



Writing and interpreting expressions

GRADE 5 MATH

Name _____

Date _____

Write expressions, do not work them out — unless an item asks for a value. One skill: **writing and interpreting expressions**.

WORKED EXAMPLE

An expression **records** a calculation. To write one, ask what happens **last** and put everything that must be finished first in **brackets**: “add 8 and 7, then multiply by 2” is $(8 + 7) \times 2$, not $8 + 7 \times 2$. Two are easy to write the wrong way round — “subtract 5 **from** 12” is $12 - 5$, and “divide 20 **by** 4” is $20 \div 4$, not $4 \div 20$. And you can **interpret** an expression without evaluating it: $3 \times (18932 + 921)$ is three times as large as $18932 + 921$, whatever those numbers happen to be.

1. Write an expression for: add 8 and 7, then multiply the result by 2. Do not work it out.

APPLICATION

Show your thinking

Answer

2. Write an expression for: 5 less than the product of 3 and 8. Then write one for: subtract 5 from 12.

APPLICATION

Show your thinking

Answer

3. Without calculating either one, say how $3 \times (18932 + 921)$ compares with $18932 + 921$, and explain how you know.

REASONING

Show your thinking

Answer

4. Tam writes $8 + 7 \times 2$ for “add 8 and 7, then multiply by 2”. Every symbol is right and the expression is wrong. Explain what it means instead, and how to find where the brackets go.

REASONING

Show your thinking

Answer