

Properties of Exponents

Let a and b be real numbers and m and n be integers. Then the following properties of exponents hold, provided that all of the expressions appearing in a particular equation are defined.

$$1. a^m a^n = a^{m+n}$$

$$2. (a^m)^n = a^{mn}$$

$$3. (ab)^m = a^m b^m$$

$$4. \frac{a^m}{a^n} = a^{m-n}, a \neq 0$$

$$5. \left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^m = \frac{a^m}{b^m}, b \neq 0$$

$$6. a^{-m} = \frac{1}{a^m}, a \neq 0$$

$$7. a^{\frac{1}{n}} = \sqrt[n]{a}$$

$$8. a^0 = 1, a \neq 0$$

$$9. a^{\frac{m}{n}} = \sqrt[n]{a^m} = (\sqrt[n]{a})^m$$

where m and n are integers in properties 7 and 9.