Zero and Simple Negative Exponents Lesson

Find the final value of the following exponents.

1) 32^0 2) 4^{-1}

Explanation:

1) The Zero Power of Exponents tells us that any value to the zero power is equal to 1.

With this in mind, $32^0 = 1$

2) With positive exponents we use the exponent to tell us how many times we multiply the base number. Negative exponents are the opposite of positive exponents. Negative exponents tell us how many times we divide by a number.

In this case: 4^{-1} the exponent -1 tells us how many times we are going to divide by 4. We will therefore divide 1 by 4 once.

$4^{-1} = \frac{1}{4}$