

Solving equations with rational exponents

Take the following steps when solving an equation where the variable is being raised to a rational exponent.

1. Isolate the term or quantity that is being raised to the rational exponent on one side of the equation.
2. Raise both sides of the equation to the reciprocal power.
3. Finish solving for the variable.

EXAMPLE: Solve. $(x+1)^{\frac{3}{4}} + 7 = 34$

$$\begin{aligned} & \quad \quad \quad -7 \quad -7 \\ & \left((x+1)^{\frac{3}{4}} \right)^{\frac{4}{3}} = (27)^{\frac{4}{3}} \\ & \quad \quad \quad x+1 = 81 \\ & \quad \quad \quad -1 \quad -1 \end{aligned}$$

sol : $x = 80$

Solve each.

1. $(x-3)^{\frac{5}{2}} - 11 = 21$

2. $6(2x-1)^{\frac{1}{3}} + 5 = 17$

Solving radical equations

Take the following steps when solving an equation where the variable is in the radicand.

1. Isolate the radical on one side of the equation.
2. Raise both sides of the equation to the power equal to the index of the radical.
3. Finish solving for the variable.

EXAMPLE: Solve. $\sqrt{5x+6} - 2 = 11$

$$\begin{aligned} & \quad \quad \quad +2 \quad +2 \\ & \left(\sqrt{5x+6} \right)^2 = (13)^2 \\ & \quad \quad \quad 5x+6 = 169 \\ & \quad \quad \quad -6 \quad -6 \\ & \quad \quad \quad 5x = 163 \end{aligned}$$

sol : $x = \frac{163}{5} = 32.6$

Solve each.

3. $\sqrt{2x+11} + 15 = 23$

4. $7 \cdot \sqrt[3]{x-8} + 44 = 16$