

Exploring Rules of Exponents: How can you use patterns to discover rules for multiplying with exponents?

$\frac{4}{4} = 1$; $\frac{7}{7} = 1$; $\frac{x}{x} = 1$

Expression	Expanded form	Product as a power
$\frac{4^5}{4^3}$	4 · 4 · 4 · 4 · 4 4 · 4 · 4	4^2
$\frac{7^9}{7^5}$	7 · 7 · 7 · 7 · 7 · 7 · 7 · 7 · 7 7 · 7 · 7 · 7 · 7	7^4
$\frac{x^8}{x^3}$	x · x · x · x · x · x · x · x x · x · x	x^5

Division Properties of Exponents:

Quotient of Powers Property:

To divide powers having the same base, subtract exponents.

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

Example:

$$\frac{3^7}{3^5} = 3^{7-5} = 3^2$$

Examples:

1. $\frac{x^{12}}{x^9}$ x^3
 x^{12-9}

2. $\frac{p^7 r^5}{p^4 r^2}$ $p^3 r^3$

3. $\frac{9^{15}}{9^7}$ 9^8
(15-7)

4. $\frac{8 \cdot 10^6}{2 \cdot 10^3}$ $\frac{8}{2} \cdot \frac{10^6}{10^3}$
 $4 \cdot 10^3$

Examples:

5. $\frac{16x^5 y^7}{8x^3 y^5}$
 $\frac{16}{8} \frac{x^5}{x^3} \frac{y^7}{y^5}$
 $2x^2 y^2$

6. $\frac{36x^{12} y^8}{2x^4 y}$
 $\frac{36}{2} \frac{x^{12}}{x^4} \frac{y^8}{y^1}$
 $18x^8 y^7$

7. $\frac{-18p^4 q^9 r^7}{6p^2 r^5}$
 $\frac{-18}{6} \frac{p^4}{p^2} \frac{q^9}{r^5}$
 $-3p^2 q^9 r^2$

8. $\frac{24x^{13} y^{10}}{9x^5 y}$
 $\frac{24}{9} \frac{x^{13}}{x^5} \frac{y^{10}}{y^1}$
 $\frac{8x^8 y^9}{3}$