

**Objective:** To solve equations with uncommon bases and to convert between different forms

**Warm Up**

Simplify:  $27^{x+1} * \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^{x-2} * 9^x$

$$= (3^3)^{x+1} \cdot (3^{-1})^{x-2} \cdot (3^2)^x$$

$$= 3^{3x+3} \cdot 3^{-1x+2} \cdot 3^{2x}$$

$$= 3^{3x+3-1x+2+2x}$$

$$= \boxed{3^{4x+5}}$$

Solve:  $4^{x+1} = 16^{2x-4}$

$$4^{x+1} = (4^2)^{2x-4}$$

$$4^{x+1} = 4^{4x-8}$$

$$x+1 = 4x-8$$

$$9 = 3x$$

$$\boxed{x=3}$$

Simplifying and solving equations provide nice neat solutions in the questions above because the expressions can be written with a common base. If two random numbers are chosen, the chances are relatively small that they share a common base, though.

*Let's Investigate!*

Estimate the value of the variable to the nearest hundredth.

A.)  $2^x = 5$

B.)  $3^a = 25$

C.)  $5^y = 15$

D.)  $4^b = 3$

E.)  $10^y = 500$

F.)  $2 \cdot 3^x - 4 = 5$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \cdot 3^x - 4 = 5 \\ +4 \quad +4 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{2 \cdot 3^x}{2} = \frac{9}{2}$$

$$3^x = \frac{9}{2}$$

The **logarithm** is the inverse operation to exponentiation. That means the **logarithm** of a number is the exponent to which another fixed value, the base, must be raised to produce that number.

$$\boxed{b^x = a}$$

is equivalent to:

$$\boxed{\log_b a = x}$$

“a base to an exponent gives you an answer”

“log with a base of an answer gives you an exponent”

*This will provide you with a more efficient way of solving for the variables!!!*

**Example 1:**

Rewrite each equation below in logarithmic notation.

A.)  $2^x = 5$   
 $\log_2 5 = x$

B.)  $3^a = 25$   
 $\log_3 25 = a$

C.)  $5^y = 15$   
 $\log_5 15 = y$

D.)  $4^b = 3$   
 $\log_4 3 = b$

E.)  $10^y = 500$   
 $\log_{10} 500 = y$   
 $\Rightarrow \log 500 = y$

F.)  $2 \cdot 3^x - 4 = 5$   
 $\frac{2 \cdot 3^x}{2} = \frac{9}{2}$   
 $3^x = \frac{9}{2} \Rightarrow \log_3 \frac{9}{2} = x$

In order to solve for the variables, we will use something called the "change of base" formula:

**Change of Base Formula:**

(How to solve for an exponent when you do not common bases)

If given:  $b^x = a$   
Then:  $\log_b a = x$   
Which implies:  $x = \frac{\log a}{\log b}$

**Example 2:**

Find the exact value for the variable to the nearest hundredth.

A.)  $2^x = 5$   
 $\log_2 5 = x$

$x = \frac{\log 5}{\log 2}$

$x \approx 2.32$

B.)  $3^a = 25$   
 $\log_3 25 = a$

$a = \frac{\log 25}{\log 3}$

$a \approx 2.93$

C.)  $5^y = 15$   
 $\log_5 15 = y$

$y = \frac{\log 15}{\log 5}$

$y \approx 1.68$

D.)  $4^b = 3$   
 $\log_4 3 = b$

$b = \frac{\log 3}{\log 4}$

$b \approx .79$

E.)  $10^y = 500$   
 $\log 500 = y$

$y \approx 2.70$

F.)  $2 \cdot 3^x - 4 = 5$   
 $\log_3 \frac{9}{2} = x$

$x \approx 1.37$

$x = \frac{\log \frac{9}{2}}{\log 3}$

Let's Practice!

**Example 3:**

Complete the table by switching back & forth between exponential form and logarithmic form.

| <u>Exponential Form</u> | <u>Logarithmic Form</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| $4^2 = 16$              | $\log_4 16 = 2$         |
| $1^{99} = 1$            | $\log_1 1 = 99$         |
| $2^8 = 256$             | $\log_2 256 = 8$        |
| $3^0 = 1$               | $\log_3 1 = 0$          |
| $10^2 = 100$            | $\log 100 = 2$          |
| $a^b = c$               | $\log_a c = b$          |

assume base of 10

**Example 4:**

Rewrite the logarithmic form to exponential form & then evaluate/solve each one.

A.)  $\log_3 9 = x$

$$3^x = 9$$

$$x = 2$$

B.)  $\log_2 \frac{1}{16} = x$

$$2^x = \frac{1}{16}$$

$$x = -4$$

C.)  $\log_4 1 = x$

$$4^x = 1$$

$$x = 0$$

D.)  $\log_2 x = -3$

$$2^{-3} = x$$

$$x = \frac{1}{8}$$

E.)  $\log_x 16 = 2$

$$x^2 = 16$$

$$x = 4$$

F.)  $\log_x \frac{1}{9} = -2$

$$x^{-2} = \frac{1}{9}$$

$$x = 3$$

