## Simplifying Radicals

| Perfect Square | Number is NOT a Perfect Square |
| :---: | :---: |
| List of Perfect Squares: <br> If the problem contains a perfect square: <br> - Find the square root <br> - The square root would be an integer <br> Examples: <br> 1) $\sqrt{25}$ <br> 2) $-\sqrt{144}$ | If the problem contains a number that is not a perfect square: <br> - Use the product of two square roots <br> - One of these roots should be a perfect square <br> - Find the square root of the perfect square, leave the other root as is. <br> Examples: <br> 1) $\sqrt{12}=\sqrt{ } \cdot \sqrt{ }$ <br> 2) $\sqrt{32}=\sqrt{ } \cdot \sqrt{ }$ |
| Exponent is even | Exponent is odd |
| If the problem contains an even exponent: <br> - Divide the exponent by 2 <br> Examples: <br> 1) $\sqrt{x^{4}}$ <br> 2) $\sqrt{x^{4} y^{2} z^{6}}$ | If the problem contains an odd exponent: <br> - Break the problem up into 2 powers <br> - One should have the highest even exponent <br> - The other exponent should be 1 <br> - The sum of both exponents should be the original exponent <br> Examples: <br> 1) $\sqrt{x^{5}}=\sqrt{ } \cdot \sqrt{ }$ <br> 2) $\sqrt{y^{11}}=\sqrt{ } \cdot \sqrt{ }$ |

