

Rhino Bonus: Derivatives of Exponential Functions Using the Limit Definition

Each of these limits is f' for some function f of h and some value a .

Report f . Report a . Report the value of $f'(a)$.

Use the activity at <https://www.geogebra.org/calculator/vwb5rmqd>

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^h - 1}{h} = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}. \quad f(h) = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}; \quad a = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^{kh} - 1}{h} = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}. \quad f(h) = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}; \quad a = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$$

Complete the remaining boxes and blanks below and on the reverse for +1 Rhino Participation Bonus.

1. Use the limit definition to show the derivative of $y = e^x$ is itself.

$$f(x) = \boxed{\hspace{1cm}} \quad f(x+h) = \boxed{\hspace{1cm}}$$

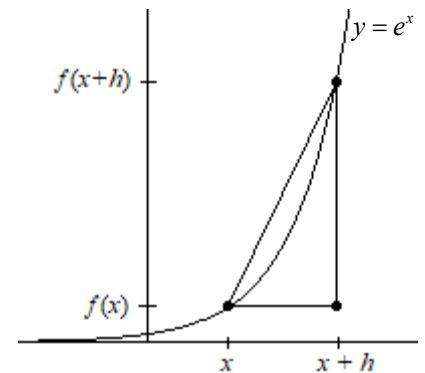
$$\frac{d}{dx} e^x = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{(x+h) - x} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \boxed{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} \cdot (e^x \cdot \boxed{\hspace{1cm}} - e^x) \text{ by the law of exponents.}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} \cdot (e^x (\boxed{\hspace{1cm}})) \text{ by factoring out } e^x.$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} e^x \cdot \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\boxed{\hspace{1cm}}}{h} \text{ by writing as a product of limits.}$$

$$= \boxed{\hspace{1cm}} \cdot \boxed{\hspace{1cm}} \text{ Why? } \underline{\hspace{10cm}}$$



2. Use the limit definition to show the derivative of $y = e^{kx}$ is proportional to its own derivative.
Then report the constant of proportionality below.

$$f(x) = \boxed{} \quad f(x+h) = \boxed{}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} e^{kx} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{(x+h) - x} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \boxed{}$$

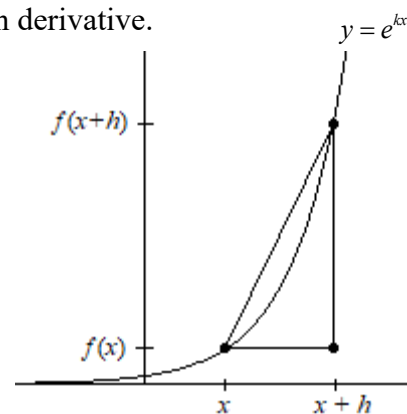
$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} \cdot \left(e^{kx + \boxed{}} - e^{kx} \right) \quad \text{Distribute the } k(x+h).$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} \cdot \left(e^{kx} \cdot \boxed{} - e^{kx} \right) \quad \text{by the law of exponents.}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} \cdot \left(e^{kx} \cdot \boxed{} \right) \quad \text{by factoring out } e^{kx}.$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} e^{kx} \cdot \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \boxed{} \quad \text{by writing as a product of limits.}$$

$$= \boxed{} \cdot \boxed{} \quad \text{Why? } \underline{\hspace{10cm}}$$



The derivative of $y = e^{kx}$ is proportional to its own derivative with constant of proportionality equal to _____, i.e.

if $y = e^{kx}$,

$$y' = \boxed{}$$