

# ZERO AND NEGATIVE EXPONENTS

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A nonzero number to the zero power is 1.  
 $a^0 = 1$

Examples: Evaluate.

1.  $5^0 = 1$

2.  $(-3)^0 = 1$

3.  $(\frac{1}{9})^0 = 1$

Zero raised to the zero power is undefined.

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# NEGATIVE EXPONENTS

$$a^{-n} = \frac{1}{a^n} \text{ or } a^n = \frac{1}{a^{-n}}$$

Examples: Evaluate.

4.  $\frac{2^{-2}}{1} = \frac{1}{2^2} = \boxed{\frac{1}{4}}$

5.  $\frac{1}{(-3)^{-4}} = \frac{(-3)^4}{1} = (-3)^4 = (-3)(-3)(-3)(-3) = \boxed{81}$

6.  $(\frac{1}{4})^{-3} = (\frac{4}{1})^3 = (4)^3 = 4 \cdot 4 \cdot 4 = \boxed{64}$

Examples: Evaluate.

7.  $\frac{6^{-4}}{6^4} = \frac{1}{6^4} = \frac{6^4}{6^4} = \boxed{1}$

8.  $(2^{-3})^{-2} = (\frac{1}{2^3})^{-2} = (2^3)^2 = 8^2 = \boxed{64}$

9.  $(-3 \cdot 2)^{-2} = (-6)^{-2} = \frac{1}{(-6)^2} = \boxed{\frac{1}{36}}$

10.  $(3^{-2})^{-2} = (\frac{1}{3^2})^{-2} = (3^2)^2 = 9^2 = \boxed{81}$

11.  $(2 \cdot 5)^{-2} = (10)^{-2} = \frac{1}{10^2} = \boxed{\frac{1}{100}}$

12.  $4^2 \cdot 4^{-3} = \frac{4^2}{1} \cdot \frac{1}{4^3} = \frac{4^2}{4^3} = \frac{4 \cdot 4}{4 \cdot 4 \cdot 4} = \boxed{\frac{1}{4}}$

Examples: Rewrite using positive exponents.

13.  $\frac{2x^{-2}y^3}{1}$

$$\boxed{\frac{2y^3}{x^2}}$$

14.  $\frac{5c^{-4}d^5}{5}$

$$\boxed{\frac{5d^5}{c^4}}$$

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Examples: Rewrite using positive exponents.

15.  $\frac{1}{(5a)^{-3}}$

$$\frac{1}{(5a)^{-3}} = \frac{1}{5a \cdot 5a \cdot 5a}$$

$$= \boxed{\frac{1}{125a^3}}$$

16.  $\frac{4k^{-3}}{m^8p^2}$

$$\boxed{\frac{4p^2}{k^3m^8}}$$

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