

26.
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^2 - 1}{\sqrt{x+3} - 2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{(x-1)(x+1)(\sqrt{x+3} + 2)}{(x+3) - 4}$$
$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} (x+1)(\sqrt{x+3} + 2) = (2)(\sqrt{4} + 2) = 8$$