

$$\begin{aligned}
y &= \frac{r}{\sqrt{r^2 + 5}} \Rightarrow \\
y' &= \frac{\sqrt{r^2 + 5}(1) - r \cdot \frac{1}{2}(r^2 + 5)^{-1/2}(2r)}{(\sqrt{r^2 + 5})^2} = \frac{\sqrt{r^2 + 5} - \frac{r^2}{\sqrt{r^2 + 5}}}{(\sqrt{r^2 + 5})^2} \\
&= \frac{\frac{\sqrt{r^2 + 5}\sqrt{r^2 + 5} - r^2}{\sqrt{r^2 + 5}}}{(\sqrt{r^2 + 5})^2} = \frac{(r^2 + 5) - r^2}{(\sqrt{r^2 + 5})^3} = \frac{5}{(r^2 + 5)^{3/2}} \\
&\text{or } 5(r^2 + 5)^{-3/2}
\end{aligned}$$

Another solution: Write y as a product and make use of the Product Rule.

$$\begin{aligned}
y &= r(r^2 + 5)^{-1/2} \Rightarrow \\
y' &= r \cdot \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)(r^2 + 5)^{-3/2}(2r) + (r^2 + 5)^{-1/2} \cdot 1 = (r^2 + 5)^{-3/2}[-r^2 + (r^2 + 5)^1] = \\
&= (r^2 + 5)^{-3/2}(5) = 5(r^2 + 5)^{-3/2}.
\end{aligned}$$

The step that students usually have trouble with is factoring out $(r^2 + 5)^{-3/2}$. But this is no different than factoring out x^2 from $x^2 + x^5$; that is, we are just factoring out a factor with the *smallest* exponent that appears on it. In this case, $-\frac{3}{2}$ is smaller than $-\frac{1}{2}$.