

Section 6.2

I can identify appropriate methods to solve logarithmic equations.

Methods:

- By converting to exponential form
- By condensing an expression
- By taking a log of both sides
- By changing the bases

Properties of Logarithms:

$a^x = a^y$ if only if $x = y$

$\log_b x = \log_b y$ if and only if $x = y$

Example:

If $\log_3 x = \log_3 8$ then $x = 8$

$\log_7(6x - 16) = \log_7(x - 1)$

$6x - 16 = x - 1$
 $5x = 15$
 $x = 3$

(Check for extraneous solutions!)

*You try ☺

$\log_3(x - 5) = \log_3(3x - 25)$

$\log_9(x^2 - 4x) = \log_9(3x - 10)$

$x^2 - 4x = 3x - 10$
 $x^2 - 7x + 10 = 0$
 $(x - 5)(x - 2) = 0$

Check $(2)^2 - 4(2) = 0$
 not a solution

$x = 2, x = 5$

$5^2 - 4(5) = 5$

$\log_7(x^2 - 4) = \log_7(-x + 2)$

$3(5) - 10 = 5$

Since $a^0 = 1$ & $a^1 = a$

$\log_b x = y$ and $b^y = x$
 Substitute $x = b^y$

Substitute $\log_b x = y$

$\log_a a = 0$

$\log_a a = 1$

$\log_b b^y = y$

Or

$\log_b x = y$

Solve: Exponentiate each side.

$\log_8(x - 5) = \frac{2}{3}$

$8^{\log_8(x-5)} = 8^{\frac{2}{3}}$

Check: $8 - 5 = 3$

$x - 5 = 3$; $x = 8$

$\log_4(5x + 1) = 2$

$4 \log_4(5x + 1) = 4 \cdot 2$

$5x + 1 = 16$

$5x = 15$

$x = 3$

$5(3) + 1 = 16$

*You try ☺

$\log_{16}(x + 12) = \frac{3}{2}$

$\log_2(x + 3) = 4$

Property of Inequality for Logarithmic Functions:

Algebra: if $b > 1, x > 0$, and $\log_b x > y$, then $x > b^y$ (one inequality)

Example: $\log_2 2x > 2$ $\log_2(8x + 5) > \log_2(6x + 19)$

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$$2x > 2^2$$

$$2x > 4$$

$x > 2$

$$8x + 5 > 6x + 19$$

$$2x > 14$$

$x > 7$

You try ☺

$\log_4 8x > 3$

$\log_3(8x + 3) > \log_3(5x + 12)$

Algebra: if $b > 1, x > 0$, and $\log_b x < y$, then $0 < x < b^y$ (two inequalities)

Example: $\log_2(3x + 1) < 4$

$$3x + 1 < 2^4$$

$$3x + 1 < 16$$

$$3x < 15$$

$x < 5$

also

$$3x + 1 > 0$$

$$3x > -1$$

$x > -1/3$

or $-1/3 < x < 5$

$\log_3(3x - 4) < \log_3(x + 1)$

$$3x - 4 < x + 1$$

$$2x < 5$$

$x < 5/2$

also

$$3x - 4 > 0$$

$$3x > 4$$

$x > 4/3$

∴ $x + 1 > 0$

$$x > -1$$

You try ☺

$\log_3(x + 3) < 3$

$\log_2(3x - 4) < \log_2(2x + 7)$