

Order of Operations

Please (parenthesis)

Excuse (exponents or powers)

My (multiplication)

Dear (division)

Aunt (addition)

Sally (subtraction)

First, do all operations inside the parenthesis.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{example: } (4+2)-3 &= \\ 6-3 &= 3\end{aligned}$$

Second, do all operations with exponents (powers).

$$\text{example: } 4^2 = 4 \times 4 = 16$$

Next, do all multiplication and division problems from left to right.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{example: } 4 \times 2 \div 4 &= 2 \\ \text{or: } 4 \div 2 \times 4 &= 8\end{aligned}$$

Last, do all addition and subtraction problems from left to right.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{example: } 5+2-3 &= 4 \\ \text{or: } 3-2+5 &= 6\end{aligned}$$