

Algebra is arithmetic  
we do with numbers  
in general.

Technology Integrated Mathematics

Class Notes

Algebra: Algebraic Language and Formulas (Section 7.1)

We see patterns in arithmetic. Algebra lets us play around with those patterns in general. Consider this pattern.

$$2^3, 3^3, 4^3, 5^3, 6^3, 7^3, 8^3, 9^3, \dots$$

It could be useful to talk about raising *any* number to the power of 3. We would use  $x$  to represent the number and write  $x^3$ . We call this a **variable** because its value *varies*.

So, just as  $4^3 = 4 \times 4 \times 4$ , our new  $x^3 = x \times x \times x$ . But, *EEK*, those multiplication signs are confusing now that we are using  $x$  to stand in for a number. We will use different notation.

To imply multiplication, we might write  $x \cdot x \cdot x$  or  $(x)(x)(x)$  or even just  $xxx$ .

To imply division, we will usually write it as a fraction, such as  $\frac{4x}{3}$  instead of  $4x \div 3$ .

We will follow the same rules for order of operations as before. So, ...

(Spoken in an authoritative old man, old-timey voice):

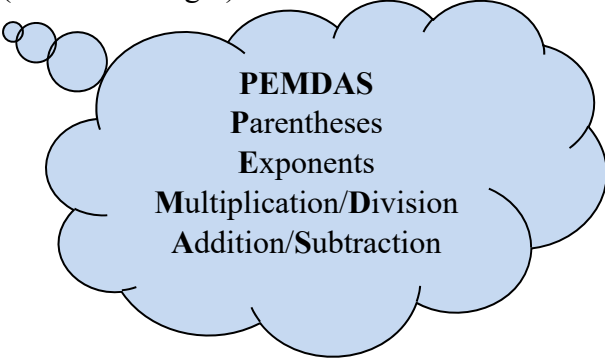
Let it be known henceforth that whensoever he encountereth numerical expressions such as  $2 \times 3^3$  and  $5 \times 6^2 - 3^4$ , a plebeian shall forever after apply these rules!

**First**, simplify all within thine parentheses.

**Second**, apply any exponents thou encountereth.

**Third**, performeth any multiplications or divisions (from left to right).

**Fourth**, performeth subtractions or additions (from left to right).

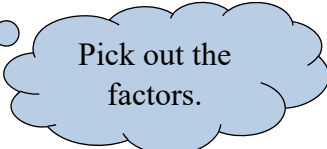


**PEMDAS**  
Parentheses  
Exponents  
Multiplication/Division  
Addition/Subtraction

**Definition: Expression:** An **algebraic expression** is a general name for any collection of numbers and variables connected by arithmetic signs and does *not* have an equal sign (that would make it an **equation**).

**Definition: Factor:** things we are multiplying

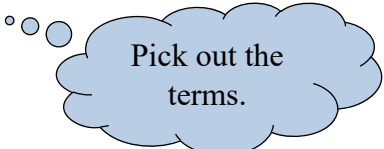
Examples:  $4 \cdot x$        $2(x + 3)$        $(x + 2)(x - 1)$



Pick out the factors.

**Definition: Terms:** things we are adding or subtracting

Examples:  $4 + x$        $2x + 3$        $40 - 3x$



Pick out the terms.

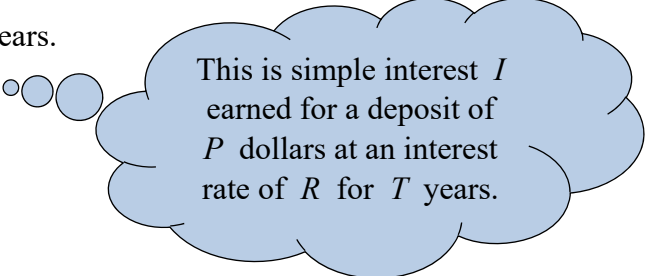
### Formulas:

We will see many formulas that tell us how variables are related.

