

# Math Diversion Problem 298

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Average talent, plus hard work and dedication,  
will always beat talent by itself.  
— Clinton Anderson

The YouTube video is found at:

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPpte7ivc2s>  
Title: Harvard University Admission Interview Tricks  
Presenter: Super Academy

## 1 The Problem

Given the relation

$$\log_{81} x + \log_9 x = 6, \quad (1)$$

find the real values of  $x$ .

## 2 The Preparation

Fundamental Rule of Logarithmic Conversion (base  $a$  to base 10):

$$\log_a x = \frac{\log x}{\log a}. \quad (2)$$

## 3 The Solution

Let's begin by using The Fundamental Rule of Logarithmic Conversion:

$$\frac{\log x}{\log 81} + \frac{\log x}{\log 9} = 6, \quad (3)$$

or

$$\frac{\log x}{4 \log 3} + \frac{\log x}{2 \log 3} = 6. \quad (4)$$

So,

$$(\log x) \left[ \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{2} \right] = 6 \log 3, \quad (5)$$

or

$$\log x = 8 \log 3 = \log 3^8. \quad (6)$$

Hence,

$$x = 3^8 = 6561. \quad (7)$$