

# Math Diversion Problem 409

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He that answereth a matter before he heareth it,  
it is folly and shame unto him.  
— Proverbs 18:13

The YouTube video is found at:

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQrM5usqXAQ>  
Title: A Nice Math Olympiad Exponential Equation  $X^x^3 = 36$   
Presenter: MrMath

## 1 The Problem

Given the relation

$$x^{x^3} = 36 = 6^2, \quad (1)$$

find the values of  $x$ .

## 2 The Solution

My preferred way to proceed in this type of problem is to make a change in variable:

$$x = 6^\alpha, \quad (2)$$

Substituting this into (1), we get

$$(6^\alpha)^{(6^\alpha)^3} = 6^2, \quad (3)$$

from which we get

$$\alpha 6^{3\alpha} = 2. \quad (4)$$

The obvious solution for  $\alpha$  is  $1/3$ , making the solution for  $x$ :

$$x = 6^{1/3}. \quad (5)$$