# GO DIGITAL

# Properties of Rational Exponents and Radicals

equals the product of the square roots of the factors.

Learning Target Simplify radical expressions.

#### **Success Criteria**

5.2

- I can simplify radical expressions with rational exponents.
- I can explain when radical expressions are in simplest form.
- I can simplify variable expressions containing rational exponents and radicals.

# **EXPLORE IT** Reviewing Properties of Exponents

#### Work with a partner.

#### Math Practice

Use Technology to Explore How can you use technology to help you determine the values of *n* in part (d)?  $\sqrt{64x^2} = \sqrt{64} \cdot \sqrt{x^2}$  Product Property of Square Roots = 8x Simplify.

a. The Product Property of Square Roots states that the square root of a product

Describe the behavior of the graphs of  $y = \sqrt{64x^2}$  and y = 8x. What do you notice? Use technology to check your graphs and explain the results.

**b.** You can extend the Product Property of Square Roots to other radicals, such as cube roots.

 $\sqrt[3]{64x^3} = \sqrt[3]{64} \cdot \sqrt[3]{x^3}$  Product Property of Cube Roots = 4x Simplify.

Describe the behavior of the graphs of  $y = \sqrt[3]{64x^3}$  and y = 4x. What do you notice? Use technology to check your graphs and explain the results.

- **c.** How can you change the function y = 8x so that it coincides with the graph of  $y = \sqrt{64x^2}$  for all values of *x*? Explain your reasoning.
- **d.** Determine the values of *n* for which  $\sqrt[n]{x^n} = x$  and  $\sqrt[n]{x^n} = |x|$ .

5.2

# Vocabulary

simplest form of a radical, p. 239 like radicals, p. 240

**COMMON ERROR** 

When you multiply powers, do not multiply the exponents, add them. For example,  $3^2 \cdot 3^5 = 3^7$ , not  $3^{10}$ .

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VOCAB





The properties of integer exponents can also be applied to rational exponents.

# **KEY IDEA**

#### **Properties of Rational Exponents**

Let *a* and *b* be real numbers and let *m* and *n* be rational numbers, such that the quantities in each property are real numbers.

Property Name	Definition	Example
Product of Powers	$a^m \bullet a^n = a^{m+n}$	$5^{1/2} \cdot 5^{3/2} = 5^{(1/2 + 3/2)} = 5^2 = 25$
Power of a Power	$(a^m)^n = a^{mn}$	$(3^{5/2})^2 = 3^{(5/2 \cdot 2)} = 3^5 = 243$
Power of a Product	$(ab)^m = a^m b^m$	$(16 \cdot 9)^{1/2} = 16^{1/2} \cdot 9^{1/2} = 4 \cdot 3 = 12$
Negative Exponent	$a^{-m} = \frac{1}{a^m}, a \neq 0$	$36^{-1/2} = \frac{1}{36^{1/2}} = \frac{1}{6}$
Zero Exponent	$a^0 = 1, a \neq 0$	$213^0 = 1$
Quotient of Powers	$\frac{a^m}{a^n} = a^{m-n}, a \neq 0$	$\frac{4^{5/2}}{4^{1/2}} = 4^{(5/2 - 1/2)} = 4^2 = 16$
Power of a Quotient	$\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^m = \frac{a^m}{b^m}, b \neq 0$	$\left(\frac{27}{64}\right)^{1/3} = \frac{27^{1/3}}{64^{1/3}} = \frac{3}{4}$

# WORDS AND MATH

In everyday life, a property of an object or idea is a quality or attribute of it. A mathematical property describes attributes of numbers and expressions.

SELF-ASSESSMENT

**1.**  $2^{3/4} \cdot 2^{1/2}$ 

Simplify the expression.

#### EXAMPLE 1

#### **Using Properties of Exponents**



Use the properties of rational exponents to simplify each expression.

