



Radical Expressions, Functions, & Equations

What is the square root of 25?

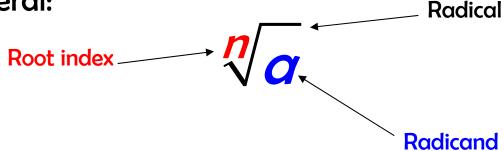
We can write this question using a radical: $\sqrt{25}$

When we ask this question, we really want to answer the following, *"What number, times itself, is equal to 25?"* The answer is 5, since $5 \cdot 5 = 5^2$

Is there another answer??????? What about -5?

Since $(-5)(-5) = (-5)^2 = 25$, $\sqrt{25} = \pm 5$

In general:



Example:

$$\sqrt[4]{81} = \sqrt[3]{-125} = \sqrt[6]{-729} = -\sqrt{4^{-1}} =$$

Properties of Radicals:

1.
$$\sqrt[n]{ab} = \sqrt[n]{a} \cdot \sqrt[n]{b}$$

$$2.\sqrt[n]{\frac{a}{b}} = \frac{\sqrt[n]{a}}{\sqrt[n]{b}}$$

Example:

Simplify the following expression: $\sqrt[4]{\frac{16x^8}{5}}$

A <u>rational exponent</u> is an exponent that can be expressed in the form $\frac{m}{n}$, where *m* and *n* are integers. Every radical expression can be written equivalently with rational exponents.

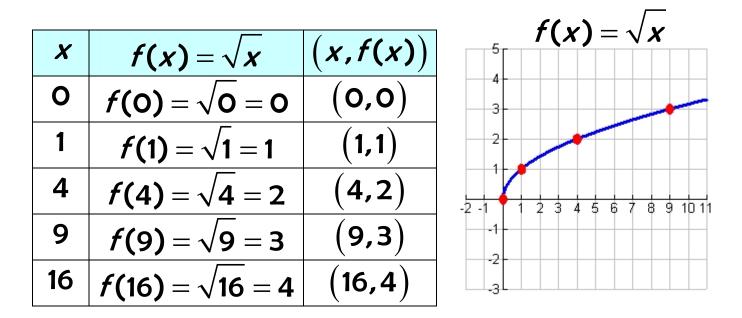
$$\sqrt[n]{\boldsymbol{a}^m} = \boldsymbol{a}^{\frac{m}{n}} = \left(\sqrt[n]{\boldsymbol{a}}\right)^m$$

Example:
$$(\sqrt{x})^3 = \sqrt[4]{16x^3} = (-125)^{2/3} =$$

A Radical Function is a function containing a radical. A square root function contains \sqrt{x}

What does the graph of $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ look like??

(notice the indicated root is positive)



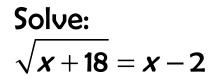
We can graph transformations of this "parent" function of the form

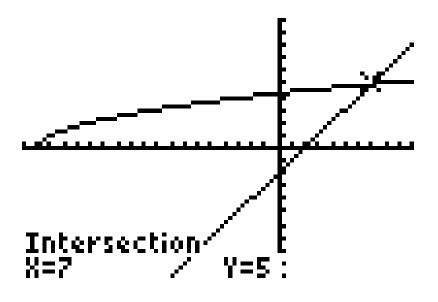
$$g(x) = \frac{a}{\sqrt{b(x-c)}} + \frac{d}{\sqrt{b(x-c)}}$$

Example:

Sketch $g(x) = 1 - 2\sqrt{3 - x}$, the find the domain and range.







Mr. Korpi, 2007-2008