

Use the chain rule to find the derivative of each of the following functions. Remember your exponent and logarithmic laws, these will help you.

Chain Rule

$$\frac{d}{dt}(f(g(t))) = g'(t) \cdot f'(g(t))$$

In words, we differentiate the “big function” with respect to the independent variable, then plug in the “small function” and then multiply the result by the derivative of the “small function”

Example 1:

Find the derivative of $y = (t + 1)^4$.

Observe that if $f(t) = t^4$ and $g(t) = t + 1$, then $y = f(g(t))$. So then,

$$\begin{aligned} f(t) = t^4 &\implies f'(t) = 4t^3 \implies f'(g(t)) = 4g(t)^3 = 4(t + 1)^3 \\ g(t) = t + 1 &\implies g'(t) = 1 \end{aligned}$$

So then $y' = g'(t)f'(g(t)) = 1 \cdot 4(t + 1)^3 = 4(t + 1)^3$.

Example 2:

Find the derivative of $y = e^{-6x}$.

Observe that if $f(x) = e^x$ and $g(x) = -6x$, then $y = f(g(x))$. So then,

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) = e^x &\implies f'(x) = e^x \implies f'(g(x)) = e^{g(x)} = e^{-6x} \\ g(x) = -6x &\implies g'(x) = -6 \end{aligned}$$

So then $y' = g'(x)f'(g(x)) = (-6) \cdot e^{-6x} = -6e^{-6x}$.

Example 3:

Find the derivative of $w = 5(2z + 3)^2$.

Observe that if $f(z) = 5z^2$ and $g(z) = 2z + 3$, then $w = f(g(z))$. So then,

$$\begin{aligned} f(z) = 5z^2 &\implies f'(z) = 10z \implies f'(g(z)) = 10g(z) = 10(2z + 3) \\ g(z) = 2z + 3 &\implies g'(z) = 2 \end{aligned}$$

So then $w' = g'(z)f'(g(z)) = 2 \cdot 10(2z + 3) = 20(2z + 3)$.

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|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. $f(x) = (x + 1)^{99}$ | 10. $C = 12(3q^2 - 5)^3$ | 19. $f(x) = \ln(\ln(x))$ |
| 2. $g(x) = (4x^2 + 1)^7$ | 11. $w = e^{-3t^2}$ | 20. $f(x) = (\ln(x))^3$ |
| 3. $w = (t^2 + 1)^{100}$ | 12. $y = 5e^{5t+1}$ | 21. $y = 5 + \ln(3t + 2)$ |
| 4. $R = (q^2 + 1)^4$ | 13. $y = \ln(5t + 1)$ | 22. $y = (5 + e^x)^2$ |
| 5. $w = (5r - 6)^3$ | 14. $w = e^{\sqrt{s}}$ | 23. $y = 5x + \ln(x + 2)$ |
| 6. $f(x) = (x^3 + x^2)^{-90}$ | 15. $f(t) = \ln(t^2 + 1)$ | 24. $y = \sqrt{e^x + 1}$ |
| 7. $y = 12 - 3x^2 + 2e^{3x}$ | 16. $f(x) = \ln(1 - x)$ | 25. $P = (1 + \ln(x))^{0.5}$ |
| 8. $y = \sqrt{s^3 + 1}$ | 17. $f(x) = \ln(e^x + 1)$ | 26. $f(t) = (e^t + e^{-t})^{-1}$ |
| 9. $f(x) = 6e^{5x} + e^{-x^2}$ | 18. $f(x) = \ln(1 - e^{-x})$ | 27. $f(x) = \sqrt{2 + \sqrt{x}}$ |

Answers

1. $f'(x) = 99(x+1)^{98}$

2. $g'(x) = 56x(4x^2+1)^6$

3. $w' = 200t(t^2+1)^{99}$

4. $R' = 8q(q^2+1)^3$

5. $w' = 15(5r-6)^2$

6. $f'(x) = -90(3x^2+2x)(x^3+x^2)^{-91}$

7. $y' = -6x + 6e^{3x}$

8. $y' = \frac{3}{2}s^2(s^3+1)^{-1/2}$

9. $f'(x) = 30e^{5x} - 2xe^{-x^2}$

10. $C' = 216q(3q^2-5)^2$

11. $w' = -6te^{-3t^2}$

12. $y' = 25e^{5t+1}$

13. $y' = \frac{5}{5t+1}$

14. $w' = \frac{1}{2}s^{-1/2}e^{\sqrt{s}}$

15. $f'(t) = \frac{2t}{t^2+1}$

16. $f'(x) = -\frac{1}{1-x}$

17. $f'(x) = \frac{e^x}{e^x+1}$

18. $f'(x) = \frac{xe^{-x}}{1-e^{-x}}$

19. $f'(x) = \frac{1}{x \ln(x)}$

20. $f'(x) = \frac{3}{x}(\ln(x))2$

21. $y' = \frac{3}{3t+2}$

22. $y' = 2e^x(5+e^x)$

23. $y' = 5 + \frac{1}{x+2}$

24. $y' = \frac{1}{2}e^x(e^x+1)^{-1/2}$

25. $P' = \frac{1}{2x}(1+\ln(x))^{-1/2}$

26. $f'(t) = -(e^t - e^{-t})(e^t + e^{-t})^{-2}$

27. $f'(x) = \frac{1}{4}x^{-1/2}(2+\sqrt{x})^{-1/2}$
