Operator Precedence

Operator precedence determines the order in which the operators in an expression are evaluated.

For eg -

int
$$x = 3 * 4 - 1$$
;

In the above example, the value of x will be 11, not 9. This happens because the precedence of * operator is higher than - operator. That is why the expression is evaluated as (3 * 4) - 1 and not 3 * (4 - 1).

Operator Precedence Table

Operators	Precedence		
postfix increment and decrement	++		
prefix increment and decrement, and unary	++ + - ~ !		
multiplicative	* / %		
additive	+		
shift	<< >> >>>		
relational	< > <= >= instanceof		
equality	== !=		
bitwise AND	&		
bitwise exclusive OR	^		
bitwise inclusive OR			
logical AND	&&		
logical OR			
ternary	?:		
assignment	= \		

Associativity of Operators



If an expression has two operators with similar precedence, the expression is evaluated according to its **associativity** (either left to right, or right to left).

Operators	Precedence	Associativity
postfix increment and decrement	++	left to right
prefix increment and decrement, and unary	++ + - ~ !	right to left
multiplicative	* / %	left to right
additive	+ -	left to right
shift	<< >>>>	left to right
relational	< > <= >= instanceof	left to right
equality	== !=	left to right
bitwise AND	&	left to right
bitwise exclusive OR	^	left to right
bitwise inclusive OR		left to right
logical AND	&&	left to right
logical OR		left to right
ternary	?:	right to left
assignment	= += -= *= /= %= &= ^= = <<= >>= >>>=	right to left

Note - These notes are just for a quick glance. We don't have to memorize them all at once. Most of these rules are very logical and we have been following them in a lot of instances already.