

Given a positive integer n , n factorial (written $n!$) is a shorthand for the product of all positive integers less than or equal to the given integer n .

$$n! = n \cdot (n-1) \cdot (n-2) \cdot \dots \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1$$

For example, $4! = 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 = 24$. (By convention, we say that $0! = 1$.)

1. Evaluate the following.

(a) $5! \quad 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 = 120$

(b) $6! \quad 6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 = 720$

(c) $\frac{6!}{5!} \quad \frac{6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1}{5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} = 6$

(d) $\frac{5!}{6!} \quad \frac{5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1}{6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} = \frac{1}{6}$

(e) $\frac{102!}{100!} \quad \frac{102 \cdot 101 \cdot 100!}{100!} = 102 \cdot 101$

2. Simplify each of the following. Assume n is a positive integer.

(a) $\frac{(n+2)!}{n!} \quad (n+2)(n+1)$

(b) $\frac{(n-3)!}{n!} \quad \frac{1}{n(n-1)(n-2)}$

(c) $\frac{(2n+2)!}{(2n)!} \quad (2n+2)(2n+1)$

(d) $\frac{(2n+2)!}{2n!} \quad \frac{(2n+2)(2n+1)(2n) \dots (n+1)}{2}$

(e) $\frac{(n!)^2}{((n+1)!)^2} \quad \frac{n! \cdot n!}{(n+1)! \cdot (n+1)!} = \frac{1}{n+1} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = \frac{1}{(n+1)^2}$