

ACCEPTABLE ANSWER FORMATS

Answers must be written in correct mathematical notation. No partial credit will be awarded except on the power round. Unless otherwise specified, all answers must be exact and simplified.

Graders will take a reasonably lenient interpretation of “simplified”, as guided by the following guidelines and examples. However, if answers do not conform to our guidelines, we will mark them as incorrect. The decisions of the Head Grader are final.

The general guidelines for acceptable answer formats include:

- Simplifications that can reasonably be carried out should be.
- Rational numbers should be given in lowest terms.
- Radicals in denominators do *not* need to be rationalized.
- Never express an answer using a repeated sum or product.

Examples of Correctly Formatted Answers	
879	$2^{57} + 1$
$\frac{2}{7}$	$\sqrt{\pi}$
$\frac{1}{3+\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$
420!	$\cos(1)$
$\binom{200}{4}$	$11 \sqrt[11]{\frac{27}{4}}$

Examples of Incorrectly Formatted Answers	
Invalid Answer	Equivalent Valid Answer
57×61	3477
$\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{6}\right)$	$\frac{1}{2}$
$\frac{61}{31415}$	$\frac{1}{515}$
$\sqrt{3 + 2\sqrt{2}}$	$1 + \sqrt{2}$
$\sqrt{\frac{7}{9}}$	$\frac{\sqrt{7}}{3}$
$\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{10}\right)$	$\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{4}$