

Section 3.3 Objective: Radical operations

The Product Rule for Radicals:

For any real numbers $\sqrt[n]{a}$ and $\sqrt[n]{b}$, $\sqrt[n]{a} \cdot \sqrt[n]{b} = \sqrt[n]{a \cdot b}$.

Caution: The product rule doesn't work if you are trying to multiply the even roots of negative numbers, because those roots are not real numbers. For example, $\sqrt{-2} \cdot \sqrt{-8} \neq \sqrt{16}$.

Caution: The product only applies when the radicals have the same index: $\sqrt[3]{5} \cdot \sqrt[4]{6} \neq \sqrt[7]{30}$.

$\sqrt[3]{5} \cdot \sqrt[4]{6} \neq \sqrt[7]{30}$
index not same

Examples: Multiply.

a) $\sqrt{7} \cdot \sqrt{5}$
 $\sqrt{7 \cdot 5}$
 $\sqrt{35}$

b) $5\sqrt{2} \cdot \sqrt{8}$
 $5\sqrt{16}$
 $5 \cdot 4 = 20$

c) $2\sqrt{5} \cdot 7\sqrt{15}$
 $14\sqrt{5 \cdot 15}$
 $14\sqrt{75}$
 $70\sqrt{3}$

d) $\sqrt{3} \cdot \sqrt{3}$
 $\sqrt{9} = 3$

e) $(\sqrt{8})^2$
 $\sqrt{8} \cdot \sqrt{8}$
 8

f) $(3\sqrt{11})^2$
 $3\sqrt{11} \cdot 3\sqrt{11}$
 $9 \cdot 11$
 99

g) $\sqrt[3]{3} \cdot \sqrt[3]{9}$
 $\sqrt[3]{3 \cdot 9}$
 $\sqrt[3]{27}$
 3

h) $2\sqrt[3]{10} \cdot 6\sqrt[3]{25}$
index is 3
 $2 \cdot 6 \sqrt[3]{10 \cdot 25}$
 $12 \sqrt[3]{250}$
 $\sqrt[3]{250}$
 $\sqrt[3]{2 \cdot 5 \cdot 5 \cdot 5}$
 $5 \sqrt[3]{2}$
 $12 \cdot 5 \sqrt[3]{2}$
 $60 \sqrt[3]{2}$

Question: Can you add and subtract radicals the same way you multiply and divide them?

e.g.) Since $\sqrt{a} \cdot \sqrt{b} = \sqrt{ab}$, does $\sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b} = \sqrt{a+b}$? **NO!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Don't make the following mistakes:

- $\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{5} \neq \sqrt{7}$
- $\sqrt{9+16} \neq 3+4$
- $\sqrt{m} - \sqrt{n} \neq \sqrt{m-n}$
- $\sqrt{x^2-4} \neq x-2$
- $(\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{y})^2 \neq x+y$

Like Radicals: Radicals with the same index and the same radicand.

Examples: Determine whether the following are like radicals.

If they are not, explain why not.

a) $\sqrt{3}$ and $\sqrt{2}$
No
one is a 3
the other is a 2

b) $4\sqrt{5}$ and $-3\sqrt{5}$
 $\sqrt{5}$ $\sqrt{5}$
yes
 $4\sqrt{5} + -3\sqrt{5}$
yes

c) $2\sqrt{x}$ and $\sqrt[3]{x}$

x is in $\sqrt{\quad}$
are the index same? **No**
No the index are not same.

$1\sqrt{5}$

Steps for Adding and Subtracting Radicals:

1. Simplify each radical completely.
2. Combine like radicals. When you add or subtract radicals, you can *only* combine radicals that have the same index and the same radicand. The radical itself (the root) does not change. You simply add or subtract the coefficients.

Examples:

a) $5\sqrt{3x} - 7\sqrt{3x}$ *Same index Same radicand 3x*
 $(5-7)\sqrt{3x}$
 $-2\sqrt{3x}$

b) $4\sqrt{11} + 8\sqrt{11}$
 $(4+8)\sqrt{11}$
 $12\sqrt{11}$

c) $10\sqrt{6} + 3\sqrt{2} - 8\sqrt{6}$
 $10\sqrt{6} - 8\sqrt{6} + 3\sqrt{2}$
 $2\sqrt{6} + 3\sqrt{2}$

d) $\sqrt{20} - \sqrt{50} + \sqrt{45}$
 $2\sqrt{5} - 5\sqrt{2} + 3\sqrt{5}$
 $2\sqrt{5} + 3\sqrt{5} - 5\sqrt{2}$
 $5\sqrt{5} - 5\sqrt{2}$

e) $2\sqrt{50} + 4\sqrt{500} - 6\sqrt{125}$
 $2 \cdot 5\sqrt{2} + 4 \cdot 10\sqrt{5} - 6 \cdot 5\sqrt{5}$
 $10\sqrt{2} + 40\sqrt{5} - 30\sqrt{5}$
 $10\sqrt{2} + 10\sqrt{5}$

f) $\sqrt[3]{54} - 5\sqrt[3]{16} + \sqrt[3]{2}$
 $\sqrt[3]{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 3} - 5\sqrt[3]{2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2} + \sqrt[3]{2}$
 $3\sqrt[3]{2} - 5 \cdot 2\sqrt[3]{2} + 1\sqrt[3]{2}$
 $3\sqrt[3]{2} - 10\sqrt[3]{2} + 1\sqrt[3]{2}$
 $-6\sqrt[3]{2}$

Multiplying Radical Expressions: Use the Product Property. Use the Distributive Property and FOIL to multiply radical expressions with more than one term.

Examples: Multiply.

a) $\sqrt{3}(5 + \sqrt{30})$
 $5\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{90}$
 $2(3 \cdot 3)5$
 $5\sqrt{3} + 3\sqrt{10}$

b) $\sqrt{2}(\sqrt{6} - 3\sqrt{2})$
 $\sqrt{12} - 3\sqrt{4}$
 $2\sqrt{3} - 3 \cdot 2$
 $2\sqrt{3} - 6$

c) $(\sqrt{5} - \sqrt{6})(\sqrt{7} + 1)$
 $\sqrt{5}(\sqrt{7} + 1) - \sqrt{6}(\sqrt{7} + 1)$
 $\sqrt{35} + \sqrt{5} - \sqrt{42} - \sqrt{6}$

| | | |
|------------|-------------|--------------|
| | $\sqrt{5}$ | $-\sqrt{6}$ |
| $\sqrt{7}$ | $\sqrt{35}$ | $-\sqrt{42}$ |
| $+1$ | $\sqrt{5}$ | $-\sqrt{6}$ |

d) $(5\sqrt{3} - 4\sqrt{2})(\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2})$
 $\sqrt{6} + 7$

e) $(4\sqrt{3} - 1)^2$
 $(4\sqrt{3} - 1)(4\sqrt{3} - 1)$

| | | |
|-------------|----------------------|--------------|
| | $4\sqrt{3}$ | -1 |
| $4\sqrt{3}$ | $16 \cdot 3$ 48 | $-4\sqrt{3}$ |
| -1 | $-4\sqrt{3}$ | $+1$ |

 $-8\sqrt{3} + 49$

$$f) (\sqrt{2}+5)(\sqrt{2}-5)$$

| | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------|
| | $\sqrt{2}$ | $+5$ |
| $\sqrt{2}$ | 2 | $5\sqrt{2}$ |
| -5 | $-5\sqrt{2}$ | -25 |

$$2 + 5\sqrt{2} - 5\sqrt{2} - 25$$
$$\boxed{-23}$$