We might say that the area of a rectangle is found by multiplying its width by its length. In formula form, we write  $A = l \cdot w$  where  $A$  stands in for the area,  $l$  is the length, and  $w$  is the width.

expl 1: Evaluate the following formula. Round to the nearest whole number.

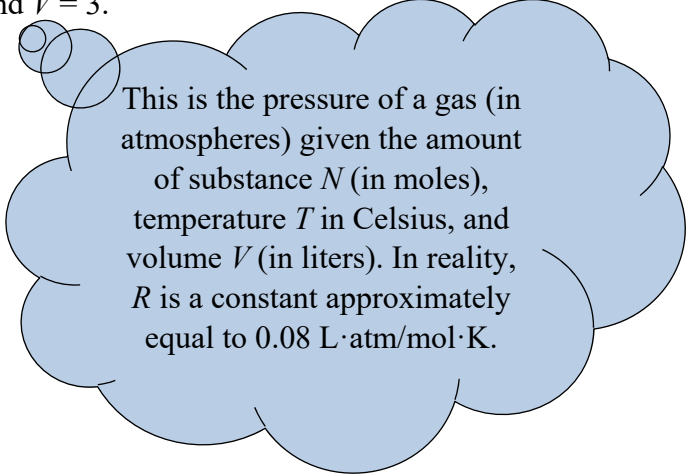
$I = PRT$  for  $P = \$200$ ,  $R = 0.03$ , and  $T = 5$  years.



This is simple interest  $I$  earned for a deposit of  $P$  dollars at an interest rate of  $R$  for  $T$  years.

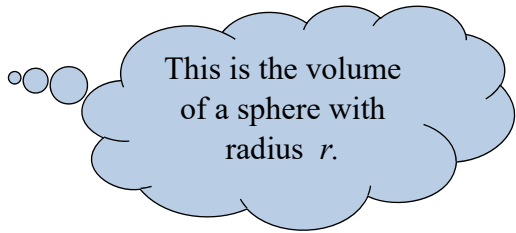
expl 2: Evaluate the following formulas. Round to the nearest whole number.

a.)  $P = \frac{NR(T + 273)}{V}$  for  $N = 5$ ,  $R = 0.08$ ,  $T = 27$ , and  $V = 3$ .



This is the pressure of a gas (in atmospheres) given the amount of substance  $N$  (in moles), temperature  $T$  in Celsius, and volume  $V$  (in liters). In reality,  $R$  is a constant approximately equal to  $0.08 \text{ L} \cdot \text{atm}/\text{mol} \cdot \text{K}$ .

b.)  $V = \frac{4\pi r^3}{3}$  for  $r = 15$ . Use 3.14 for  $\pi$ .



This is the volume of a sphere with radius  $r$ .

**Worksheet: Beginning Algebra:**

This worksheet will reinforce the definitions of factors versus terms. We will also practice using formulas.

### Fahrenheit-Celsius Conversion:

When we did these conversions before, we used a thermometer to equate Celsius readings to Fahrenheit and vice versa. Here, we are given two formulas.

$$^{\circ}\text{C} = \frac{5(^{\circ}\text{F} - 32)}{9}$$

If you are given  
Fahrenheit and want  
Celsius, use this one.

$$^{\circ}\text{F} = \frac{9^{\circ}\text{C}}{5} + 32$$

If you are given Celsius  
and want Fahrenheit,  
use this one.

expl 3: Convert 100 °C to Fahrenheit.

expl 4: One way that welded parts shrink in groove joints is called **transverse shrinkage**. The amount of this kind of shrinkage  $S_T$  in millimeters is given by  $S_T = \frac{A}{5T} + 0.05d$ . Here,  $A$  is the cross-sectional area of the weld in square millimeters,  $T$  is the thickness of the plates in millimeters, and  $d$  is the root opening in millimeters. Suppose a plate is 16 mm thick, the cross-sectional area of the weld is 102 sq mm, and the root opening is 3.0 mm. Calculate the amount of transverse shrinkage. Round to the nearest tenth.