

TOPIC: SIMPLIFYING RADICAL EXPRESSIONS

Simplifying Radicals by Expanding

- When $\sqrt{\quad}$'s aren't perfect powers, you can simplify by re-writing it as a $\sqrt{\quad}$ where 1 term **IS** a perfect power!
 - An expression is fully simplified when you can't break up $\sqrt{\quad}$'s any further.

If a number in a radical has factors a & b ,

$$\sqrt[n]{\#} = \sqrt[n]{a \cdot b} = \sqrt[n]{a} \cdot \sqrt[n]{b}$$

EXAMPLE: Simplify the expression.

(A)

$$\sqrt{20}$$

(B)

$$\sqrt{18x^2}$$

(C)

$$\sqrt[3]{54x^4}$$

PERFECT POWERS

Squares	Cubes
$2^2 = 4$	$2^3 = 8$
$3^2 = 9$	$3^3 = 27$
$4^2 = 16$	$4^3 = 64$
$5^2 = 25$	$5^3 = 125$
$6^2 = 36$	
$7^2 = 49$	
$8^2 = 64$	
$9^2 = 81$	
$10^2 = 100$	

PRACTICE: Simplify the radical.

$$\sqrt{75}$$

PRACTICE: Simplify the radical.

$$\sqrt{180}$$

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Simplifying Radicals with Variables

- We can apply everything we've seen for Square & n^{th} Roots with Variables in $\sqrt{\quad}$'s!

Radicals WITHOUT Variables		Radicals WITH Variables	
$(3)^2 =$	$(2)^3 =$	$(\quad)^2 =$	$(\quad)^3 =$
$\sqrt{9} =$	$\sqrt[3]{8} =$	$\sqrt{x^2} =$	$\sqrt[3]{x^6} =$

Power Rule
$(a^m)^n = a^{m \cdot n}$

- Remember: When $\sqrt{\quad}$'s aren't perfect powers, split them where 1 factor (# or variable) **IS** a perfect power.

- For $\sqrt{\quad}$'s with numbers AND variables, simplify them _____.

$$\sqrt[n]{ab} = \sqrt[n]{a} \cdot \sqrt[n]{b}$$

EXAMPLE: Simplify the expression.

(A)

$$\sqrt{x^3}$$

(B)

$$\sqrt{x^7}$$

(C)

$$\sqrt{8x^5}$$

PERFECT POWERS

Squares	Cubes
$2^2 = 4$	$2^3 = 8$
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$4^2 = 16$	$4^3 = 64$
$5^2 = 25$	$5^3 = 125$
$6^2 = 36$	
$7^2 = 49$	
$8^2 = 64$	
$9^2 = 81$	
$10^2 = 100$	

PRACTICE: Simplify the radical.

$$\sqrt{63x^2}$$

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Simplifying Radicals with Fractions

- Split up OR combine radical expressions with fractions using these rules:
 - Sometimes it's better to split & simplify, sometimes it's better to divide & simplify.

$$\sqrt[n]{ab} = \sqrt[n]{a} \cdot \sqrt[n]{b}$$

$$\sqrt[n]{\frac{a}{b}} = \frac{\sqrt[n]{a}}{\sqrt[n]{b}}$$

$$\sqrt{\frac{49}{64}} =$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{32}}{\sqrt{2}} =$$

EXAMPLE: Simplify the expression.

(A)

$$\sqrt{\frac{64x^4}{9x^2}}$$

(B)

$$\frac{\sqrt{72x^3}}{\sqrt{9x}}$$

PERFECT POWERS

Squares	Cubes
$2^2 = 4$	$2^3 = 8$
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$10^2 = 100$	

Adding & Subtracting LIKE Radicals

- Just how we combined **like terms**, combine _____ (same **radicand**, same **index**).

Algebraic Expressions	Radical Expressions
$2x + 3 + 4x + 8$ $(2x + 4x) + (3 + 8)$ $6x + 11$	$(2\sqrt{x} + 3) + (4\sqrt{x} + 8)$

EXAMPLE: Perform the indicated operation and simplify. Assume all variables are positive.

(A)

$$3\sqrt{7} + 2\sqrt{7} - \sqrt{7}$$

(B)

$$9\sqrt[3]{x} - \sqrt{x} - 5\sqrt[3]{x} + 3$$

Warning!

$$\sqrt[m]{a} + \sqrt[m]{b} \neq \sqrt[m]{a+b}$$

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PRACTICE: True or False: $\sqrt{9 + 16}$ and $\sqrt{9} + \sqrt{16}$ are equal.

Adding & Subtracting **UNLIKE** Radicals

- When adding/subtracting radicands that are NOT alike, you'll have to _____ them *first* before combining!

Combining LIKE Radicals	Combining UNLIKE Radicals
$3\sqrt{5} + 4\sqrt{5}$	$\sqrt{5} + \sqrt{20}$

$$\sqrt[n]{ab} = \sqrt[n]{a} \cdot \sqrt[n]{b}$$

EXAMPLE: Add or subtract the expressions and simplify.

(A)

$$5\sqrt{2} - \sqrt{18}$$

(B)

$$\sqrt{18} + \sqrt{50}$$

PERFECT POWERS

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$5^2 = 25$	$5^3 = 125$
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