



SKILL 5: Prime Factorization with Exponents

You can use exponents to express prime factorization in a compact form. For example, 125 is equal to $5 \times 5 \times 5$ or 5^3 .

To write the prime factorization of 360 in exponential form, first write the factors in expanded form.

$$360 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 3 \times 3 \times 5$$

Use exponents to show the number of identical factors.

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{two factors of } 3 = 3^2 \\
 \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \\
 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times \underbrace{3 \times 3}_{\substack{\text{two factors of } 3 = 3^2}} \times 5 = 2^3 \times 3^2 \times 5 \\
 \uparrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \uparrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \uparrow \\
 \text{three factors of } 2 = 2^3 \qquad \qquad \qquad 5 = 5^1, \text{ but you} \\
 \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{need not write} \\
 \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{the exponent.}
 \end{array}$$

So, the exponential form of the prime factorization of 360 is $2^3 \times 3^2 \times 5$.

Example

Write the prime factorization $3^3 \times 5^2$ in standard form.

First write in expanded form. $3^3 \times 5^2 = \underbrace{3 \times 3 \times 3}_{27} \times \underbrace{5 \times 5}_{25} = 675$

Then multiply.

The standard form of the number $3^3 \times 5^2$ is 675.

Guided Practice

1. Write $2 \times 2 \times 3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 5 \times 5$ using exponents.

$$2 \times 2 \times 3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 5 \times 5 = 2^{\square} \times 3^{\square} \times 5^{\square}$$

2. Write the prime factorization $2^3 \times 7^2$ in standard form.

a. Write 2^3 in expanded form. _____

b. Multiply the factors in part a. _____

c. Write 7^2 in expanded form. _____

d. Multiply the factors in part c. _____

e. Multiply the numbers you found in parts b and d. _____

f. So, $2^3 \times 7^2 = 2 \times \underline{\quad} \times \underline{\quad} \times 7 \times \underline{\quad} = 8 \times \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$.