

Lesson 0.2 – Square Roots, Radicals, and Surds

I. Introducing Radicals

1. Simplify or rewrite the following as a single surd.

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{a. } (\sqrt{5})^2 & \text{e. } \sqrt{2} \times \sqrt{3} \\ = 5 & = \sqrt{6} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{b. } \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}\right)^2 & \text{f. } 2\sqrt{5} \times 3\sqrt{2} \\ = \frac{1}{5} & = 6\sqrt{10} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{c. } (2\sqrt{5})^3 & \text{g. } \frac{\sqrt{18}}{\sqrt{6}} \\ = 40\sqrt{5} & = \sqrt{3} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{d. } -2\sqrt{5} \times 3\sqrt{5} & \text{h. } \frac{\sqrt{12}}{2\sqrt{3}} \\ = -30 & = 1 \end{array}$$

2. A radical is in **simplest form** when the number under the radical sign is the smallest possible integer. Write the following radicals in simplest form.

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{(a) } \sqrt{28} & \text{(h) } \sqrt{175} \\ = 2\sqrt{7} & = 5\sqrt{7} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{(b) } \sqrt{75} & \text{(i) } \sqrt{45} \\ = 5\sqrt{3} & = 3\sqrt{5} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{(c) } \sqrt{36} & \text{(j) } \sqrt{20} \\ = 6 & = 2\sqrt{5} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{(d) } \sqrt{80} & \text{(k) } \sqrt{30} \\ = 4\sqrt{5} & = \sqrt{30} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{(e) } \sqrt{8} & \text{(l) } \sqrt{18} \\ = 2\sqrt{2} & = 3\sqrt{2} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{(f) } \sqrt{32} & \text{(m) } \sqrt{50} \\ = 4\sqrt{2} & = 5\sqrt{2} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{(g) } \sqrt{125} & \text{(n) } \sqrt{150} \\ = 5\sqrt{5} & = 5\sqrt{6} \end{array}$$

Any number written under the **radical sign** $\sqrt{\quad}$ is called a **radical**.

The **square root of a**, written as \sqrt{a} , is the positive number with the property that $\sqrt{a} \times \sqrt{a} = a$

A **cube root of a** has the property that $\sqrt[3]{a} \times \sqrt[3]{a} \times \sqrt[3]{a} = a$

And so forth for higher roots.

A real, irrational radical which cannot be simplified to a fraction $\frac{p}{q}$ where p and q are non-radical integers is called a **surd**.

Note that:

$$\sqrt{ab} = \sqrt{a} \times \sqrt{b}$$

$$\sqrt{\frac{a}{b}} = \frac{\sqrt{a}}{\sqrt{b}}$$

for $a > 0$ and $b > 0$

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{(o) } \frac{9-\sqrt{75}}{6} \\ \frac{1}{6}(9-5\sqrt{3}) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{(p) } \frac{4-\sqrt{8}}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2}(4-\sqrt{8}) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{(q) } \frac{6-\sqrt{12}}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2}(6-\sqrt{12}) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{(r) } \frac{14-\sqrt{60}}{8} \\ \frac{1}{8}(14-2\sqrt{15}) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{(s) } \frac{1}{10}(5-\sqrt{200}) \\ \frac{1}{10}(5-10\sqrt{2}) \end{array}$$

II. Adding and Subtracting Radicals

3. We can add or subtract radicals by simplifying each term then combining like terms.

(a) $3\sqrt{2} + 2\sqrt{2}$

$$= 5\sqrt{2}$$

(b) $3\sqrt{2} - 4\sqrt{2}$

$$= -\sqrt{2}$$

(c) $2\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{5} - 6\sqrt{2}$

$$= -4\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{5}$$

(d) $5\sqrt{3} + 2\sqrt{5} - \sqrt{3} + 7\sqrt{5}$

$$= 4\sqrt{3} + 9\sqrt{5}$$

(e) $4\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{27}$

$$= \sqrt{3}$$

(f) $2\sqrt{6} - 2\sqrt{24}$

$$= -\sqrt{6}$$

(g) $-\sqrt{12} + 3\sqrt{3}$

$$= \sqrt{3}$$

(h) $3\sqrt{8} - 3\sqrt{2}$

$$= 3\sqrt{2}$$

(i) $-2\sqrt{3} - 3\sqrt{27}$

$$= 11\sqrt{3}$$

(j) $2\sqrt{6} - 3\sqrt{54}$

$$= -11\sqrt{6}$$

(k) $-3\sqrt{6} + 3\sqrt{6}$

$$= 0$$

(l) $\frac{\sqrt{7}}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{7}}{3}$

$$\frac{5\sqrt{7}}{6}$$

(m) $\frac{5\sqrt{3}}{6} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{8}$

$$\frac{23\sqrt{3}}{24}$$

(n) $\frac{2\sqrt{11}}{9} + \frac{8\sqrt{11}}{15}$

$$\frac{34\sqrt{11}}{45}$$

(o) $\frac{\sqrt{10}}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{10}}{3} + \frac{\sqrt{10}}{4}$

