Order of operations and equivalent equations

Learn and practise | Free preview

A sample from this topic. The complete topic collection contains three different resources and worked solutions.

Show your thinking using words, working or a labelled drawing. Use the explanations and example first.

What you will practise

• Order of operations and equivalent equations

• Explain and check an answer with an appropriate representation.

Useful starting skills: Use objects, drawings or a number line to explain a simple idea.

Brackets group a calculation that must be done first. Multiplication and division come before addition and subtraction; operations sharing the same priority are processed from left to right.

An unknown represents a value that makes an equation true. Simplify the known parts, use inverse operations, then substitute the answer to check both sides are equal.

Worked example

Calculate 30-12÷3.

Division has priority:12÷3=4.

Subtract:30-4=26.

Answer: 26

Try it yourself

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Calculate $6+4\times3$.

2. Calculate $(6+4)\times3$.

Answers and explanations

Check the method as well as the final answer. An alternative correct method is also valid.

1. 18

Multiply 4×3 first, then add 6.

2. 30

The brackets make 6+4 the first calculation.

Curriculum reference: VC2M6A02

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