



Note that $\frac{7\pi}{4}$
corresponds to 315°

By definition, $\cos\left(\frac{7\pi}{4}\right)$ is the projection of OP onto the positive x-axis. So its magnitude is $OM = OP \cos(45^\circ) = 1 \cdot \cos(45^\circ) = \cos(45^\circ)$, and its sign is positive. That is,

$$\cos\left(\frac{7\pi}{4}\right) = +\cos(45^\circ) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \quad (= OM)$$

Similarly, $\sin\left(\frac{7\pi}{4}\right)$ is the projection of OP onto the positive y-axis. So its magnitude is $ON = OP \cos(45^\circ) = 1 \cdot \cos(45^\circ) = \cos(45^\circ)$, but its sign is negative, because the positive y-axis goes up and ON goes down. That is,

$$\sin\left(\frac{7\pi}{4}\right) = -\cos(45^\circ) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \quad (= -ON)$$

And how do you know that $OM = ON = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$? Because

Pythagoras says

$$\begin{aligned} OM^2 + MP^2 &= OP^2 \\ \Rightarrow OM^2 + ON^2 &= 1^2 && (ON = MP) \\ \Rightarrow 2OM^2 &= 1 && (OM = ON) \\ \Rightarrow OM^2 &= \frac{1}{2} && \Rightarrow OM = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \quad (OM > 0) \\ &&& \Rightarrow ON = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \quad \text{as well} \end{aligned}$$