

Radical Expressions

Ex: $\sqrt{48} = (\sqrt{4})\sqrt{12} = 2\sqrt{12} = 4\sqrt{3}$

Ex: $\sqrt{3-2\sqrt{2}} = \sqrt{a-b} = \sqrt{2-1} \approx 0.414$
 $= 1-\sqrt{2} \approx -0.414$

$3-2\sqrt{2} = a - 2\sqrt{ab} + b$

$3 = a+b$ $2\sqrt{2} = 2\sqrt{ab}$ $a=1, b=2$
 $2 = ab$ $a=2, b=1$

Ex: $\sqrt{x^2+9} = 2x-3$
 $x^2+9 = (2x-3)^2$

$\sqrt{16+9} = 2 \cdot 4 - 3 = 5$ ✓

$x^2+9 = 4x^2-12x+9$

$\sqrt{0^2+9} = 2 \cdot 0 - 3 = -3$ ✗

$9 = 9$ ✓

$0 = 3x^2 - 12x = 3x(x-4)$

$x = \cancel{0}, \underline{4}$

Rationalizing Denominators

Ex: $\frac{1}{(\sqrt{6}-\sqrt{5})(\sqrt{6}+\sqrt{5})} = \frac{\sqrt{6}+\sqrt{5}}{6-5} = \sqrt{6} + \sqrt{5}$

$(a-b)(a+b) = a^2 - b^2$

Ex: $\frac{1}{\sqrt{1}+\sqrt{2}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}+\sqrt{3}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}+\sqrt{4}} + \dots + \frac{1}{\sqrt{99}+\sqrt{100}}$

$\frac{1}{\sqrt{1}+\sqrt{2}} \cdot \frac{(\sqrt{1}-\sqrt{2})}{(\sqrt{1}-\sqrt{2})} = \frac{\sqrt{1}-\sqrt{2}}{1-2} = \sqrt{2}-\sqrt{1}$

$= \sqrt{100} - \sqrt{1} = 9$

$\cancel{\sqrt{2}-\sqrt{1}} + \cancel{\sqrt{3}-\sqrt{2}} + \cancel{\sqrt{4}-\sqrt{3}} + \dots + \cancel{\sqrt{99}-\sqrt{98}} + \sqrt{100} - \sqrt{99}$