

7.4 Rational Exponents

$$\sqrt{4} = 4^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

radical form rational exponent

← exponent
← root

$$\sqrt{4} = 2 \quad 4^{\frac{1}{2}} = 2$$

$$125^{\frac{1}{3}} = \sqrt[3]{125} = 5$$

$$16^{\frac{1}{4}} = 2 \quad \sqrt[4]{16}$$

$$8^{\frac{2}{3}} = \left(\sqrt[3]{8}\right)^2 = 2^2 = 4$$

4
2

$$2^{\frac{1}{2}} \cdot 2^{\frac{1}{2}} = 2^1 = 2$$

when multiplying powers w/ same base you add the exponents, the base stays the same!

$$2^{\frac{1}{2}} \cdot 8^{\frac{1}{2}} = 2^{\frac{1}{2}} \cdot 2^{\frac{3}{2}} = 2^{\frac{4}{2}} = 2^2 = 4$$

4
2
2
3
2

p. 388 - 389 (2 - 60 even, 65, 66)
except 26, 28)

exponential form

radical form

$$x^{\frac{3}{5}} = (\sqrt[5]{x})^3 = \sqrt[5]{x^3}$$

$$y^{-2.5} = y^{-\frac{5}{2}} = \frac{1}{y^{5/2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt[2]{y^5}} \text{ OR } \frac{1}{(\sqrt{y})^5}$$

no negative exponents

$$\textcircled{1} y^{-3/8} = \frac{1}{\sqrt[8]{y^3}}$$

$$\textcircled{2} z^{0.4} = z^{\frac{2}{5}} = \sqrt[5]{z^2}$$

Simplifying.

$$25^{-\frac{3}{2}} = \frac{1}{25^{3/2}} = \frac{1}{(\sqrt{25})^3} = \frac{1}{5^3} = \frac{1}{125}$$

$$32^{\frac{3}{5}} = (\sqrt[5]{32})^3 = 2^3 = 8$$

16
4
2 2 2

$$(-32)^{\frac{4}{5}} = (\sqrt[5]{-32})^4 = (-2)^4 = 16$$

-2 · -2 · -2 · -2

$$(8x^{15})^{-\frac{1}{3}} = \frac{1}{(8x^{15})^{1/3}} = \frac{1}{8^{1/3} x^5} = \frac{1}{2x^5}$$

p. 387
exponent
rules