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$a^k \pmod{5}$:									
	$\leftarrow k \rightarrow$								
		1	2	3	4				
↑	1	1	1	1	1				
$\stackrel{\scriptscriptstyle{1}}{a}$	2	2	4	3	1				
<i>u</i>	3	3	4	2	1				
\	4	4	1	4	1				

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	$a^k \pmod{5}$: $\leftarrow k \rightarrow$							
		1	2	3	4			
↑	1	1	1	1	1			
$\frac{1}{a}$	2	2	4	3	1			
1	3	3	4	2	1			
4	4	4	1	4	1			

$a^k \pmod{7}$:									
$\leftarrow k \rightarrow$									
		1	2	3	4	5	6		
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
↑	2	2	4	1	2	4	1		
$\stackrel{\vdash}{a}$	3	3	2	6	4	5	1		
u	4	4	2	1	4	2	1		
\	5	5	4	6	2	3	1		
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↑	1	1	1	1	1			
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1	3	3	4	2	1			
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Question: What is the *least* (positive) power k with $a^k \equiv_p 1$?

									a'	^k (1	noc	17)	:		
	$a^k \pmod{5}$:						$\leftarrow k \rightarrow$								
			← <i>Ì</i>	k	>					1	2	3	4	5	6
		1	2	3	4				1	1	1	1	1	1	1
↑	1	1	1	1	1			↑	2	2	4	1	2	4	1
a	2	2	4	3	1			a	3	3	2	6	4	5	1
1	3	3	4	2	1			u	4	4	2	1	4	2	1
\	4	4	1	4	1			\	5	5	4	6	2	3	1
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			← <i>I</i>	$k \rightarrow$	•					1	2	3	4	5	6
		1	2	3	4				1	1	1	1	1	1	1
↑	1	1	1	1	1			↑	2	2	4	1	2	4	1
a	2	2	4	3	1			a	3	3	2	6	4	5	1
	3	3	4	2	1				4	4	2	1	4	2	1
V	4	4	1	4	1			\	5	5	4	6	2	3	1
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Facts:

(1) |a| = 1 if and only if a = 1.

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$$\psi_n(k) = \#\{1 \le a < n \mid |a| = k\}$$

Define: Fix n, and let a be an integer with $\gcd(a,n)=1$. The order of $a\pmod n$, written |a| or $|a|_n$, is the smallest positive integer k such that $a^k\equiv 1\pmod n$. (Book: $e_n(a)=|a|_n$)

Facts:

- (1) |a| = 1 if and only if a = 1.
- (2) $1 \le |a|_n \le \phi(n)$.
- (3) $|a|_n$ divides $\phi(n)$.
- (4) If $|a|_n=k$, then $1,a,a^2,\ldots,a^{k-1}$ are all pairwise distinct (mod n). In particular, for p prime, we have $|a|_p=p-1$ if and only if

$$\{1, 2, \dots, p-1\} \equiv_p \{1, a, a^2, \dots, a^{p-2}\}.$$

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You try: Compute $\psi_p(k)$ for $1 \le k \le p-1$ for p=3,5, and 7.