

PROPERTIES OF NEGATIVE AND ZERO EXPONENTS

Use the examples at the right to explore the properties of negative and zero exponents. First, subtract the exponents to simplify the expression. Then, write out the expanded form of each expression and simplify to see another equivalent expression.

$$\frac{b^2}{b^5} =$$

EXPANDED:

SIMPLIFY:

$$\frac{3^4}{3^4} =$$

EXPANDED:

SIMPLIFY:

The examples above show us how to simplify negative exponents as well as a base raised to the power of zero as summarized below.

NEGATIVE EXPONENT PROPERTY

$$a^{-x} = \frac{1}{a^x}$$

When an exponent is negative, write the reciprocal of the base, and the exponent becomes positive.

ZERO POWER PROPERTY

$$a^0 = 1$$

Any base raised to the power of zero is equal to 1.

In 1-3, simplify each expression. Do not leave any negative exponents in your answer.

1. h^{-6}	2. n^{-3}	3. $(b^{-4})^2$
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In 4-7, simplify the expression and do not leave any exponents in your answer.

4. 8^{-2}	5. $\frac{10^3}{10^4}$	6. 2^{-4}	7. $\frac{5^8}{5^8}$
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Apply the properties of exponents to simplify each expression below.

8. $a^4 \cdot (a^{-5})^2$	9. $(m^3n^{-3})^3$	10. $\frac{g^8 \cdot g^{-4}}{g^4}$
11. $\frac{d \cdot d^2}{(d^2)^{-3}}$	12. $(jk^2)^{-2}$	

In 13-15, label the equality statement as true or false. Be sure to show your thinking.

13. $z^{-7} \cdot z^2 = z^7 \cdot z^{-2}$	14. $\frac{a^{-8}}{a^3} = \frac{a^{-17}}{a^{-6}}$	15. $\frac{8^{-6}}{8^2} = (8^{-4})^2$
16. Olga's work simplifying an expression is shown below. Describe Olga's mistake and give the correct simplified expression. <div data-bbox="110 1606 540 1749" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;">$\frac{x^4 \cdot x^4}{x^{-8}} = \frac{x^8}{x^{-8}} = x^0 = 1$</div>		

Summarize today's lesson: