

Math 9

Rules of exponents!

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Base:

A number in an equation that is being multiplied by itself.

Ex.
 x^2

Exponent:

the number of times the base is multiplied by itself.

Ex.
 x^2

Product rule:

multiplication question, you add 2 or more exponents with the same base together.

Ex. $x^c * x^m = x^{m+c}$

$$2^3 * 2^2 = 2^{3+2} = 2^5 = 32$$

Quotient rule:

the opposite of the product rule, but instead of adding, you subtract the 2 or more exponents with the same base.

Ex. $x^m / x^n = x^{m-n}$

$$2^4 / 2^1 = 2^3 = 8$$

Power to power rule:

The power-to-power rule is when you multiply the 2 or more exponents.

Ex. $(x^m)^n$

$$(2^3)^2 = (8)^2 = 64$$

Zero exponent rule:

You may be wondering what happened if the exponent is a 0, Well it must be 0 right? Wrong, It will always equal 1 this is because if we look at the pattern, you divide 3 each time. When you divide a number that's not 0 then it will never equal 0.

Power	Value
3^3	27
3^2	9
3^1	3
3^0	1

Negative exponent rule:

When the exponent is negative, to simplify, Turn it into a fraction with the variable and the exponent at the bottom (since $x^{-m} = x^{-m}/1$)

Ex. $x^{-n} = 1/x^n$

$$2^{-4} = 1/2^4$$

One exponent rule:

Any base with the exponent as 1 will always equal the base.

$$\text{Ex. } x^1 = x \quad 2^1 = 2$$