**EVALUATE ALGEBRAIC EXPRESSIONS** means to find its numerical value.

**ORDER OF OPERATIONS** is a method used to evaluate an expression involving more than one operation. In algebraic expressions, it can only by evaluated if the values of the variables are known.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Step 1** | Replace the variables with their numerical values. |
| **Step 2** | Evaluate expressions inside grouping symbols. |
| **Step 3** | Evaluate all powers. |
| **Step 4** | Do all multiplications and/or divisions from left to right. |
| **Step 5** | Do all additions and/or subtractions from left to right. |

**Example**: Evaluate $z^{4}-3$, if $z=2$.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| $$z^{4}-3$$ | $$=$$ | $$2^{4}-3$$ | Replace $z$with$ 2$. |
|  | $$=$$ | $$16-3$$ | Evaluate $2^{4}$ |
| $$z^{4}-3$$ | $$=$$ | $$13$$ | Subtract $16$ and $3$ |

**Sample Problem 1**: Evaluate each expression if $x=2$, $y=4$, and $z=6$.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | $$x^{3}+10y$$ |
|  | $$\frac{22}{x}+16$$ |
|  | $$\frac{z}{3}+y$$ |
|  | $$y+z+x$$ |
|  | $$x+5$$ |

**GROUPING SYMBOLS**, such as parentheses $\left(\right)$ or brackets$ \left[\right]$, indicate the order in which the operations should be performed first.

**Example**: Evaluate $a^{2}-\left(b^{3}-4c\right)$, if $a=8$, $b=5$, and $c=3$.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| $$a^{2}-\left(b^{3}-4c\right)$$ | $$=$$ | $$8^{2}-\left(5^{3}-4⋅3\right)$$ | Replace $a$with$ 8$, $b$with$5$, and $c$with$3$. |
|  | $$=$$ | $$64-\left(125-4⋅3\right)$$ | Evaluate $8^{2}$ **and** $5^{3}$ |
|  | $$=$$ | $$64-\left(125-12\right)$$ | Multiply $4$and$3$ |
|  | $$=$$ | $$64-113$$ | Subtract $125$ and $12$ |
| $$a^{2}-\left(b^{3}-4c\right)$$ | $$=$$ | $$-49$$ | Subtract $64$ from $113$ |

**Sample Problem 2**: Evaluate each expression if $r=4$, $s=6$, $t=3$, and $u=12$.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | $$2r+st^{2}-u$$ |
|  | $$tu-rs$$ |
|  | $$st-4r$$ |
|  | $$r^{3}+u+s^{t}$$ |
|  | $$tu-3r$$ |

**FRACTION BAR** is another type of grouping symbol. It indicates that the numerator and denominator should each be treated as a single value.

**Example**: Evaluate$ \frac{x^{2}-1}{4y^{2}}$, if $x=9$, and $y=2$.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| $$\frac{x^{2}-1}{4y^{2}}$$ | $$=$$ | $$\frac{9^{2}-1}{4⋅2^{2}}$$ | Replace $x$with$ 9$, and $y$with$2$. |
|  | $$=$$ | $$\frac{81-1}{4⋅4}$$ | Evaluate $9^{2}$ **and** $2^{2}$ |
|  | $$=$$ | $$\frac{81-1}{16}$$ | Multiply $4$and$81$ |
|  | $$=$$ | $$\frac{80}{16}$$ | Subtract $81$ from $1$ |
| $$\frac{x^{2}-1}{4y^{2}}$$ | $$=$$ | $$5$$ | Divide $80$ to $16$ |

**Sample Problem 3**: Evaluate each expression if $r=4$, $s=6$, $t=3$, and $u=12$.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | $$\frac{2r\left(s-t\right)}{tu-s}$$ |
|  | $$\frac{u}{s}+\frac{3s}{t^{2}}$$ |
|  | $$\frac{rs^{2}-3u}{2}$$ |
|  | $$\frac{3r+s}{t^{2}-s}$$ |
|  | $$\frac{2u+s^{2}}{r+2t}$$ |