

Mr. B's Algebra Connections



Rockin' at Radicals

Fall 2005



Product Rule for Radicals: If \sqrt{a} and \sqrt{b} are real numbers,
then $\sqrt{a * b} = \sqrt{a} * \sqrt{b}$

Quotient Rule for Radicals: If a and b are real numbers and $b \neq 0$,
then $\sqrt{a / b} = \sqrt{a} / \sqrt{b}$

Like Radicals: Radical expressions with same index & same radicand

Combine Like Radicals: Use the distributive property, product and quotient rules may be used to simplify products & quotients of radicals

Rationalizing the Denominator: Eliminate radicals in denominator

Conjugate of $(a + b)$ is $(a - b)$

To Rationalize a Denominator that is sum or difference of radicals,
multiply numerator & denominator by conjugate of denominator