

Working with Exponents

Star Trek



Name _____

In episode 20, "Court Martial", of the original Star Trek television series, Captain Kirk is charged with killing a crew member. To prove the crew member is still alive and hiding on the ship, the heartbeats of everyone on board are amplified and then the sounds of the heartbeats of all the known passengers are eliminated, leaving only the heartbeat of the hiding crew member to be heard.

In explaining how the heartbeats could be heard, Captain Kirk states that the ship's computer is amplifying the heartbeats by a factor of "one to the fourth power"!

Explain why this statement is considered a memorable quote.

Directions: For the following problems, if necessary, round answers to two decimal places.

1. $2^3 =$ _____

2. $(-2)^3 =$ _____

3. $2^{-3} =$ _____

4. $2.5^3 =$ _____

5. $51.7^2 =$ _____

6. $12.6^{-2} =$ _____

7. $1^4 =$ _____

8. $1^{10} =$ _____

9. $1^{-5} =$ _____

10. $0^5 =$ _____

11. $0^{-3} =$ _____

12. $a^m \cdot a^n =$ _____

13. $p^{-4} =$ _____

14. $3^4 \times 4^2 =$ _____

15. $10.2^5 \times 6.34^3 =$ _____

16. $x^6 \cdot x^5 =$ _____

17. $a^7 \cdot a^{-3} =$ _____

18. $g^{-6} \cdot g^{-2} =$ _____

19. $x^5 \cdot x^3 \cdot x =$ _____

20. $b^6 \cdot b^2 \cdot b^{-2} =$ _____

21. $(a^m)^n =$ _____

22. $(x^5)^3 =$ _____

23. $(g^4)^2 \cdot g^3 =$ _____

24. $a \cdot (a^{-1})^3 \cdot a^2 =$ _____

Express the remaining answers in fraction form.

25. $\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^3 =$ _____

26. $\left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^{-2} =$ _____