Order of Operations Warm-Up Cards

No viral arguments here: every problem has exactly one right answer. Show your steps!

1

$6 + 4 \times 2 = ?$

Answer: _____

2

$12 \div 3 \times 2 = ?$

Answer: _____

3

$20 - 5 + 3 = ?$

Answer: _____

4

$(8 + 4) \div 3 = ?$

Answer: _____

5

$3 + 6 \times (5 - 2) = ?$

Answer: _____

6

$2^3 + 4 \times 2 = ?$

Answer: _____

7

$18 \div (2 + 4) \times 3 = ?$

Answer: _____

8

$50 - 4 \times 3^2 = ?$

Answer: _____

9

$7 + 3 \times 4 - 2 = ?$

Answer: _____

10

$(6 + 2)^2 \div 4 = ?$

Answer: _____

11

$40 \div 5 \div 2 = ?$

Answer: _____

12

$9 - 3 \div 3 + 1 = ?$

Answer: _____

Remember the order: P, E, MD, AS

M and D are a team: do them together, left to right. A and S are a team too.

Answer Key

with the most common wrong answer for each card

#	Problem	Answer	Steps	Common wrong answer
1	$6 + 4 \times 2$	14	6 + 8 = 14	20 (adding first)
2	$12 \div 3 \times 2$	8	4 × 2 = 8	2 (multiplying before dividing)
3	$20 - 5 + 3$	18	15 + 3 = 18	12 (adding before subtracting)
4	$(8 + 4) \div 3$	4	12 ÷ 3 = 4	–
5	$3 + 6 \times (5 - 2)$	21	3 + 6 × 3 = 3 + 18 = 21	27 (working left to right)
6	$2^3 + 4 \times 2$	16	8 + 8 = 16	14 (reading 2^3 as 6)
7	$18 \div (2 + 4) \times 3$	9	18 ÷ 6 × 3 = 3 × 3 = 9	1 (multiplying before dividing)
8	$50 - 4 \times 3^2$	14	50 - 4 × 9 = 50 - 36 = 14	414 (subtracting first)
9	$7 + 3 \times 4 - 2$	17	7 + 12 - 2 = 17	38 (working left to right)
10	$(6 + 2)^2 \div 4$	16	$8^2 \div 4 = 64 \div 4 = 16$	4 (doubling instead of squaring)
11	$40 \div 5 \div 2$	4	8 ÷ 2 = 4	16 (dividing right to left)
12	$9 - 3 \div 3 + 1$	9	9 - 1 + 1 = 9	3 (subtracting first)