<b>a.</b> $7^{1/4} \cdot 7^{1/2} = 7^{(1/4 + 1/2)} = 7^{3/4}$	Product of Powers Property
<b>b.</b> $(6^{1/2} \cdot 4^{1/3})^2 = (6^{1/2})^2 \cdot (4^{1/3})^2$	Power of a Product Property
$= 6^{(1/2 \cdot 2)} \cdot 4^{(1/3 \cdot 2)}$	Power of a Power Property
$= 6 \cdot 4^{2/3}$	Simplify.
<b>c.</b> $(4^5 \cdot 3^5)^{-1/5} = [(4 \cdot 3)^5]^{-1/5}$	Power of a Product Property
$=(12^5)^{-1/5}$	Multiply.
$= 12^{[5 \cdot (-1/5)]}$	Power of a Power Property
$= 12^{-1}$	Simplify.
$=\frac{1}{12}$	Definition of negative exponent
<b>d.</b> $\frac{5}{5^{1/3}} = \frac{5^1}{5^{1/3}} = 5^{(1-1/3)} = 5^{2/3}$	Quotient of Powers Property
$\mathbf{e.} \ \left(\frac{42^{1/3}}{6^{1/3}}\right)^2 = \left[\left(\frac{42}{6}\right)^{1/3}\right]^2$	Power of a Quotient Property
$=(7^{1/3})^2$	Divide.
$= 7^{2/3}$	Power of a Power Property
I do not understand. 2 I can do it with help. 3	I can do it on my own. 4 I can teach someone else.
<b>2.</b> $\frac{3}{3^{1/4}}$ <b>3.</b> $\left(\frac{20^{1/2}}{5^{1/2}}\right)^3$	<b>4.</b> $(5^{1/3} \cdot 7^{1/4})^3$

# **Simplifying Radical Expressions**



The Power of a Product and Power of a Quotient properties can be

expressed using radical notation when  $m = \frac{1}{n}$  for some integer *n* greater than 1.

# **KEY IDEA**

# **Properties of Radicals**

Let a and b be real numbers such that the indicated roots are real numbers, and let *n* be an integer greater than 1.

Property Name	Definition	Example
Product Property	$\sqrt[n]{a \cdot b} = \sqrt[n]{a} \cdot \sqrt[n]{b}$	$\sqrt[3]{4} \cdot \sqrt[3]{2} = \sqrt[3]{8} = 2$
Quotient Property	$\sqrt[n]{\frac{a}{b}} = \frac{\sqrt[n]{a}}{\sqrt[n]{b}}, b \neq 0$	$\frac{\sqrt[4]{162}}{\sqrt[4]{2}} = \sqrt[4]{\frac{162}{2}} = \sqrt[4]{81} = 3$

EXAMPLE 2

b.

## **Using Properties of Radicals**



Use the properties of radicals to simplify each expression.

**a.**  $\sqrt[3]{12} \cdot \sqrt[3]{18} = \sqrt[3]{12 \cdot 18} = \sqrt[3]{216} = 6$ **Product Property of Radicals** 

$$\frac{\sqrt[4]{80}}{\sqrt[4]{5}} = \sqrt[4]{\frac{80}{5}} = \sqrt[4]{16} = 2$$
 Quotient P

Property of Radicals

An expression involving a radical with index *n* is in **simplest form** when these three conditions are met.

- No radicands have perfect *n*th powers as factors other than 1.
- No radicands contain fractions.
- No radicals appear in the denominator of a fraction.

To meet the last two conditions, rationalize the denominator by multiplying the expression by an appropriate form of 1 that eliminates the radical from the denominator.

#### EXAMPLE 3

### Writing Radicals in Simplest Form



Write the expressions (a)  $\sqrt[3]{135}$  and (b)  $\frac{\sqrt[3]{7}}{\sqrt[5]{8}}$  in simplest form.

#### SOLUTION

**a.** 
$$\sqrt[3]{135} = \sqrt[3]{27} \cdot 5$$
  
 $= \sqrt[3]{27} \cdot \sqrt[3]{5}$   
 $= 3\sqrt[3]{5}$   
**b.**  $\frac{\sqrt[5]{7}}{\sqrt[5]{8}} = \frac{\sqrt[5]{7}}{\sqrt[5]{8}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt[5]{4}}{\sqrt[5]{4}}$   
Factor out perfect cube.  
Product Property of Rad  
Simplify.  
Make the radicand in th

 $=\frac{\sqrt[7]{28}}{\sqrt[5]{32}}$ 

 $=\frac{\sqrt[5]{28}}{2}$ 

roduct Property of Radicals implify.

Nake the radicand in the denominator a perfect fifth power.

**Product Property of Radicals** 

Simplify.





WATCH

For a denominator that is a sum or difference involving square roots, multiply both the numerator and denominator by the *conjugate* of the denominator. The expressions  $a\sqrt{b} + c\sqrt{d}$  and  $a\sqrt{b} - c\sqrt{d}$  are conjugates of each other, where *a*, *b*, *c*, and *d* are rational numbers.