$$\frac{13\sqrt{10}}{12}$$

(p) $\sqrt{2} + \frac{5\sqrt{2}}{14} + \frac{7\sqrt{2}}{14}$

$$\frac{13\sqrt{2}}{7}$$

III. Multiplying Radicals

4. Simplify the following expressions.

$$(a) \sqrt{6} \cdot 4\sqrt{6} \\ = 24$$

$$(b) -\sqrt{2} \cdot \sqrt{3} \\ = -\sqrt{6}$$

$$(c) \sqrt{12} \cdot \sqrt{15} \\ = 6\sqrt{5}$$

$$(d) -3\sqrt{5} \cdot \sqrt{20} \\ = -30$$

$$(e) \sqrt{9} \cdot \sqrt{3} \\ = 3\sqrt{3}$$

$$(f) 4\sqrt{8} \cdot \sqrt{2} \\ = 16$$

$$(g) \sqrt{5} \cdot -2\sqrt{5} \\ = -10$$

$$(h) \sqrt{15} \cdot 3\sqrt{5} \\ = 15\sqrt{3}$$

$$(i) -4\sqrt{8} \cdot \sqrt{10} \\ = -16\sqrt{5}$$

$$(j) \sqrt{5}(6 - \sqrt{5}) \\ = 6\sqrt{5} - 5$$

$$(k) (6 + \sqrt{3})(1 + 2\sqrt{3}) \\ = 12 + 13\sqrt{3}$$

$$(l) (5 - \sqrt{2})^2 \\ = 27 - 10\sqrt{2}$$

$$(m) (7 + 2\sqrt{5})(7 - 2\sqrt{5}) \\ = 29$$

$$(n) \sqrt{5}(3\sqrt{5} - 4\sqrt{3}) \\ = -4\sqrt{15} + 15$$

Multiplying Radicals

Multiply numbers that are BOTH OUTSIDE the radical.

Multiply numbers that are BOTH INSIDE the radical.

$$2 \cdot 5 = 10$$

$$2 \cdot \sqrt{5} = 2\sqrt{5}$$

$$\sqrt{2} \cdot 5 = 5\sqrt{2}$$

$$2\sqrt{3} \cdot 5 = 10\sqrt{3}$$

$$2\sqrt{3} \cdot \sqrt{5} = 2\sqrt{15}$$

$$2\sqrt{3} \cdot 4\sqrt{5} = 8\sqrt{15}$$

IV. Dividing Radicals and Rationalizing the Denominator

5. Rewrite the following radical expressions in simplest form.

$$(a) \frac{\sqrt{8}}{\sqrt{7}} = \frac{\sqrt{56}}{7}$$

$$(e) \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{6}} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$$

$$(b) \frac{\sqrt{3}}{6\sqrt{7}} = \frac{\sqrt{21}}{42}$$

$$(f) \frac{\sqrt{15}}{3\sqrt{6}} = \frac{\sqrt{10}}{6}$$

$$(c) \frac{7}{8\sqrt{7}} = \frac{\sqrt{7}}{8}$$

$$(g) \frac{\sqrt{21}}{\sqrt{15}} = \frac{\sqrt{35}}{5}$$

$$(d) \frac{\sqrt{5}}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{\sqrt{15}}{3}$$

$$(h) \frac{\sqrt{8}}{2\sqrt{7}} = \frac{4\sqrt{7}}{7}$$

$$(e) \frac{5}{3-\sqrt{2}} = \frac{15+5\sqrt{2}}{7}$$

$$(f) \frac{5-\sqrt{2}}{6-\sqrt{2}} = \frac{28-\sqrt{2}}{34}$$

$$(g) \frac{1}{3+5\sqrt{2}} = \frac{5\sqrt{2}-3}{41}$$

$$(h) \frac{\sqrt{3}}{1-\sqrt{3}} - \frac{1-2\sqrt{3}}{1+\sqrt{3}} = 2 - 2\sqrt{3}$$

$$(i) \frac{2+\sqrt{5}}{2-\sqrt{5}} - \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2+\sqrt{5}} = -14 - 2\sqrt{5}$$

$$(j) \frac{4-\sqrt{3}}{3-2\sqrt{2}} - \frac{2\sqrt{3}}{3+2\sqrt{2}} = 12 + 8\sqrt{2} - 9\sqrt{3} + 2\sqrt{6}$$

Dividing Radicals

$$\frac{6}{2} = 3$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{6}}{\sqrt{2}} = \sqrt{3}$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{6}}{2} = \frac{\sqrt{6}}{2}$$

$$\frac{12\sqrt{6}}{2} = 6\sqrt{6}$$

$$\frac{12\sqrt{6}}{\sqrt{2}} = 12\sqrt{3}$$

Simplest form for fractions with radicals:

1. No perfect square under $\sqrt{\quad}$
2. No fractions under $\sqrt{\quad}$
3. No $\sqrt{\quad}$ in a denominator