

Lesson 11-7

Example 1 Use Pascal's Triangle

Expand $(n + 2)^5$.

Write the sixth row of Pascal's triangle.

$$1 \quad 5 \quad 10 \quad 10 \quad 5 \quad 1$$

Use the patterns of a binomial expansion and the coefficients to write the expansion of $(n + 2)^5$.

$$\begin{aligned}(n + 2)^5 &= 1n^5(2)^0 + 5n^4(2)^1 + 10n^3(2)^2 + 10n^2(2)^3 + 5n(2)^4 + 1n^0(2)^5 \\ &= n^5 + 10n^4 + 40n^3 + 80n^2 + 80n + 32\end{aligned}$$

Example 2 Use the Binomial Theorem

Expand $(x + 4)^7$.

The expansion will have eight terms. Use the sequence $1, \frac{7}{1}, \frac{7 \cdot 6}{1 \cdot 2}, \frac{7 \cdot 6 \cdot 5}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3}$ to find the coefficients for the first four terms. Then use symmetry to find the remaining coefficients.

$$\begin{aligned}(x + 4)^7 &= 1x^7(4)^0 + \frac{7}{1}x^6(4)^1 + \frac{7 \cdot 6}{1 \cdot 2}x^5(4)^2 + \frac{7 \cdot 6 \cdot 5}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3}x^4(4)^3 + \frac{7 \cdot 6 \cdot 5}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3}x^3(4)^4 + \frac{7 \cdot 6}{1 \cdot 2}x^2(4)^5 + \frac{7}{1}x^1(4)^6 + 1x^0(4)^7 \\ &= x^7 + 28x^6 + 336x^5 + 2240x^4 + 8960x^3 + 21,504x^2 + 28,672x + 16,384\end{aligned}$$

Example 3 Factorials

Evaluate $\frac{16!}{4!12!}$.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{16!}{4!12!} &= \frac{16 \cdot 15 \cdot 14 \cdot 13 \cdot \cancel{12} \cdot \cancel{11} \cdot \cancel{10} \cdot \cancel{9} \cdot \cancel{8} \cdot \cancel{7} \cdot \cancel{6} \cdot \cancel{5} \cdot \cancel{4} \cdot \cancel{3} \cdot \cancel{2} \cdot \cancel{1}}{4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 \cdot \cancel{12} \cdot \cancel{11} \cdot \cancel{10} \cdot \cancel{9} \cdot \cancel{8} \cdot \cancel{7} \cdot \cancel{6} \cdot \cancel{5} \cdot \cancel{4} \cdot \cancel{3} \cdot \cancel{2} \cdot \cancel{1}} \\ &= 1820\end{aligned}$$

Example 4 Use a Factorial Form of the Binomial Theorem
Expand $(5x - 2)^6$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 (5x - 2)^6 &= \sum_{k=0}^6 \frac{6!}{(6-k)!k!} (5x)^{6-k} (-2)^k && \text{Binomial Theorem, factorial form} \\
 &= \frac{6!}{6! 0!} (5x)^6 (-2)^0 + \frac{6!}{5! 1!} (5x)^5 (-2)^1 + \frac{6!}{4! 2!} (5x)^4 (-2)^2 + \frac{6!}{3! 3!} (5x)^3 (-2)^3 + \frac{6!}{2! 4!} (5x)^2 (-2)^4 + \\
 &\quad \frac{6!}{1! 5!} (5x)^1 (-2)^5 + \frac{6!}{0! 6!} (5x)^0 (-2)^6 && \text{Let } k = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \text{ and } 6. \\
 &= \frac{6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1}{6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 \cdot 1} (15,625x^6)(1) + \frac{6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1}{5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 \cdot 1} (3125x^5)(-2) + \frac{6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1}{4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} (625x^4)(4) + \\
 &\quad \frac{6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1}{3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} (125x^3)(-8) + \frac{6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1}{2 \cdot 1 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} (25x^2)(16) + \frac{6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1}{1 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} (5x^1)(-32) + \\
 &\quad \frac{6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1}{1 \cdot 6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} (1)(64) \\
 &= 15,625x^6 - 37,500x^5 + 37,500x^4 - 20,000x^3 + 6000x^2 - 960x + 64 && \text{Simplify.}
 \end{aligned}$$

Example 5 Find a Particular Term
Find the seventh term in the expansion of $(m - 5)^8$.

First, use the Binomial Theorem to write the expansion in sigma notation.

$$(m - 5)^8 = \sum_{k=0}^8 \frac{8!}{(8-k)!k!} m^{8-k} (-5)^k$$

In the seventh term, $k = 6$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{8!}{(8-k)!k!} m^{8-k} (-5)^k &= \frac{8!}{(8-6)!(6)!} m^{8-6} (-5)^6 && k = 6 \\
 &= \frac{8 \cdot 7}{2 \cdot 1} m^2 (-5)^6 && \frac{8!}{2!6!} = \frac{8 \cdot 7 \cdot 6!}{2!6!} \text{ or } \frac{8 \cdot 7}{2 \cdot 1} \\
 &= 437,500m^2 && \text{Simplify.}
 \end{aligned}$$