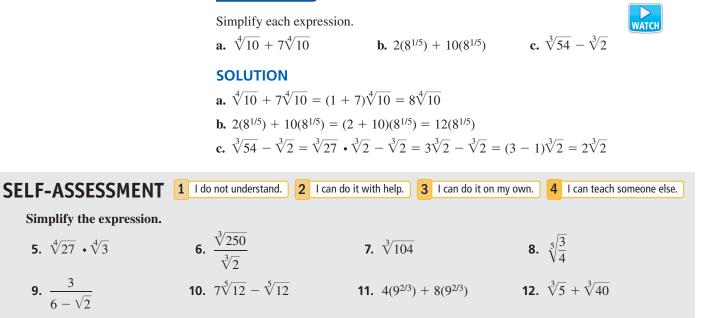


#### Writing a Radical Expression in Simplest Form

Write $\frac{1}{5 + \sqrt{3}}$ in simplest form.	
SOLUTION	
$\frac{1}{5+\sqrt{3}} = \frac{1}{5+\sqrt{3}} \cdot \frac{5-\sqrt{3}}{5-\sqrt{3}}$	The conjugate of 5 + $\sqrt{3}$ is 5 - $\sqrt{3}$ .
$=\frac{1(5-\sqrt{3})}{5^2-(\sqrt{3})^2}$	Sum and Difference Pattern
$=\frac{5-\sqrt{3}}{22}$	Simplify.

Radical expressions with the same index and radicand are **like radicals**. To add or subtract like radicals, use the Distributive Property.

## **EXAMPLE 5** Adding and Subtracting Like Radicals and Roots



# Simplifying Variable Expressions

The properties of rational exponents and radicals can also be applied to expressions involving variables. Because a variable can be positive, negative, or zero, sometimes absolute value is needed when simplifying a variable expression.

	Rule	Example
When <i>n</i> is odd	$\sqrt[n]{x^n} = x$	$\sqrt[7]{5^7} = 5$ and $\sqrt[7]{(-5)^7} = -5$
When <i>n</i> is even	$\sqrt[n]{x^n} =  x $	$\sqrt[4]{3^4} = 3$ and $\sqrt[4]{(-3)^4} = 3$

Absolute value is not needed when all variables are assumed to be positive.

**EXAMPLE 6** 

#### **Simplifying Variable Expressions**



WATCH,

WATCH

Simplify each expression.

**a.** 
$$\sqrt[3]{64y^6}$$

->

**b.**  $\sqrt[4]{\frac{x^4}{v^8}}$ 

 $4y^2$ 

#### SOLUTION

**a.** 
$$\sqrt[3]{64y^6} = \sqrt[3]{4^3(y^2)^3} = \sqrt[3]{4^3} \cdot \sqrt[3]{(y^2)^3} =$$
  
**b.**  $\sqrt[4]{\frac{x^4}{y^8}} = \frac{\sqrt[4]{x^4}}{\sqrt[4]{y^8}} = \frac{\sqrt[4]{x^4}}{\sqrt[4]{(y^2)^4}} = \frac{|x|}{y^2}$ 



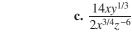
## Writing Variable Expressions in Simplest Form

Write each expression in simplest form. Assume all variables are positive.

**b.**  $\frac{x}{\sqrt[3]{y^8}}$ 

**a.**  $\sqrt[4]{16a^7b^{11}c^4}$ 

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## SOLUTION

 $=\frac{x\sqrt[3]{y}}{\sqrt[3]{y^9}}$ 

 $=\frac{x\sqrt[3]{y}}{y^3}$ 

**a.** 
$$\sqrt[n]{16a^7b^{11}c^4} = \sqrt[n]{16a^4a^3b^8b^3c^4}$$
  
=  $\sqrt[n]{16a^4b^8c^4} \cdot \sqrt[n]{a^3b^3}$   
=  $2ab^2c\sqrt[n]{a^3b^3}$   
**b.**  $\frac{x}{\sqrt[n]{y^8}} = \frac{x}{\sqrt[n]{y^8}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt[n]{y}}{\sqrt[n]{y}}$ 

Factor out perfect fourth powers. **Product Property of Radicals** 

Simplify.

Make denominator a perfect cube.

**Product Property of Radicals** 

Simplify.

## COMMON ERROR

STUDY TIP

always positive.

