

Negative Exponents

Rule : When you have negative exponents it means that you have to take the reciprocal of the answer you calculated (That means flip it over).

$$\text{Ex. } 3^{-2} = \frac{1}{3^2} = \frac{1}{9}$$

$$2^2 / 2^6$$

$$2 \cdot 2$$

$$1$$

$$2^{-4} = \frac{1}{2^4} = \frac{1}{16}$$

$$2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2$$

$$= \frac{1}{2^4}$$

$$= 2^{-4}$$

$$\frac{1}{3^2} = 3^{-2}$$

$$3^2 / 3^3$$

$$\frac{\cancel{3} \cdot \cancel{3}}{\cancel{3} \cdot \cancel{3} \cdot 3} = \frac{1}{3} = 3^{-1} = \frac{1}{3^1} = \frac{1}{3}$$