

Exponential Equations – Practice and Answers

Exponential equations can sometimes be solved by exploiting the one-to-one property of exponential functions. For example

$$2^{(4x-3)} = 16$$

We can solve this by first writing both sides of the equation in terms of the same base. We know $16 = 2^4$ that, so re-writing

$$2^{(4x-3)} = 2^4$$

Using the one-to-one property

$$4x - 3 = 4$$

$$4x = 7$$

$$x = \frac{7}{4}$$

Solve each of the following equations by using the one-to-one property of exponential functions.

$$1) 2^{2x+1} = 8$$

$$5) 5^{2x} = 625$$

$$9) 2^{5x} = 1024$$

$$2) 5^{2x-1} = 125$$

$$6) 8^{2x} = 32$$

$$10) 2^{x^2} \times 3^{x^2} = 36^{x-\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$3) 3^{2x-1} = 81$$

$$7) 4^{x^2+2x+1} = 16$$

$$4) 4^{3x} = 128$$

$$8) 9^{6x} = 243$$

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Answers

1) $x = 1$

6) $x = \frac{5}{6}$

2) $x = 2$

7) $x = -1 \pm \sqrt{2}$

3) $x = \frac{5}{2}$

8) $x = \frac{5}{12}$

4) $x = \frac{7}{6}$

9) $x = 2$

5) $x = 2$

10) $x = 1$