

Inserting Parentheses for Order of Operations

MathPrint view

Objectives:

- Identify calculations where additional parentheses are needed
- Insert parentheses same as classic view to achieve correct calculations

Identify calculations where additional parentheses are needed

- Parentheses (), Brackets [], and Braces { } are grouping symbols in math problems.

CAUTION: The GC keys for brackets [] or braces { } are matrices and lists, NOT grouping symbols!



If the math has () or [] or { }, always use () and [], repeating and nesting if necessary.

- Fraction bar may create a group in the numerator and/or a group in the denominator, but it's also an operator meaning "divide". Additional parentheses are needed when using the classic view.

Example 1: $\frac{2-3}{7-4}$ means $(2-3) \div (7-4)$. Add two sets of parentheses to subtract before divide.

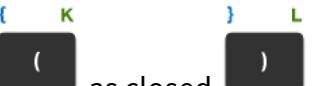
Example 2: $2-3 \div 7-4$ means $2-\frac{3}{7}-4$.

The order of operations says divide before subtract.

Insert parentheses in classic view to achieve correct calculations



CAUTION: Imbalanced parentheses like (()) can cause some strange errors!



Check for the same number of open (as closed) parentheses.

Example 3: Evaluate $\{3-[4+7(1-5)]\}$

Press (3 - (4 + 7 (1 - 5)))

entry solve

enter

NORMAL FLOAT AUTO REAL RADIAN MP
(3-(4+7(1-5)))
..... 27

to see this screen:

Example 4: $\frac{25-19}{14-17}$ becomes $\frac{(25-19)}{(14-17)} = (25-19) \div (14-17)$

Press (2 5 - 1 9) ÷ (1 4 - 1 7)

) entry solve
enter

NORMAL FLOAT AUTO REAL RADIAN MP
(25-19)/(14-17)
..... -2

See this screen:

Note: MathPrint calculators can also input fraction formatting! There's another worksheet for that.

Try it!

Calculate.

1) $\left\{ 3 - \left[4 + 7(1-5)^2 \right] \right\}$

6) $(-2)^2 + \frac{1}{-2-3}$

2) $\frac{9-12}{4-6}$

7) $-2^2 + \frac{1}{-2-3}$

3) $\frac{3^2 - 2^2}{3 \cdot 2 + 2^2}$

8) $\frac{(-2)^2 + 1}{-2} - 3$

4) $\frac{(-2)^2 + 1}{-2 - 3}$

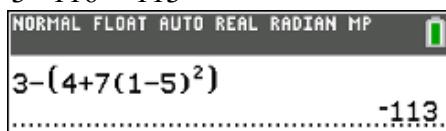
9) $\frac{-2^2 + 1}{-2} - 3$

5) $\frac{-2^2 + 1}{-2 - 3}$

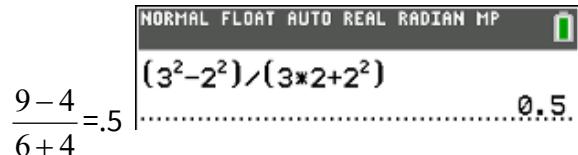
10) $\frac{(-2+1)^2}{-2-3}$

Answers:

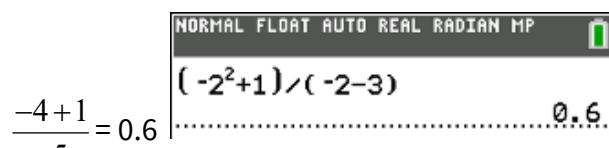
1) $3 - (4 + 7(-4)^2) = 3 - (4 + 7 \cdot 16) = 3 - (4 + 112) = 3 - 116 = -113$



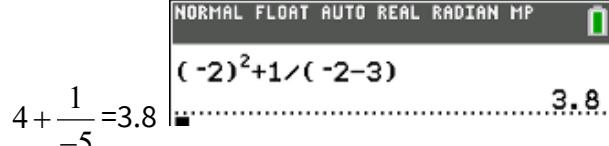
2) $\frac{-3}{-2} = 1.5$



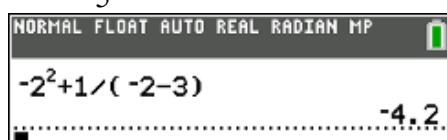
4) $\frac{4+1}{-5} = -1$



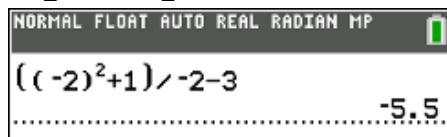
5) $\frac{-4+1}{-5} = 0.6$



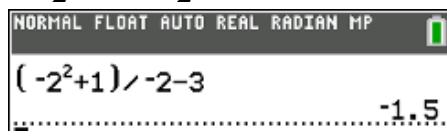
7) $-4 + \frac{1}{-5} = -4.2$



8) $\frac{4+1}{-2} - 3 = \frac{5}{-2} - 3 = -5.5$



9) $\frac{-4+1}{-2} - 3 = \frac{-3}{-2} - 3 = -1.5$



10) $\frac{(-1)^2}{-5} = \frac{1}{-5} = -0.2$

