

# EXPONENTS: THE QUOTIENT RULE

## LEARNING GOAL

1. I can divide exponential expressions using the quotient rule.

**appears  
5 times**

**exponent**

$2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 = 2^5$

**base**

The diagram illustrates the relationship between repeated multiplication and exponential notation. On the left, the expression  $2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2$  is shown with a black brace above it. Above the brace is the text "appears 5 times". To the right of this is an equals sign followed by the exponential form  $2^5$ . Above the  $2^5$  is the text "exponent" with a blue arrow pointing down to the superscript 5. Below the  $2^5$  is the text "base" with a red arrow pointing up to the base 2.

## Exponential Rules

### Product Rule

$$a^x \times a^y = a^{x+y}$$

$$a^2 \times a^3 = a^5$$

### Quotient Rule

$$a^x \div a^y = a^{x-y}$$

$$a^7 \div a^3 = a^4$$

### Power Rule

$$(a^x)^y = a^{xy}$$

$$(a^7)^2 = a^{14}$$

### Negative Rule

$$a^{-x} = \frac{1}{a^x}$$

$$a^{-4} = \frac{1}{a^4}$$

### Zero Rule

$$a^0 = 1$$

## Exponents Dividing Example One

$$2^3 \div 2^2 \quad \text{Rewrite as a Fraction}$$

$$= \frac{2^3}{2^2} \quad \text{Fully Expand the Powers out}$$

$$= \frac{2 \times \cancel{2} \times \cancel{2}}{\cancel{2} \times \cancel{2}} \quad \text{and then cancel all identical items in the top and bottom}$$

$$= 2 \quad \checkmark$$

## Dividing Rule Example Two

$$k^5 \div k^3 \quad \text{Rewrite as a Fraction}$$

$$= \frac{k^5}{k^3} \quad \text{Use the Subtract Powers shortcut Rule}$$

$$= k^{5-3} \quad \text{If Bases are the same, then subtract the Powers, which is the Exponents Divide Rule.}$$

$$= k^2 \checkmark$$

## Dividing Rule Example Four

$$12a^7b^5 \div 16a^2b^2 \quad \text{Rewrite as a Fraction}$$

$$= \frac{12a^7b^5}{16a^2b^2} \quad \text{Separate Numbers \& Letters}$$

$$= \frac{\overset{3}{\cancel{12}}}{\underset{4}{\cancel{16}}} \times \frac{a^{\overset{7}{\cancel{2}}}}{a^{\underset{2}{\cancel{2}}}} \times \frac{b^{\overset{5}{\cancel{2}}}}{b^{\underset{2}{\cancel{2}}}} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Reduce down number Fraction} \\ \text{and use Powers Subtract Rule} \end{array}$$

$$= \frac{3}{4} \times a^{7-2} \times b^{5-2} = \frac{3}{4} \times a^5 \times b^3 = \frac{3a^5b^3}{4} \quad \checkmark$$

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Exponents  
Worksheet 2

**Directions:** Complete the chart below.

		Expanded Form	Single Base and a Power
1.	$\frac{x^4}{x^3}$		
2.	$\frac{x^8}{x^5}$		
3.	$\frac{x^5}{x}$		
4.	$\frac{x^2}{x^8}$		
5.	$\frac{x}{x^5}$		

6. Compare the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> columns in the table above. Describe, in words, what you notice about the relationship you see between them.

		Expanded Form	Single Base and a Power
7.	$\frac{x^3y^3}{x^3y}$		
8.	$\frac{x^2y^5}{x^3y^2}$		
9.	$\frac{6x^5}{8x^3}$		
10.	$\frac{12x^7y}{6x^3y^6}$		

Exponents  
Worksheet 2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

$$1) \quad \frac{b^6}{b^4}$$

$$7) \quad \frac{4k^3z^2}{3kz^4}$$

$$2) \quad \frac{8n^6z^3}{2n^5z^2}$$

$$8) \quad \frac{w}{w^3}$$

$$3) \quad \frac{5dk^3}{9d^4k^6}$$

$$9) \quad \frac{9g^4}{6g^6}$$

$$4) \quad \frac{kh}{7k^4h^5}$$

$$10) \quad \frac{9^2}{9^4}$$

$$5) \quad \frac{3w}{7w^6}$$

$$11) \quad \frac{5h^4}{2h^3k^5}$$

$$6) \quad \frac{6^3}{6}$$

$$12) \quad \frac{2d^2}{6d}$$