You do not need to

take the absolute value of  $y^2$  because it is

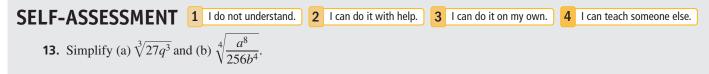
You must multiply both the numerator and denominator of the fraction by  $\sqrt[3]{y}$  so that the value of the fraction does not change.

#### EXAMPLE 8 Adding and Subtracting Variable Expressions

Perform each indicated operation. Assume all variables are positive. WATCH **b.**  $12\sqrt[3]{2z^5} - z\sqrt[3]{54z^2}$ **a.**  $5\sqrt{y} + 6\sqrt{y}$ 

#### SOLUTION

**a.**  $5\sqrt{y} + 6\sqrt{y} = (5+6)\sqrt{y} = 11\sqrt{y}$ **b.**  $12\sqrt[3]{2z^5} - z\sqrt[3]{54z^2} = 12z\sqrt[3]{2z^2} - 3z\sqrt[3]{2z^2} = (12z - 3z)\sqrt[3]{2z^2} = 9z\sqrt[3]{2z^2}$ 



**c.**  $\frac{14xy^{1/3}}{2x^{3/4}z^{-6}} = 7x^{(1-3/4)}y^{1/3}z^{-(-6)} = 7x^{1/4}y^{1/3}z^{6}$ 

Simplify the expression. Assume all variables are positive.

**15.**  $\sqrt[5]{\frac{x^{10}}{v^5}}$ 

**14.**  $\sqrt[6]{36p^6q^8r^{10}}$ 

**16.**  $\frac{6xy^{3/4}}{3x^{1/2}y^{1/2}}$ 

**17.**  $\sqrt{9w^5} - w\sqrt{w^3}$ 

# 5.2 Practice with CalcChat® AND CalcView®



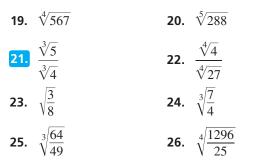
In Exercises 1–10, use the properties of rational exponents to simplify the expression. *Example 1* 

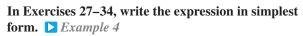
1.	$(9^2)^{1/3}$	2.	$(12^2)^{1/4}$
3.	$\frac{6}{6^{1/4}}$	4.	$\frac{7}{7^{1/3}}$
5.	$\left(\frac{8^4}{10^4}\right)^{-1/4}$	6.	$\left(\frac{9^3}{6^3}\right)^{-1/3}$
7.	$(3^{-2/3} \cdot 3^{1/3})^{-1}$	8.	$(5^{1/2} \cdot 5^{-3/2})^{-1/4}$
9.	$\frac{2^{2/3} \cdot 16^{2/3}}{4^{2/3}}$	10.	$\frac{49^{3/8} \cdot 49^{7/8}}{7^{5/4}}$

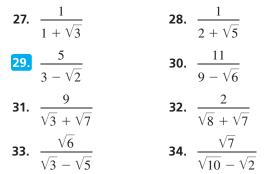
# In Exercises 11–18, use the properties of radicals to simplify the expression. *Example 2*

11.	$\sqrt{2}$ • $\sqrt{72}$	12.	$\sqrt[3]{16} \cdot \sqrt[3]{32}$
13.	$\sqrt[4]{5} \cdot \sqrt[4]{125}$	14.	$\sqrt[4]{2} \cdot \sqrt[4]{128}$
15.	$\frac{\sqrt[5]{486}}{\sqrt[5]{2}}$	16.	$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{32}}$
17.	$\frac{\sqrt[3]{6}\cdot\sqrt[3]{72}}{\sqrt[3]{2}}$	18.	$\frac{\sqrt[3]{3}\cdot\sqrt[3]{18}}{\sqrt[6]{2}\cdot\sqrt[6]{2}}$

#### In Exercises 19–26, write the expression in simplest form. *Example 3*

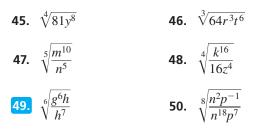






35.	$9\sqrt[3]{11} + 3\sqrt[3]{11}$	36.	$8\sqrt[6]{5} - 12\sqrt[6]{5}$
37.	$3(14^{1/4}) + 9(14^{1/4})$	38.	$13(8^{3/4}) - 4(8^{3/4})$
39.	$5\sqrt{12} - 19\sqrt{3}$	40.	$27\sqrt{6} + 7\sqrt{150}$
41.	$\sqrt[5]{224} + 3\sqrt[5]{7}$	42.	$7\sqrt[3]{2} - \sqrt[3]{128}$
43.	$5(24^{1/3}) - 4(3^{1/3})$	44.	$5^{1/4} + 6(405^{1/4})$

