

# 3.2 Logarithmic Functions

Warm-Up

Solving for answer.

1)  $3^4 = x$  81

2)  $2^5 = x$  32

Solving for base.

3)  $\sqrt{x^2} = \sqrt{49}$   $x = \pm 7$

4)  $x^3 = 125$   $x = 5$

Solving for exponent.

5)  $3^x = 729$   $x = 6$

6)  $5^x = 3125$   $x = 5$

A logarithm is an Exponent.

Reminder:  $e \approx 2.718$

- ♦ exponential function:  $y = a^x$
- ♦ inverse of an exponential function:  $x = a^y$  } If given an x value how do you solve for "y"?

★ Use logs to solve for missing variables → that are EXPONENTS! Examples:  $10^x = 150$  ,  $4^x = 23$

y is the logarithm of x:

$y = \log_a x$

"y = log base a of x"

Exponential  
Logarithmic Form:

$a^y = x \iff y = \log_a x$

Logarithmic  
Exponential Form

\*\*When the base of the exponent is 10, the subscript is not written, they are Common Log

Ex:  $\log_{10} 1 = 0$  b/c  $10^0 = 1$

$\log_{10} 10,000 = 4$  b/c  $10^4 = 10,000$

$\log_{10} 1 = 0 \rightarrow 10^0 = 1$   
 $\log_{10} 10 = 1 \rightarrow 10^1 = 10$   
 $\log_{10} 100 = 2 \rightarrow 10^2 = 100$

\*\*When the base of the exponent is e, the logarithm is called Natural Log and written ln

Ex:  $\ln_e 1 = 0$  b/c  $e^0 = 1$

$\ln_e e^3 = 3$  b/c  $e^3 = e^3$

$\ln_e 1 = 0$  b/c  $e^0 = 1$   
 $\ln_e e = 1$  b/c  $e^1 = e$   
 $\ln_e e^2 = 2$  b/c  $e^2 = e^2$

Examples:

Write the following in exponential form.

1.  $\log_7 2401 = 4$   $7^4 = 2401$

2.  $\log_{81} 27 = \frac{3}{4}$   $81^{3/4} = 27$

3.  $\ln 10 \approx 2.302$   $e^{2.302} \approx 10$

4.  $\ln 20.085 \approx 3$   $e^3 \approx 20.085$

5.  $\log_5 \frac{1}{125} = -3$   $5^{-3} = \frac{1}{125}$

Write the following in logarithmic form.

1.  $2^7 = 128$   $\log_2 128 = 7$

2.  $10^6 = 1,000,000$   $\log_{10} 1,000,000 = 6$   
*\* base 10 not needed*

3.  $7^2 = \frac{1}{49}$   $\log_7 \frac{1}{49} = -2$

4.  $e^4 \approx 54.598$   $\log \ln_e 54.598 = 4$

5.  $5^0 = 1$   $\log_5 1 = 0$   
*↳ base e not needed*

STAPLES

### Properties of Logarithms

- $\log_a 1 = 0$  because  $a^0 = 1$
- $\log_a a = 1$  because  $a^1 = a$
- $\log_a a^x = x$  because  $a^x = a^x$

$$a^{\log_a x} = x$$

← Inverse Properties →

- If  $\log_a x = \log_a y$  then  $x = y$  ← 1 to 1 Property →

### Properties of Natural Logarithms

- $\ln 1 = 0$  because  $e^0 = 1$
- $\ln e = 1$  because  $e^1 = e$
- $\ln e^x = x$  because  $e^x = e^x$

$$e^{\ln x} = x$$

- If  $\ln x = \ln y$  then  $x = y$

Evaluate each expression. *Set ea expression = x & solve for x*

1)  $\log_3 27 = x$

$$3^x = 27$$

$$x = 3$$

2)  $\log_4 \frac{1}{16} = x$

$$4^x = \frac{1}{16}$$

$$x = -2$$

3)  $\log_8 8 = x$

$$8^x = 8$$

$$x = 1$$

4)  $\log_3 3^5 = x$

$$3^x = 3^5$$

$$x = 5$$

5)  $\log_{10} \frac{1}{10,000} = x$

$$10^x = 10,000$$

$$x = 4$$

6) (solve for b)  $\log_b \sqrt{3} = \frac{1}{4}$

$$(b^{1/4})^4 = (\sqrt{3})^4 (3^{1/2})^4$$

$$b = 9$$

7)  $\log_7 \sqrt[4]{7} = x$

$$7^x = \sqrt[4]{7}$$

$$x = 1/4$$

8)  $4^{\log_4 7} = x$

$$\log_4 x = \log_4 7$$

$$x = 7$$

9)  $\ln e^{-2} = x$

$$e^x = e^{-2}$$

$$x = -2$$

10)  $\ln e^4 = x$

$$e^x = e^4$$

$$x = 4$$

11)  $3^{\log_3 (2x-1)} = x$

$$\log_3 x = \log_3 (2x-1)$$

$$2x-1$$

Evaluate with a calculator:



\* CANNOT log or ln a neg #



The log button on the calculator will do base 10 logs (common logs).

1.  $\log 13 \approx 1.11$

2.  $\log \frac{1}{3} \approx -.48$

3.  $\log -22 \approx \emptyset$

$$10^x = -22$$

never = -22!

The ln button on the calculator will do base e log (natural logs).

1.  $\ln 16 \approx 2.77$

2.  $\ln \frac{3}{4} \approx -.29$