



Problem:

Solve the equation:

$$2 \log_6(\sqrt{x} + \sqrt[4]{x}) = \log_4 x.$$

Solution:

$$\text{Let's denote } \sqrt[4]{x} = t \Rightarrow x = t^4, t > 0. \Rightarrow 2 \log_6(t^2 + t) = \log_4 t^4,$$

$$\log_4 t^4 = 4 \log_{2^2} t = 4 \cdot \frac{1}{2} \log_2 t = 2 \log_2 t, \quad 2 \log_6(t^2 + t) = 2 \log_6(t(t+1)) = 2 \log_6 t + 2 \log_6(t+1),$$

$$2 \log_6 t + 2 \log_6(t+1) = 2 \log_2 t \Rightarrow \log_6 t + \log_6(t+1) = \log_2 t,$$

$$\log_6(t+1) = \log_2 t - \log_6 t, \text{ если } t = 1 \Rightarrow x = 1, \text{ but then } 2 \log_6 2 = \log_4 1 = 0, \text{ which is impossible} \Rightarrow$$

$$\Rightarrow x \neq 1, t \neq 1 \Rightarrow \text{we can write } \log_2 t = \frac{1}{\log_t 2} \Rightarrow \log_2 t - \log_6 t = \frac{1}{\log_t 2} - \frac{1}{\log_t(2 \cdot 3)} =$$

$$= \frac{1}{\log_t 2} - \frac{1}{\log_t 2 + \log_t 3} = \frac{\log_t 3}{\log_t 2 \cdot \log_t 6} \Rightarrow \log_6(t+1) = \frac{\log_t 3}{\log_t 2 \cdot \log_t 6} \Rightarrow \frac{\log_6(t+1)}{\log_6 t} = \frac{\log_t 3}{\log_t 2},$$

$$\text{from the properties of logarithm} \Rightarrow \log_t(t+1) = \log_2 3 (*).$$

$$\text{Let's consider the function } f(t) = \log_t(t+1) = \frac{\ln(t+1)}{\ln t}, f'(t) = \left( \frac{\ln(t+1)}{\ln t} \right)' = \frac{\frac{\ln t}{t+1} - \frac{\ln(t+1)}{t}}{\ln^2 t} =$$

$$= \frac{t \ln t - (t+1) \ln(t+1)}{t(t+1) \ln^2 t} = \frac{1}{t(t+1) \ln^2 t} \ln \frac{t^t}{(t+1)^{t+1}} < 0 \text{ when all } t > 0, \text{ since } t^t < (t+1)^{t+1} \Rightarrow$$

$$\Rightarrow f'(t) < 0, t \in (0; +\infty) \Rightarrow f(t) \text{ strictly decreasing} \Rightarrow \text{it takes each value at only one point, note that from } (*)$$

$$\text{when } t = 2 \Rightarrow f(t) = \log_2 3 \Rightarrow t = 2 \text{ the unique solution of } (*) \Rightarrow \sqrt[4]{x} = 2 \Rightarrow$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 2^4 = 16.$$

Answer:  $x = 16$ .