Vocabulary: Simplifying Radical Expressions

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**Vocabulary**

* Perfect square – a number that is equal to an integer squared.
  + To *square* a number means to multiply it by itself.
  + For example, 25 is a perfect square because 5 • 5 = 52 = 25.
* Radical expression – an expression that contains a root.
  + The *radical sign*  indicates a square root, which is the inverse of squaring.
  + The number or expression under the radical sign is called the *radicand.*
* For example, in the radical expression , the 4*x*2 is the radicand.
* Rationalize the denominator – to rewrite a fraction with a radical expression in the denominator as an equivalent expression with no radical expression in the denominator.
  + For example,  can be written as the equivalent fraction .
    - Here are the steps of rationalizing:  •  =  = 
* Square root – a number or expression which, when squared, gives the original number or expression.
* For example, the square root of 9 is 3 (in other words, = 3) because 32 = 9.
* Generally, the *radical sign*  indicates the positive or *principal square root*.