

Section 7.1: Radicals and Radical Functions

Perfect Square

A number is squared when it is multiplied by itself. The result is called a **perfect square**.

The symbol $\sqrt{\quad}$ is called a radical sign.

The number under the radical sign is called the radicand.

The complete expression, such as $\sqrt{64}$, is called a radical or radical expression.

Square Root

If a is a nonnegative real number and b is a real number such that

- $b^2 = a$, then b is called a square root of a .

****In order to find a square root of a , you need a number that, when squared, equals a .**

If b is a nonnegative, then we write

- $\sqrt{a} = b$ b is called the principal square root, and
- $-\sqrt{a} = -b$ $-b$ is called the negative square root.