

JUST THE FACTS

Square Roots	<p>If $b^2 = a$, then b is the square root of a.</p> <p>All POSITIVE real numbers have two square roots; one is the positive (or principal) square root, the other is the negative square root. Square roots are written with a radical symbol. The number inside the radical is called the radicand.</p> <p>NEGATIVE numbers have no square root. The product of any real number multiplied by itself must have a positive result.</p>
"Plus or Minus"	<p>To identify both the positive and negative square root, use the "plus or minus" symbol:</p> <p>Find $\pm\sqrt{25}$:</p> $\pm\sqrt{25} = 5, -5$
Principal (or Positive) Square Root	<p>To identify the principal square root, use just the radical symbol (no plus sign required):</p> <p>Find $\sqrt{25}$:</p> $\sqrt{25} = 5$
Negative Square Root	<p>To find the negative square root, use the negative sign in front of the radical:</p> <p>Find $-\sqrt{25}$:</p> $-\sqrt{25} = -5$