

Unit 8: Logarithmic Functions

8.4 Logarithms & Exponential Equations

Part I: Use logarithms to solve for exponents

If $L = R$ then $\log_c L = \log_c R$

Ex. Solve to the nearest hundredth:

a) $2^x = 5$

$$\begin{aligned} \log 2^x &= \log 5 \quad \leftarrow \text{base 10 for calc.} \\ x \log 2 &= \log 5 \\ x &= \frac{\log 5}{\log 2} \quad \leftarrow \text{no calc until end!} \\ \boxed{x = 2.32} \end{aligned}$$

b) $8(3^{2x}) = 568$

$$\begin{aligned} 3^{2x} &= 71 \\ \log 3^{2x} &= \log 71 \\ 2x \log 3 &= \log 71 \\ x &= \frac{\log 71}{2 \log 3} \\ \text{or} \\ x &= \frac{\log 71}{\log 9} \\ \boxed{x = 1.94} \end{aligned}$$

c) $3^{x+2} = 5^{2x-3}$

$$\begin{aligned} \log 3^{x+2} &= \log 5^{2x-3} \\ (x+2) \log 3 &= (2x-3) \log 5 \quad \text{Brackets!} \\ x \log 3 + 2 \log 3 &= 2x \log 5 - 3 \log 5 \quad \text{Distribute} \\ x \log 3 - 2x \log 5 &= -3 \log 5 - 2 \log 3 \quad \text{Gather x terms} \\ x (\log 3 - 2 \log 5) &= -3 \log 5 - 2 \log 3 \\ x &= \frac{-3 \log 5 - 2 \log 3}{(\log 3 - 2 \log 5)} \\ \boxed{x = 3.31} \end{aligned}$$

Ex. A city's population doubles every 8 years. How long, to the nearest year, will it take for the population to grow from 25,000 to 1 million people?

$$\begin{aligned} F &= I r^{t/n} \\ 1,000,000 &= 25,000 (2)^{t/8} \\ 40 &= 2^{t/8} \\ \log 40 &= \frac{t}{8} \log 2 \\ t &= \frac{8 \log 40}{\log 2} = \boxed{43 \text{ years}} \end{aligned}$$

also remember
* $F = I(1 \pm r)^n$

$$\begin{aligned} 4^{2x} &= 8^{x+1} \\ \log_2 4^{2x} &= \log_2 8^{x+1} \\ 2x \log_2 4 &= (x+1) \log_2 8 \\ 2x (2) &= (x+1) 3 \\ 4x &= 3x + 3 \\ \boxed{x = 3} \end{aligned}$$

Ex. Evaluate to the nearest hundredth:

$$\begin{aligned} \log_5 782 &= x \\ \therefore 5^x &= 782 \\ x \log 5 &= \log 782 \\ x &= \frac{\log 782}{\log 5} \\ \boxed{x = 4.14} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \log_c a &= x \\ c^x &= a \\ \log_b c^x &= \log_b a \\ x \log_b c &= \log_b a \\ x &= \frac{\log_b a}{\log_b c} \end{aligned}$$

The previous example demonstrates the Change of Base Rule:

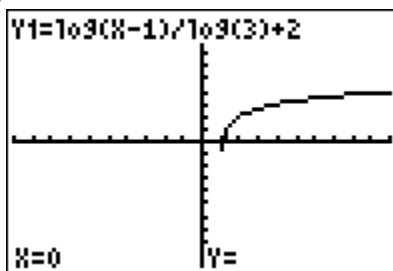
$$\log_c a = \frac{\log_x a}{\log_x c}$$

x is a base of your choosing

*also use to graph non base 10 logs with calc

Ex. Graph $\log_3(x-1) + 2$ with your calculator & sketch below.

$$y_1 = \frac{\log(x-1)}{\log 3} + 2$$



Ex. Evaluate to the nearest tenth:

$$\log_3 16$$

$$= \frac{\log 16}{\log 3}$$

$$= \boxed{2.5}$$

Ex. Evaluate without a calculator:

$$\log_4 32$$

$$= \frac{\log_2 32}{\log_2 4}$$

$$= \boxed{\frac{5}{2}}$$

Part II: Solving logarithmic equations

Case I Equations with all log terms If $\log_c x = \log_c y$ then $x = y$

Ex. Solve:

a) $\log_3(3x+1) = \log_3 2 + \log_3 8$

$$\log_3(3x+1) = \log_3 16 \quad 3x+1 > 0$$

$$\therefore 3x+1 = 16$$

$$3x = 15$$

$$\boxed{x = 5}$$

single! log statement on each side

b) $\log x = \log 4 - \log(x-3)$

$$\log x = \log\left(\frac{4}{x-3}\right) \quad x > 3$$

$$\therefore x = \frac{4}{x-3}$$

$$x^2 - 3x = 4$$

$$x^2 - 3x - 4 = 0$$

$$(x-4)(x+1) = 0$$

$$\boxed{x = 4}$$

$$\sqrt{x} = \sqrt{y}$$

$$x = y$$

$$\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{y} = \sqrt{2}$$

Case II Equations with log terms and constant terms

If $\log_c x = y$ then $c^y = x$

Ex. Solve:

a) $\log_8(x+3) - 1 = -\log_8(x+1)$

$$\log_8(x+3) + \log_8(x+1) = 1$$

$$\log_8 \left[\frac{(x+3)(x+1)}{8^1} \right] = 1$$

$$8^1 = x^2 + 4x + 3$$

$$0 = x^2 + 4x - 5$$

$$0 = (x+5)(x-1)$$

$$x = \boxed{1}$$

b) $\log_2(3-x) + \log_2(1-x) = 3$

$$\log_2(3-4x+x^2) = 3$$

$$2^3 = 3-4x+x^2$$

$$8 = 3-4x+x^2$$

$$0 = x^2 - 4x - 5$$

$$0 = (x-5)(x+1)$$

$$x = \boxed{-1}$$