

1.1: Radical Expressions: Rationalizing Denominators

Ex1. Simplify by rationalizing the denominators.

$$a. \frac{14}{3\sqrt{7}} \times \frac{\sqrt{7}}{\sqrt{7}}$$

$$= \frac{14\sqrt{7}}{3(7)}$$

$$= \frac{2\sqrt{7}}{3}$$

$$b. \frac{3}{(1+\sqrt{2})} \times \frac{1-\sqrt{2}}{(1-\sqrt{2})}$$

conjugate
↙

$$= \frac{3-3\sqrt{2}}{1-\sqrt{2}+\sqrt{2}-2}$$

$$= \frac{3-3\sqrt{2}}{-1}$$

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

$$c. \frac{\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{2}-\sqrt{6}} \times \frac{\sqrt{2}+\sqrt{6}}{\sqrt{2}+\sqrt{6}}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{6} + \sqrt{18}}{2-6}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{6} + 3\sqrt{2}}{-4}$$

$$= \frac{-\sqrt{6} - 3\sqrt{2}}{4}$$

$$d. \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2\sqrt{3}+5} \times \frac{2\sqrt{3}-5}{2\sqrt{3}-5}$$

$$= \frac{2(3) - 5\sqrt{3}}{4(3) - 25}$$

$$= \frac{6 - 5\sqrt{3}}{-13}$$

$$= \frac{5\sqrt{3} - 6}{13}$$

Ex2. Simplify by rationalizing the numerators.

$$a. \frac{7\sqrt{2}-\sqrt{21}}{7\sqrt{6}} \times \frac{7\sqrt{2}+\sqrt{21}}{7\sqrt{2}+\sqrt{21}}$$

$$= \frac{49(2) - 21}{49\sqrt{12} + 7\sqrt{2 \times 3 \times 3 \times 7}}$$

$$= \frac{98 - 21}{98\sqrt{3} + 21\sqrt{14}}$$

$$= \frac{77}{98\sqrt{3} + 21\sqrt{14}}$$

$$= \frac{11}{14\sqrt{3} + 3\sqrt{14}}$$

$$b. \frac{\sqrt{a^2+b^2}+a}{b} \times \frac{\sqrt{a^2+b^2}-a}{\sqrt{a^2+b^2}-a}$$

$$= \frac{a^2+b^2-a^2}{b(\sqrt{a^2+b^2}-a)}$$

$$= \frac{b}{\sqrt{a^2+b^2}-a}$$