

Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$.

(a) $y = x^{\frac{1}{x}}$, (b) $y = (\ln x)^x$, (c) $y = \sqrt{\frac{(x+3)(x-2)}{2x-1}}$

Solutions

(a) $y = x^{\frac{1}{x}} = e^{\frac{1}{x} \ln x} \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{x} \ln x \right) \cdot e^{\frac{1}{x} \ln x}$
 $= \left(-\frac{1}{x^2} \ln x + \frac{1}{x^2} \right) e^{\frac{1}{x} \ln x} = \frac{1}{x^2} (1 - \ln x) x^{\frac{1}{x}} = x^{\frac{1}{x}-2} (1 - \ln x)$
 $= x^{\frac{1-2x}{x}} (1 - \ln x).$

2nd Method:

$$\ln y = \ln \left(x^{\frac{1}{x}} \right) = \frac{1}{x} \ln x$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dx} \ln y = \frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{1}{x} \ln x \right]. \text{ So that:}$$

$$\frac{\frac{dy}{dx}}{y} = -\frac{\ln x}{x^2} + \frac{1}{x^2} \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y}{x^2} (1 - \ln x) = x^{\frac{1-2x}{x}} (1 - \ln x).$$

(b) $y = (\ln x)^x = e^{x \ln(\ln x)} \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx} [x \ln(\ln x)] \cdot e^{x \ln(\ln x)}$
 $= \left(\ln(\ln x) + x \frac{\frac{1}{x}}{\ln x} \right) e^{x \ln(\ln x)} = \left(\ln(\ln x) + \frac{1}{\ln x} \right) (\ln x)^x$

2nd Method $\ln y = \ln [(\ln x)^x] = x \ln(\ln x)$. So

$$\frac{d}{dx} \ln y = \frac{d}{dx} [\ln((\ln x)^x)] = \frac{d}{dx} [x \ln(\ln x)]. \text{ Thus.}$$

$$\frac{\frac{dy}{dx}}{y} = \ln(\ln x) + x \frac{\frac{1}{x}}{\ln x} \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = \left[\ln(\ln x) + \frac{1}{\ln x} \right] y$$

$$\text{Hence. } \frac{dy}{dx} = \left[\ln(\ln x) + \frac{1}{\ln x} \right] (\ln x)^x$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(c)} \quad \ln y &= \ln \sqrt{\frac{(x+3)(x-2)}{2x-1}} = \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{(x+3)(x-2)}{2x-1} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left[\ln[(x+3)(x-2)] - \ln(2x-1) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left[\ln(x+3) + \ln(x-2) - \ln(2x-1) \right] \end{aligned}$$

After differentiating both sides, we obtain:

$$\frac{\frac{dy}{dx}}{y} = \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{1}{x+3} + \frac{1}{x-2} - \frac{2}{2x-1} \right]$$

Hence,
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{x+3} + \frac{1}{x-2} - \frac{2}{2x-1} \right) \ln \sqrt{\frac{(x+3)(x-2)}{2x-1}}$$