

The substitution $\frac{y^2}{2} = a(x-m)^2$ suggested in the exercise means $x = m \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2a}} y$, so we can (and should) choose a sign: let's choose \oplus , so

$$x := m + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2a}} y. \quad (\text{Choosing } \ominus \text{ would also do.})$$

This is now a bijection $\mathbb{R} \leftrightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $dx = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2a}} dy$,

$$\text{So } \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-a(x-m)^2} dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{y^2}{2}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2a}} dy \stackrel{\text{known}}{=} \sqrt{2\pi} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2a}} = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a}} \quad \square$$