

# Order of Operations & Simplifying Expressions

**Order of Operations**

The order in which we operate and combine numbers  
 P - Parentheses first ( ) [ ] tell us to Restart PEMDAS inside  
 E - Exponents second, if no parenthesis then apply exponent  
 MD - Do any Multiplication or Division going Left to Right \*  
 AS - Do any Addition or Subtraction last, going Left to Right

PEMDAS Step by Step

Ex.  $1 + 12 \div -3(-14 + 4^2) - 2^3 + 15$   
 $1 + 12 \div -3(-14 + 16) - 2^3 + 15$   
 $1 + 12 \div -3(2) - 2^3 + 15$   
 $1 + 12 \div -3(2) - 8 + 15$   
 $1 + -4(2) - 8 + 15$   
 $1 + -8 - 8 + 15$   
 0

PEMDAS Multiple Steps per Line

Ex.  $1 + 12 \div -3(-14 + 4^2) - 2^3 + 15$   
 $1 + -4(-14 + 16) - 8 + 15$   
 $1 + -4(2) - 8 + 15$   
 $1 + -8 - 8 + 15$   
 0

**Term**

A group of numbers and variables that are multiplied together.  
 Terms are separated by a plus or minus sign in an expression  
 Ex.  $3x + 4 - 2xy$  3 Terms:  $3x, 4, -2xy$  *The sign goes with the term that follows it*

**Coefficient**

The number part of a term that contains a variable part  
 Ex.  $3x + 4 - 2xy$  The coefficients are: 3 and -2

**Constant**

A term without a variable (only a number) the constant is: 4

**Like Terms**

Terms with the same variable raised to the same power part

Like Terms	Unlike Terms
$3x$ and $x$	$3x$ and $yx$
$-5$ and $8$	$8$ and $5x$ ← one has a variable one doesn't
$7x^2$ and $-x^2$	$7x^2$ and $2x^3$ ← not the same power
$3xy$ and $2xy$	$2xy$ and $21xzy$

**Combining Like Terms**

You can only add or subtract things with the same name

$4 \text{ cats} + 3 \text{ cats} = 7 \text{ cats}$        $20 \text{ } \odot - 7 \text{ } \odot = 13 \text{ } \odot$   
 $7 \text{ fourths} + 9 \text{ fourths} = 16 \text{ fourths}$        $4x + 8x = 12x$   
 $\frac{7}{4} + \frac{9}{4} = \frac{16}{4}$        $11a^2 - 1a^2 = 10a^2$   
 $-13xy + 2xy = -11xy$

# Order of Operations & Simplifying Expressions

## Distributing

What it looks like: there are terms inside the parentheses that are added or subtracted, with a term multiplied to the outside of the parentheses

Ex.  $2(5x-4)$  yes

Ex.  $2(5x)$  no addition

Ex.  $2+(5x-4)$  not multiplied outside

What it means: there are multiples of everything inside the parentheses

Ex.  $2(5x-4)$  two groups of  $5x-4$   
 $5x-4 + 5x-4$

Ex.  $-3(7x+6)$  subtracting  $7x+6$  three times  
 $-(7x+6) - (7x+6) - (7x+6)$

★ How to simplify it: the term outside is multiplied to EACH term inside

Ex.  $4(10+3)$   
 $4 \cdot 10 + 4 \cdot 3$   
 $40 + 12$   
 $52$

Ex.  $7(20-4)$   
 $7 \cdot 20 + 7 \cdot -4$   
 $140 + -28$   
 $112$

Ex.  $-5(11-8)$   
 $-5 \cdot 11 + -5 \cdot -8$   
 $-55 + 40$   
 $-15$

Ex.  $4(10x+3)$   
 $4 \cdot 10x + 4 \cdot 3$   
 $40x + 12$

Ex.  $7(20x-4)$   
 $7 \cdot 20x + 7 \cdot -4$   
 $(ok) 140x + -28$   
 $best 140x - 28$

Ex.  $-5(11-8x)$   
 $-5 \cdot 11 + -5 \cdot -8x$   
 $-55 + 40x (ok)$   
 $40x - 55 best$

## Simplifying Expressions

To put an expression (no equal sign) into simplest form, perform all possible operations, including Distributing and Combining like terms.

Ex.  $2(8x+4) - 7x$   
 $2 \cdot 8x + 2 \cdot 4 - 7x$   
 $16x + 8 - 7x$   
 $9x + 8$

Ex.  $10x - 3(15 - 4x) + 40$   
 $10x + -3 \cdot 15 + 3 \cdot -4x + 40$   
 $10x - 45 + 12x + 40$   
 $22x - 5$

Ex.  $7x - 5(11 - 8) - 1$   
 $7x + 55 + 40x - 1$   
 $47x - 56$

Ex.  $2a + 5m - (3 + 2m) - 9a$   
 $2a + 5m - 3 - 2m - 9a$   
 $-7a + 3m - 3$

Ex.  $2(3x-3) - (8x-2)$   
 $6x + -6 - 8x + 2$   
 $-2x - 4$