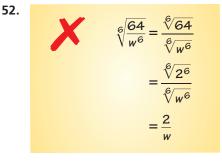
#### In Exercises 45–50, simplify the expression. ► *Example 6*



**ERROR ANALYSIS** In Exercises 51 and 52, describe and correct the error in simplifying the expression.

51.  

$$3\sqrt[3]{12} + 5\sqrt[3]{12} = (3+5)\sqrt[3]{24} = 8\sqrt[3]{24} = 8\sqrt[3]{24} = 8\sqrt[3]{8} \cdot 3 = 8 \cdot 2\sqrt[3]{3} = 8 \cdot 2\sqrt[3]{3} = 16\sqrt[3]{3}$$



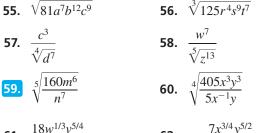
**53. OPEN-ENDED** Write two variable expressions involving radicals, one that needs absolute value when simplifying and one that does not need absolute value. Justify your answers.

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**54. COLLEGE PREP** When each expression is simplified and written in radical form, which expressions are like radicals?

( $(5^{2/9})^{3/2}$	<b>B</b> $\frac{5^3}{5^{8/3}}$
(C) $\sqrt[3]{625}$	<b>D</b> $\sqrt[3]{960} - \sqrt[3]{120}$
(E) $\sqrt[3]{40} + 3\sqrt[3]{320}$	(F) $7\sqrt[4]{80} - 2\sqrt[4]{405}$

In Exercises 55–62, write the expression in simplest form. Assume all variables are positive. *Example 7* 

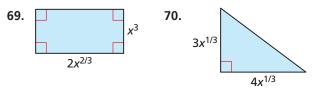


**61.**  $\frac{18w^{1/3}v^{5/4}}{27w^{4/3}v^{1/2}}$  **62.**  $\frac{7x^{3/4}y^{5/2}}{56x^{-1/2}y^{1/4}z^{-2/3}}$ 

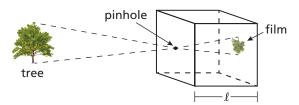
In Exercises 63–68, perform the indicated operation. Assume all variables are positive. ▷ *Example 8* 

63.	$12\sqrt[3]{y} + 9\sqrt[3]{y}$	64.	$11\sqrt{2z} - 5\sqrt{2z}$
65.	$3x^{7/2} - 5x^{7/2}$	66.	$7m^{7/3} + 3m^{7/3}$
67.	$\sqrt[4]{16w^{10}} + 2w\sqrt[4]{w^6}$		
68.	$\sqrt[3]{32p^{10}} - 9p^2\sqrt[3]{4p^4}$		

**CONNECTING CONCEPTS** In Exercises 69 and 70, find simplified expressions for the perimeter and area of the given figure.



**71. MODELING REAL LIFE** The optimum diameter *d* (in millimeters) of the pinhole in a pinhole camera can be modeled by  $d = 1.9[(5.5 \times 10^{-4})\ell]^{1/2}$ , where  $\ell$  is the length (in millimeters) of the camera box. Find the optimum pinhole diameter for a camera box with a length of 10 centimeters.



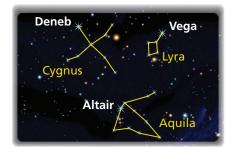
**72. MODELING REAL LIFE** The apparent magnitude of a star is a number that indicates how faint the star is in relation

to other stars. The expression  $\frac{2.512^{m_1}}{2.512^{m_2}}$  tells how many times fainter a star with apparent magnitude  $m_1$  is than

times fainter a star with apparent magnitude  $m_1$  is than a star with apparent magnitude  $m_2$ .

Star	Apparent magnitude	Constellation	
Vega	0.03	Lyra	
Altair	0.77	Aquila	
Deneb	1.25	Cygnus	

- **a.** How many times fainter is Altair than Vega?
- **b.** How many times fainter is Deneb than Altair?
- c. How many times fainter is Deneb than Vega?



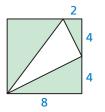
- **73. MAKING AN ARGUMENT** Your friend claims it is not possible to simplify the expression  $7\sqrt{11} 9\sqrt{44}$  because it does not contain like radicals. Is your friend correct? Explain your reasoning.
- 74. **MP PROBLEM SOLVING** The surface area *S* (in square centimeters) of a mammal can be modeled by  $S = km^{2/3}$ , where *m* is the mass (in grams) of the mammal and *k* is a constant. The table shows the values of *k* for different mammals.

