

Negative Exponent Property

$$a^{-m} = \frac{1}{a^m}$$

A negative exponent represents the reciprocal of a number or variable. It does NOT make a number or variable negative.

Examples

1. $5^{-2} = \frac{1}{5^2} = \frac{1}{25}$

2. $x^{-6} = \frac{1}{x^6}$

3. $m^5 n^{-7} = \frac{m^5}{n^7}$

4. $4x^{-3} = \frac{4}{x^3}$

Try These

1. $(-3)^{-2}$

1. _____

2. 4^{-3}

2. _____

3. m^{-8}

3. _____

4. $-5b^{-4}$

4. _____

5. $x^{-2}y^5$

5. _____

6. $7p^2q^{-6}$

6. _____

7. $\frac{1}{y^{-5}}$

7. _____

8. $\frac{j^3}{h^{-4}}$

8. _____

9. $\frac{1}{6w^{-2}}$

9. _____