuming all variables are greater then or equal to zero.

$\sqrt{20x^{10}}$

20
4 5

$\sqrt{2^2 \cdot 5 (x^2)^5}$

\times^{10}
 $\times^2 \times^8 = 2x^5\sqrt{5}$

$\sqrt{75a^6}$

75
25 3

$\sqrt{(5^2)3 \cdot (a^2)^3}$

$5a^3\sqrt{3}$

$\times^2 \times^2 \times^6$
 $\times^2 \times^4$
 $\times^2 \times^2$

$a \cdot a \cdot a \cdot a \cdot a \cdot a$
 $a^2 \cdot a^2 \cdot a^2$

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Simplify Assuming all variables are greater then or equal to zero.

$\sqrt{80a^3}$

80
8 10
2 4 2 5
2 2

$\sqrt{2^2 2^2 5 a^2 a}$

$2 \cdot 2 \cdot a \sqrt{5a}$

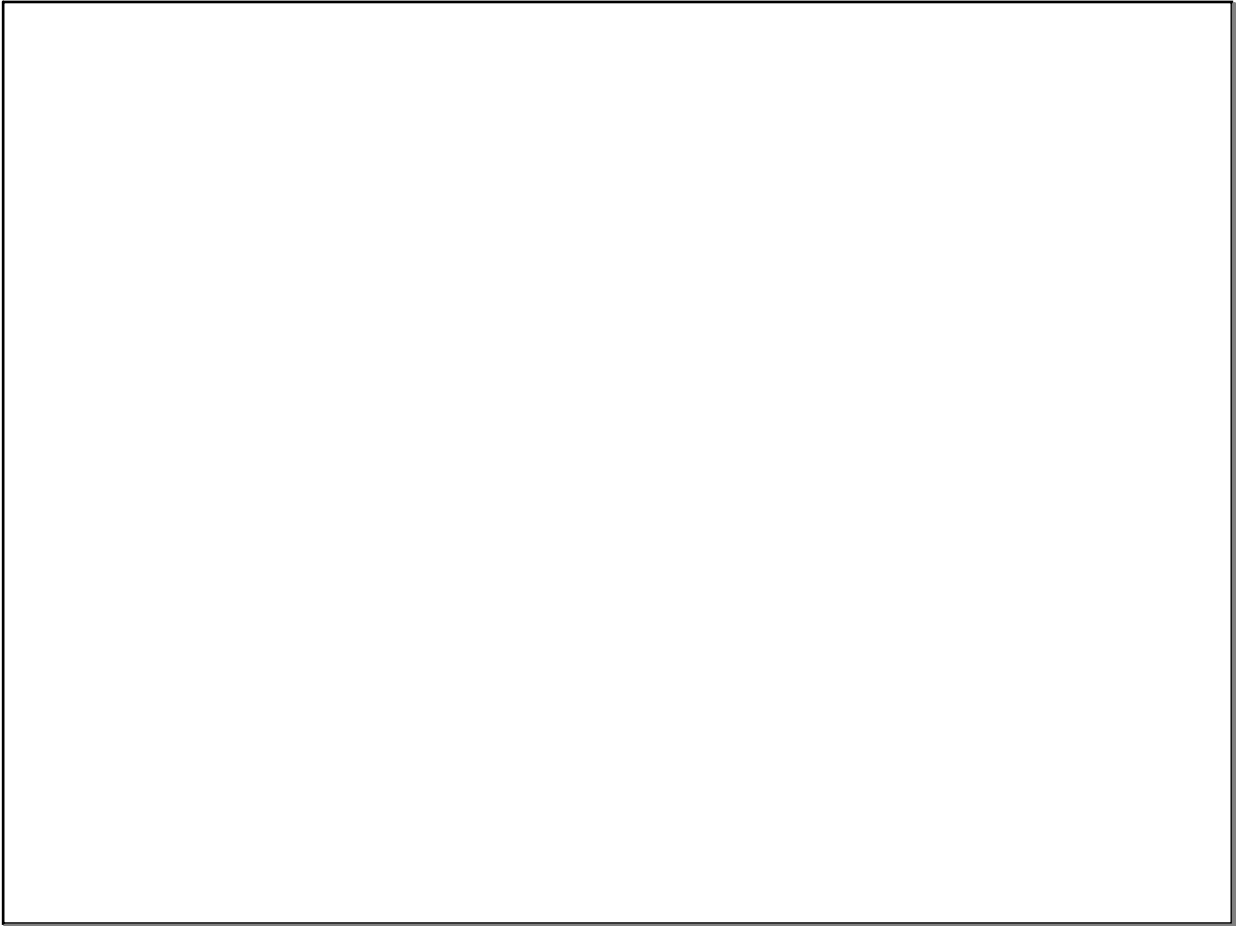
$4a\sqrt{5a}$

$\sqrt[3]{27m^4n^{14}}$

$\sqrt[3]{128x^6y^{10}}$

$\sqrt[4]{16a^5b^{11}}$

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