

The product and quotient rules should confirm things we already know about power functions. Consider the function  $a(x) = x^5$

1. Using the power rule, what is the derivative  $a'(x)$ ?
2. Rewrite  $a(x) = b(x)c(x)$ , where  $b(x) = x^3$  and  $c(x) = x^2$ . What happens when you apply the product rule to  $b(x)c(x)$  to calculate  $a'(x)$ ?
3. Rewrite  $a(x) = \frac{d(x)}{f(x)}$ , where  $d(x) = x^8$  and  $f(x) = x^3$ . What happens when you apply the quotient rule to  $\frac{d(x)}{f(x)}$  to calculate  $a'(x)$ ?

Now, consider the function  $g(x) = \frac{1}{x^7}$ .

4. Using the power rule, what is the derivative?
5. Rewrite  $g(x) = \frac{h(x)}{j(x)}$ , where  $h(x) = 1$  and  $j(x) = x^7$ . What happens when you apply the quotient rule to  $\frac{h(x)}{j(x)}$  to calculate  $g'(x)$ ?
6. Rewrite  $g(x) = \frac{k(x)}{l(x)}$ , where  $k(x) = x^2$  and  $l(x) = x^9$ . What happens where you apply the quotient rule to  $\frac{k(x)}{l(x)}$  to calculate  $g'(x)$ ?