


Negative Indices

Negative indices are powers with a minus sign in front of them.

If a number or expression is raised to a negative power, we find its **reciprocal**.

$$a^{-m} = \frac{1}{a^m}$$

Reciprocal means
multiplicative inverse.

 **Example** The reciprocal of 4
is $\frac{1}{4}$ because $4 \times \frac{1}{4} = 1$

 **Example**

Simplify x^{-2}

This means 'the reciprocal of x^2 ', which is $\frac{1}{x^2}$