

1.4 Powers of whole numbers

p1.

We use powers to write repeated multiplication.

Notation

2^3
3 ← power
2 ← base

2^3

means $\underbrace{2 \times 2 \times 2}_{3 \text{ twos multiplied together}}$ so $2^3 = 8$.

Compare with

$$2 + 3 = 5$$

$$2 \times 3 = 6$$

$$2^3 = 8$$

A power can also be called an exponent.

Any number to the power 1 is just that same number (so we usually ~~don't~~ write a power 1). Any number to the power 0 is defined to be 1 (and 0^0 is undefined).

Examples: • $13^1 = 13$

• $13^0 = 1$

• $1^0 = 1$

• $0^1 = 0$

• $2^1 = 2$

$$N^1 = N$$

$$N^0 = 1$$

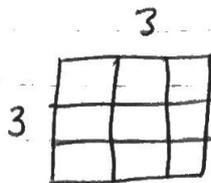
for $N \neq 0$

Any number to the power 2 just means multiplying the number by itself

$$N^2 = N \times N$$

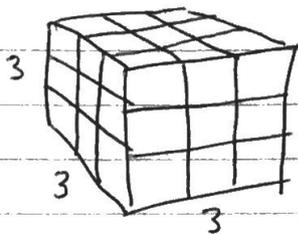
So $3^2 = 9$. We usually say this as

"3 squared equals 9" because the area of a square of side length 3 units is 9 square units:



has 9 of these 

Also a third power is often called a cube.



$$\begin{array}{c} \nearrow 3 \times 3 \times 3 \\ 3^3 = 27 \\ \searrow \end{array}$$

has 27 of these 

The volume of this cube of side length 3 units is 27 cubic units.

Example: find 15^2

Solution: we need 15×15 so

$$\begin{array}{r} 15 \\ \times 15 \\ \hline 75 \\ 15 \\ \hline 225 \end{array}$$

Answer $\boxed{15^2 = 225}$

Higher powers don't have names. They can be more work to find by hand.

Example: Find 5^4

Solution: $5^4 = \underbrace{5 \times 5}_{25} \times 5 \times 5$

then $\begin{array}{r} 25 \\ \times 5 \\ \hline 125 \end{array}$

and

$$\begin{array}{r} 125 \\ \times 5 \\ \hline 625 \end{array}$$

Answer
 $\boxed{5^4 = 625}$

Some numbers are easy to find high powers of. Examples:

- $0^{20} = 0 \times 0 \times \dots \times 0 = 0$

- $1^{100} = 1 \times 1 \times \dots \times 1 = 1$

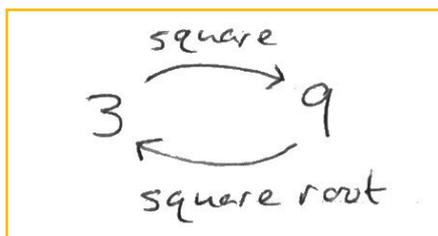
- $10^9 = 1000000000$

← answer has 9 zeros.

Square roots

Taking a square root is the opposite of squaring. We use the radical notation $\sqrt{\quad}$ for square roots (don't confuse with the long division notation).

So $\sqrt{9} = 3$ because $3^2 = 9$



When you are looking for a square root,
for example

$$\sqrt{25} = ?$$

you should ask "which number squared
equals 25"? Answer $5^2 = 25$ so

$$\sqrt{25} = 5.$$

Example: find $\sqrt{100}$.

Solution: $\sqrt{100} = 10$ because $10^2 = 100$.

It's a common mistake to confuse
square roots with dividing by 2

$$\sqrt{100} = 50$$

No.

More examples:

• $\sqrt{0} = 0$ ($0^2 = 0$)

• $\sqrt{1} = 1$ ($1^2 = 1$)

• $\sqrt{2} =$

• $\sqrt{3} =$

• $\sqrt{4} = 2$ ($2^2 = 4$)

• $\sqrt{16} = 4$ ($4^2 = 16$)

The remainder can be 0 (which means the divisor divides in evenly with nothing left over). The biggest the remainder can be is one less than the divisor.

Example: $30 \div 7 = 3 \text{ R } 9$

is not correct. We can fit 7 in once more

$$30 \div 7 = 4 \text{ R } 2.$$

We can use Long division for bigger numbers.

Example: find the quotient and remainder for the division:

$$159 \div 6$$

Solution: Set it up like this

$$159 \overline{) 6}$$

No

like this!

$$6 \overline{) 159}$$

6 fits into 1 zero times, but 6 fits into 15 two times. Write the 2 above the 5

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ 6 \overline{) 159} \\ \underline{-12} \downarrow \\ 3 \end{array}$$

Bring down the 9 and now we ask how many times 6 fits into 39. Answer is 6 times with 3 left over

$$\begin{array}{r}
 26 \quad \leftarrow \text{quotient} \\
 6 \overline{)159} \\
 \underline{-12} \\
 39 \\
 \underline{-36} \\
 3 \quad \leftarrow \text{remainder.}
 \end{array}$$

Answer: $159 \div 6 = 26 \text{ R } 3$.

See more examples in section 1.5-2.

1.6 Division and 0

We can divide by any number except for one number: zero.

For example $3 \div 0$ causes a problem because 0 fits into 3 infinitely many times. We say

$3 \div 0$ is undefined.

Note that $0 \div 3$ makes sense and $= 0$.

$N \div 0$
is undefined

$0 \div N = 0$

for $N \neq 0$