

INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA

GPS # 31

7.2 SIMPLIFYING RADICAL EXPRESSIONS

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Useful Guidelines:

If $\sqrt[n]{a}$ and $\sqrt[n]{b}$ are real numbers, and $b \neq 0$ and n is a natural number, then

* $\sqrt[n]{a} \cdot \sqrt[n]{b} = \sqrt[n]{ab}$ and $\sqrt[n]{\frac{a}{b}} = \frac{\sqrt[n]{a}}{\sqrt[n]{b}}$. For example: $\sqrt[4]{8} \cdot \sqrt[4]{2} = \sqrt[4]{8 \cdot 2} = \sqrt[4]{16} = 2$ and $\sqrt[3]{\frac{8}{27}} = \frac{\sqrt[3]{8}}{\sqrt[3]{27}} = \frac{2}{3}$

* Rationalizing the Denominator:

Writing the quotient without a radical expression in the denominator.

Evaluate the following:

1. a) $\sqrt[3]{9} \cdot \sqrt[3]{3} = \sqrt[3]{27} = 3$ b) $\sqrt[3]{16} \cdot \sqrt[3]{4} = \sqrt[3]{64} = 4$ c) $\sqrt[5]{9} \cdot \sqrt[5]{5} = \sqrt[5]{45}$
 d) $\sqrt[2]{4m} \cdot \sqrt[2]{3pq} = \sqrt{12mpq}$ e) $\sqrt[4]{10} \cdot \sqrt[4]{5} = \sqrt[4]{50}$ f) $\sqrt[5]{4x} \cdot \sqrt[3]{y} = \text{Can not Simplify}$ (not same)

Assume all variables represent positive real numbers. Simplify the following (if possible):

2. a) $\sqrt[3]{\frac{64}{8}} = \frac{\sqrt[3]{64}}{\sqrt[3]{8}} = \frac{4}{2} = 2$ b) $\sqrt[2]{\frac{81}{49}} = \frac{9}{7}$ c) $\sqrt[4]{\frac{81}{16}} = \frac{3}{2}$
 d) $\sqrt[3]{\frac{k^9}{125}} = \frac{k^3}{5}$ e) $\sqrt[2]{\frac{64m^4}{a^2}} = \frac{8m^2}{a}$ f) $\sqrt[4]{\frac{x^4}{16y^8}} = \frac{x}{2y^2}$

Keep neg. to only one either 64 or 8

3. a) $\sqrt[3]{54} = \sqrt[3]{(2)(27)} = \sqrt[3]{2 \cdot 27} = 3\sqrt[3]{2}$ b) $-\sqrt[3]{32} = -\sqrt[3]{(8)(4)} = -\sqrt[3]{8 \cdot 4} = -2\sqrt[3]{4}$ c) $-\sqrt[2]{11} = \text{Can not Simplify}$
 d) $\sqrt[2]{4x^3} = \sqrt{4} \cdot \sqrt{x^3} = 2\sqrt{x^3}$ e) $\sqrt[3]{27p^5q^4} = \sqrt[3]{27} \cdot \sqrt[3]{p^3} \cdot \sqrt[3]{p^2} \cdot \sqrt[3]{q^3} \cdot \sqrt[3]{q} = 3\sqrt[3]{p^2q^3} \cdot \sqrt[3]{p^2q}$ f) $\sqrt[4]{32a^5} = \sqrt[4]{2^4 \cdot 2 \cdot a^4 \cdot a} = 2a\sqrt[4]{2a}$

4. Rationalize each denominator. Assume that all variables are positive.

a) $\frac{7}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{7\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{3}\sqrt{3}} = \frac{7\sqrt{3}}{3}$ b) $\frac{5\sqrt{2}}{2\sqrt{2}} = \frac{5\sqrt{2}}{2 \cdot \sqrt{2} \cdot \sqrt{2}} = \frac{5\sqrt{2}}{4}$ c) $\frac{7\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{7\sqrt{3}\sqrt{5}}{\sqrt{5}\sqrt{5}} = \frac{7\sqrt{15}}{5}$
 d) $\frac{4\sqrt{a}}{\sqrt{b}} = \frac{4\sqrt{a}\sqrt{b}}{\sqrt{b}\sqrt{b}} = \frac{4\sqrt{ab}}{b}$ e) $\frac{\sqrt{9m^2}}{\sqrt{n}} = \frac{\sqrt{9m^2} \cdot \sqrt{n}}{\sqrt{n} \cdot \sqrt{n}} = \frac{3m\sqrt{n}}{n}$ f) $\frac{2xy}{\sqrt{x^3}} = \frac{2xy\sqrt{x}}{\sqrt{x^3}\sqrt{x}} = \frac{2xy\sqrt{x}}{x^2 \cdot x} = \frac{2y\sqrt{x}}{x}$