Applications of BODMAS in business are many and varied, from discounts, GST, statistical confidence intervals to investment decisions. It is the maths equivalent of punctuation in English, a set of rules of order, to make understanding easier.

Getting your head around BODMAS means you will give (and get!) the correct discounts, calculate GST owed to the ATO (or owed to you), interpret statistics correctly and make better investment decisions. *All in all, some pretty good reasons to get your head around BODMAS!*

**BODMAS** is the rule for the **order** of operations when evaluating an expression, whether that expression be numbers or pronumerals.

It is an acronym for Brackets, Division and Multiplication, Addition and Subtraction.

The BODMAS rule states that the order in which an expression is analysed is

- **FIRST** is **BRACKETS**
- **NEXT** is **DIVISION** and **MULTIPLICATION**. If there are no brackets, *and* you have BOTH division and multiplication in the expression, the rule is ‘work from the left’.
- **NEXT** is **ADDITION** and **SUBTRACTION**. If there are no brackets, and you have BOTH addition and subtraction in the expression, the rule is ‘work from the left’.

An example. Evaluate 8+5*4 using BODMAS

- First, there are no Brackets.
- Next, you do the Multiplication 5*4 = 20
- Next you do the Addition 8+20 = 28.
- The answer is NOT 52. Only if the expression were written (8+5)*4 would the answer be 52.

These further exercises and reading are highly-recommended:

[https://www.uea.ac.uk/polopoly_fs/1.141672!BODMAS.pdf](https://www.uea.ac.uk/polopoly_fs/1.141672!BODMAS.pdf)

Teach me Maths: BODMAS on [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Qk4-iAOwi8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Qk4-iAOwi8)


Be aware that the USA and some other countries use the term **PEMDAS**, which is an acronym for

- Parentheses (another name for brackets)
- Exponentials (powers, indices)
- Multiplication and Division
- Addition and Subtraction

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