

Solve each exponential equation. Give the exact value for x.

(a) $9^x = 1/81$

$$9^x = \frac{1}{81}; \Rightarrow 81 = 9^2;$$

$$9^x = \frac{1}{9^2};$$

$$9^x = 9^{-2}; \Rightarrow \boxed{a^{f(x)} = b^{g(x)}, \text{ and } a > 0, a \neq 1 \text{ then } f(x) = g(x)}$$

$$9 = 9 \Rightarrow x = -2.$$

(b) $3^x = 6$

$$3^x = 6; \Rightarrow \boxed{a^x = b \Rightarrow x = \log_a b}$$

$$3^x = 6; \Rightarrow x = \log_3 6 \Rightarrow \log_3 6 = \frac{\log 6}{\log 3} = 1.6309.$$

(c) $4^x = 2.5$

$$4^x = 2.5 = \frac{5}{2};$$

Eliminate the exponential from the left hand side.

Take the logarithm base 4 of both sides:

$$\text{Answer: } x = \frac{\log_2 5}{\log 4} = 0.6609.$$

(d) $2^x = 3$

$$2^x = 3;$$

Eliminate the exponential from the left hand side.

Take the logarithm base 2 of both sides:

$$\text{Answer: } x = \frac{\log 3}{\log 2} = 1.584.$$