What is BODMAS?

BODMAS is an acronym to help children remember the order of mathematical operations – the correct order in which to solve maths problems.

Bodmas stands for B-Brackets, O-Orders (powers/indices or roots), D-Division, M-Multiplication, A-Addition, S-Subtraction.

### What is the BODMAS rule

The Bodmas rule states that division and multiplication must be done before addition and subtraction in any mathematical example. And if there are brackets (or parentheses) and orders (of powers or roots), these must be done first of all. For example in the question 47 + 54 ÷ 9 the answer is 53 not 11.2r.  
  
The Bodmas rule follows the order of the BODMAS acronym ie  B – Brackets, O – Order of powers or roots, D – Division, M – Multiplication A – Addition, and S – Subtraction. Mathematical expressions with multiple operators need to be solved from left to right in the order of BODMAS. Division and Multiplication are considered as interchangeable and depend on which comes first in the expression, as are Addition and Subtraction.

Some children use the Bodmas rule as a mnemonic (like Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain is used to remember the colours Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet).

### **What is BIDMAS?**

The [BIDMAS](https://thirdspacelearning.com/blog/bidmas/) rule is an alternative acronym to BODMAS to help remember the [order of operations](https://thirdspacelearning.com/blog/order-of-operations/). The only difference is that there’s an I instead of O. The meaning is the same. Bidmas is the term more commonly used in primary schools today.

Bidmas stands for Brackets, Indices, Division/Multiplication, Addition/Subtraction.

Mathematical Operations

“Mathematical operations” are what you do to the numbers given. The four main operations are:

* addition (+);
* subtraction (-);
* multiplication (x);
* and division (÷).

### **BIDMAS meaning**

**B**rackets  
**I**ndices  
**D**ivision/**M**ultiplication  
**A**ddition/**S**ubtraction

### BODMAS (BIDMAS) Questions and Answers

**Question 1: 6 + 2 x 7**

The correct answer is 20.

The multiplication must be completed first (2 x 7 = 14) and then the addition (6 + 14 = 20).

This may be commonly miscalculated as 56 by working from left to right (6 + 2 = 8, 8 x 7 = 56).