Mammal	Rabbit	Human	Bat
Value of <i>k</i>	9.75	11.0	57.5

- **a.** Find the surface area of a bat whose mass is 32 grams.
- **b.** Find the surface area of a rabbit whose mass is 3.4 kilograms  $(3.4 \times 10^3 \text{ grams})$ .
- **c.** Which mammal has the greatest mass per square centimeter of surface area, the bat in part (a), the rabbit in part (b), or a human whose mass is 59 kilograms?
- **d.** Rewrite the formula so that one side is  $\frac{m}{S}$ . Use this formula to justify your answer in part (c).

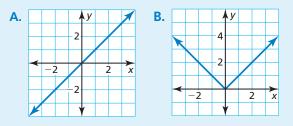
#### 75. CONNECTING CONCEPTS

Find a simplified radical expression for the perimeter of the triangle inscribed in the square. Is the inscribed triangle a right triangle?



#### 76. HOW DO YOU SEE IT?

Without finding points, match the functions  $f(x) = \sqrt{x^2}$  and  $g(x) = \sqrt[3]{x^3}$  with their graphs. Explain your reasoning.



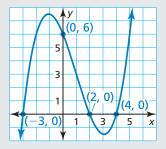
# **REVIEW & REFRESH**

In Exercises 80–83, write a rule for g. Describe the graph of g as a transformation of the graph of f.

- **80.**  $f(x) = x^4 3x^2 2x$ , g(x) = -f(x)
- **81.**  $f(x) = x^3 x$ , g(x) = f(x) 3
- **82.**  $f(x) = x^3 4$ , g(x) = f(x 2)
- **83.**  $f(x) = x^4 + 2x^3 4x^2$ , g(x) = f(2x)

In Exercises 84 and 85, identify the focus, directrix, and axis of symmetry of the parabola. Then graph the equation.

- **84.**  $y = 2x^2$  **85.**  $y^2 = -x$
- **86.** Write the cubic function whose graph is shown.



**87.** Is  $f(x) = 4x^3 + 2^x - 5x$  a polynomial function? Explain.

**77. REWRITING A FORMULA** You fill two round balloons with water. One balloon contains twice as much water as the other balloon.



- **a.** Solve the formula for the volume of a sphere,  $V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$ , for *r*.
- **b.** Use your result from part (a) and the formula for the surface area of a sphere,  $S = 4\pi r^2$ , to show that  $S = (4\pi)^{1/3} (3V)^{2/3}$ .
- **c.** Compare the surface areas of the two water balloons using the formula in part (b).
- **78. THOUGHT PROVOKING**

Determine whether the expressions  $(x^2)^{1/6}$  and  $(x^{1/6})^2$  are equivalent for all values of *x*. Explain your reasoning.

**79. DRAWING CONCLUSIONS** Substitute different combinations of odd and even positive integers for *m* and *n* in the expression  $\sqrt[n]{x^m}$ . When you cannot assume *x* is positive, explain when absolute value is needed in simplifying the expression.



**88.** Determine whether the sequence is *arithmetic*, *geometric*, or *neither*. Explain your reasoning.

4, 12, 36, 108, . . .

In Exercises 89–92, simplify the expression.

- **89.**  $\left(\frac{48^{1/4}}{6^{1/4}}\right)^6$  **90.**  $\sqrt[4]{3} \cdot \sqrt[4]{432}$
- **91.**  $\frac{1}{3+\sqrt{2}}$  **92.**  $\sqrt[3]{16} 5\sqrt[3]{2}$

In Exercises 93 and 94, determine whether the function is *even*, *odd*, or *neither*.

**93.** 
$$f(x) = 3x^4 - 5$$
 **94.**  $g(x) = x^5 + 2x - 3$ 

In Exercises 95 and 96, evaluate the expression without using technology.

- **95.** 16<sup>3/4</sup> **96.** 125<sup>2/3</sup>
- **97. MODELING REAL LIFE** While standing on an apartment balcony, you drop a pair of sunglasses from a height of 25 feet.
  - **a.** Write a function *h* that gives the height (in feet) of the pair of sunglasses after *t* seconds. How long do the sunglasses take to hit the ground?
  - **b.** Find and interpret h(0.25) h(1).