Exercise 22

Find the derivative of the function.

$$y = \left(x + \frac{1}{x}\right)^5$$

Solution

Take the derivative using the chain rule.

$$y' = \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx} \left[(x + x^{-1})^5 \right]$$

$$= 5 (x + x^{-1})^4 \cdot \frac{d}{dx} (x + x^{-1})$$

$$= 5 (x + x^{-1})^4 \cdot (1 - x^{-2})$$

$$= 5 \left(x + \frac{1}{x} \right)^4 \left(1 - \frac{1}{x^2} \right)$$

$$= 5 \left(\frac{x^2 + 1}{x} \right)^4 \left(\frac{x^2 - 1}{x^2} \right)$$

$$= \frac{5}{x^6} (x^2 + 1)^4 (x^2 - 1)$$