MATH · ORDER OF OPERATIONS

Order of operations poster

1 Grouping symbols

Work from the inside out.

( ) [ ] { }

2 Multiply and divide

From left to right, in the order they come.

× ÷

3 Add and subtract

From left to right, in the order they come.

+ −

Worked example

$20 - 2 \times (3 + 4)$

$= 20 - 2 \times 7$ — parentheses first

$= 20 - 14$ — then multiply

$= 6$ — then subtract

Some classes remember the order as PEMDAS. Watch out: multiplication and division are a team, and so are addition and subtraction. In each team, work from left to right.

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