

Exercise 4: Basic Skills - Rules of Operator Precedence

After completing this exercise you will:

- understand the rules of operator precedence;
- know how to manipulate formulas to achieve the correct outcome.

1. Insert a new worksheet and rename it Ex-4.
2. Insert the following formulas into your worksheet. (As you do so remember that Excel uses the asterisk (*) as the multiplication symbol):

	A	B
1		
2		= 5 x 4 + 3
3		= 5 x (4 +3)
4		= 5 x 2 + 3 + 5 x 4
5		= (5 x 2) + (3 + 5) x 4
6		= ((5 x 2) + (3+5)) x 4
7		= 5 x (2 + 3) + (5 x 4)
8		= 5 x ((2 + 3) + (5 x 4))

3. Copy each formula into an adjacent cell. Edit the formulas you have copied by double clicking on the relevant cells and insert an apostrophe (') before the equals sign in each formula (the formulas as well as their answers should now be visible in adjacent cells);
4. Consider how adding parenthesis has changed the outcome of the calculations; Save your work.



Excel will always carry out the calculation inside a bracket first, followed by multiplication or division and finally addition or subtraction.

This means that the example in B5 = 10 + (8 x 4) whilst B6 = (10+8) x 4.