

Order of Operations

Example #1

As you scan from *left* to *right*, you encounter *addition* and *multiplication*.

PE M DAS

Do the *multiplication* first.

PE M D AS $4 + 48$

Then, you do *addition*.

52

is the answer.

Example #2

As you scan from *left* to *right*, you encounter a set of *parentheses*.

P E M D A S

You must do what is inside the *parentheses* first.

PE M DAS

Now we do *multiplication*.

72

is the answer.

Example #3

As you scan from *left* to *right*, you encounter *division* followed by *multiplication*.

PE M D AS

You must do the *division* first.

PE M DAS

Then, you do *multiplication*.

27

is the answer.

Example #4

$4 \cdot 12 \div 3$

As you scan from *left* to *right*, you encounter *multiplication* followed by *division*.

PE M DAS

This time, you do the *multiplication* first.

PE M D AS $48 \div 3$

Now, you do *division*.