

### 8.3 Key Concepts 2 Negative Exponents Worked Example

**Example:** Evaluate  $2^{-3}$ .

**Solution:** A number to a negative exponent is the reciprocal of the base to the positive of the exponent.

$$\begin{aligned}2^{-3} &= \frac{1}{2^3} \\ &= \frac{1}{8}\end{aligned}$$

**Practice:**

1. Write  $\frac{1}{5^2}$  using a negative exponent.

2. Evaluate  $4^{-2}$ .

Answers: 1.  $5^{-2}$  2.  $\frac{1}{16}$