

7.3

DEFINE AND USE ZERO AND  
NEGATIVE EXPONENTS

# Zero Power

□ Anything raised to the Zero power is ONE.

□ EX:  $3^0 = 1$   
 $x^0 = 1$

□ WHY:

$$\frac{4^3}{4^3} = 1$$

\* Any divided by itself is one.

$$\frac{4^3}{4^3} = 4^0$$

\* When dividing like bases subtract exponents.

\* Therefore:  $4^0 = 1$

# Negative Exponents

- When you have a negative exponent in the numerator:
  - ▣ Put it in the denominator and make it positive.
  - ▣ EX:  $5^{-3} = \frac{1}{5^3}$
  
- When you have a negative exponent in the denominator:
  - ▣ Put it in the numerator and make it positive.
  - ▣ EX:  $\frac{1}{3^{-2}} = 3^2$
  
- NOTE: Negative exponents represent small numbers.

# EX:

## Evaluate the expression.

→ As much as possible.  
→ Multiply out all numbers.

- Write your answer using only positive exponents.

$$* \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^0$$

$\boxed{1}$

$$* \left(\frac{1}{5}\right)^{-2}$$
$$\frac{1^{-2}}{5^{-2}}$$
$$\frac{5^2}{1^2}$$

$\boxed{25}$

$$* 16 \left(\frac{2^{-3}}{2^2}\right)$$
$$16 \left(\frac{1}{2^2 \cdot 2^3}\right)$$
$$16 \left(\frac{1}{2^5}\right)$$
$$\cancel{16} \left(\frac{1}{\cancel{3} \cdot 2}\right)$$

$\boxed{\frac{1}{2}}$

$$* (-8)^{-2}$$
$$\frac{1}{(-8)^2}$$

$\boxed{\frac{1}{64}}$

$$* (4^{-7} \cdot 4^3)$$
$$4^{-4}$$
$$\frac{1}{4^4}$$

$\boxed{\frac{1}{256}}$

$$* 0^{-3}$$
$$\frac{1}{0^3}$$
$$\frac{1}{0}$$

$\boxed{\text{Undefined}}$

EX:

Simplify the expression.

- Write your answer using only positive exponents.

$$\begin{aligned} * & (2xy^{-5})^3 \\ & (2)^3 x^3 (y^{-5})^3 \\ & 8x^3 y^{-15} \\ & \boxed{\frac{8x^3}{y^{15}}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} * & \frac{(2x)^{-2} y^5}{-4x^2 y^2} \\ & \frac{2^{-2} x^{-2} y^5}{-4x^2 y^2} \\ & \frac{y^5}{2^2 x^2 (-4x^2 y^2)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{y^5}{\underline{4}x^2 (\underline{-4}x^2 y^2)} \\ & \frac{y^{\cancel{5}3}}{-16x^4 y^{\cancel{2}2}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{y^3}{-16x^4}}$$

# EX:

- The mass of one peppercorn is about  $10^{-2}$  gram.  
About how many peppercorns are in a box containing 1 kilogram of peppercorns?

$$* 1 \text{ kg} = 1000 \text{ g} = 10^3 \text{ g}$$

$$\frac{\text{Total Mass}}{\text{Individual Mass}} = \#$$

$$\frac{10^3}{10^{-2}}$$

$$10^3 \cdot 10^2$$

$$10^5 \text{ peppercorns}$$

