

Lesson 9.2 Negative Exponents

A **negative exponent** may be written with the base as the denominator in a fraction where the numerator is 1. The exponent then becomes positive.

$$5^{-3} \text{ means } \frac{1}{5^3} = \frac{1}{125} = 0.008 \quad 10^{-2} \text{ means } \frac{1}{10^2} = \frac{1}{100} = 0.01$$

It is possible to multiply and divide numbers with positive and negative exponents that have the same base.

$$5^{-3} \times 5^{-2} = 5^{-3+(-2)} = 5^{-5} \quad 4^{-3} \div 4^{-2} = 4^{-3-(-2)} = 4^{-3+2} = 4^{-1}$$

$$6^{-4} \times 6^2 = 6^{-4+2} = 6^{-2} \quad 8^4 \div 8^{-3} = 8^{4-(-3)} = 8^{4+3} = 8^7$$

Rewrite each multiplication or division expression using a base and an exponent.

a

b

1. $3^{-4} \times 3^{-6} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

1. $9^{-3} \div 9^{-5} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

2. $4^3 \div 4^{-2} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

2. $5^5 \times 5^{-6} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

3. $12^{-3} \times 12^{-4} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

3. $4^{-6} \times 4^4 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

4. $7^6 \div 7^{-3} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

4. $2^{-3} \div 2^3 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

5. $11^4 \times 11^{-3} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

5. $6^{-5} \times 6^{-4} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

6. $8^{-5} \div 8^3 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

6. $12^{-4} \div 12 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

7. $7^5 \times 7^{-4} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

7. $5^{-3} \times 5^2 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

8. $2^5 \div 2^{-3} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

8. $3^{-12} \times 3^{-4} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

9. $6^3 \div 6^{-4} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

9. $7^{-3} \div 7^4 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

10. $9^{-3} \times 9^4 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

10. $10^{-5} \times 10^{-2} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

11. $8^{-4} \div 8^{-2} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

11. $2^{-2} \times 2^{-12} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

12. $3^{-6} \times 3^{-3} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

12. $8^{-6} \div 8^4 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$