

MATH SKILL INFORMATION PAGE

Pre-Algebra

For use with Section 1-2

Order of Operations

Memorize the “Order of Operations” gold box that is just below the middle of page 9. All expressions or equations are always completed using this order. Something that might help you remember the order of operations is the mnemonic PEMDAS.

Mnemonic: PEMDAS

P: Parentheses	Do what is inside parentheses (or other grouping symbols) before anything else.
E: Exponents	Do any exponents after parentheses and before anything else.
M: Multiplication	Multiplication and division have the same priority; you can do these operations in any order in an expression or an equation. Always do these before + or —.
D: Division	
A: Addition	Addition and subtraction have the same priority; you can do these operations in any order in an expression or an equation.
S: Subtraction	

Hint: Some people remember the order of operations with the first letters of each word in the phrase, “Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally.”

Example:

		$8 + 12 \div 4$		
	Incorrect			Correct
$8 + 12 \div 4$	Original problem		$8 + 12 \div 4$	Original problem
$20 \div 4$	Added (incorrect)		$8 + 3$	Divided
5	Divided		11	Added

Special Notes:

Parentheses means any type of grouping symbols. You might see brackets like these [] or { }. The fraction bar for fractions means that you must do operations on the top or the bottom first, and the whole fraction together before doing anything outside the fraction. See the paragraph in the middle of page 9.