## The Order of Operations Agreement

If grouping symbols are present, evaluate by first performing the operations within the grouping symbols, innermost grouping symbols first, while observing the order given in steps 1 to 3.

***Step 1*** Evaluate exponential expressions.
***Step 2*** Do multiplication and division as they occur from left to right.
***Step 3*** Do addition and subtraction as they occur from left to right.

---

**EXAMPLE**

$5 - 7(23 - 5^2) - 16 \div 2^3$

$= 5 - 7(23 - 25) - 16 \div 2^3$     • Begin inside the parentheses and evaluate $5^2 = 25$.

$= 5 - 7(-2) - 16 \div 2^3$     • Continue inside the parentheses and evaluate $23 - 25 = -2$.

$= 5 - 7(-2) - 16 \div 8$     • Evaluate $2^3 = 8$.

$= 5 - (-14) - 2$     • Perform multiplication and division from left to right.

$= 17$     • Perform addition and subtraction from left to right.