

Mathematical topic: Operations, Order of operations.

Vocabulary: "Sum", "Product", "difference", "4 more", "4 times more", squared, square root...

**Exercise 1.** A mysterious statement from the 18<sup>th</sup> century ...

**Part 1**: Each problem below can be simplified so that the answer is an *integer*<sup>1</sup>. Write your answer in the blanks that follow the problems. Next, find each answer in the answer bank, then write the letter of the answer in the blank before each problem. When you are finished with the problems, write the letters in order, starting with the first problem to complete the statement at the end of the activity.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ The *opposite* of half of forty = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ The *difference* between  $-6$  and  $-1$  = \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ 17 decreased by  $-19$  = \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ The sum of  $19$  and  $-1$  = \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_  $-2 \times (5-8) + 18 \div 3$  = \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_ The *opposite* of 2 times 6 = \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_  $-8 + 3x - 2x + 5^2 - x$  = \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_ 12 less than the product of 14 and  $-2$  = \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_  $1 + 7 \times (1-4)$  = \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) \_\_\_\_\_ If  $x=6$ , then  $3x^2 + 4$  = \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) \_\_\_\_\_  $12 \div (4+2) - 7$  = \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) \_\_\_\_\_ If  $x=-1$ , then  $(-5x)^2$  = \_\_\_\_\_
- 13) \_\_\_\_\_ the difference between 6 squared and 5 squared = \_\_\_\_\_
- 14) \_\_\_\_\_  $-6^2 - 2^2$  = \_\_\_\_\_
- 15) \_\_\_\_\_ The sum of  $-19$  and  $-1$  = \_\_\_\_\_
- 16) \_\_\_\_\_ If  $a=5$ , then  $a^2 - 7$  = \_\_\_\_\_
- 17) \_\_\_\_\_ Twice the sum of  $-3$  and  $9$  = \_\_\_\_\_
- 18) \_\_\_\_\_ 4 more than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of 24 = \_\_\_\_\_
- 19) \_\_\_\_\_ 2 times the square root of 81 = \_\_\_\_\_
- 20) \_\_\_\_\_ If  $x=-1$ , then  $-5x^2$  = \_\_\_\_\_
- 21) \_\_\_\_\_ The *difference* between 3 *cubed* and 2 *raised to the fourth power* = \_\_\_\_\_
- 22) \_\_\_\_\_ The *difference* between  $19$  and  $-1$  = \_\_\_\_\_
- 23) \_\_\_\_\_ If  $a=3$  and  $b=-4$ , then  $\frac{4a^2}{b}$  = \_\_\_\_\_
- 24) \_\_\_\_\_ 3 more than half of  $-30$  = \_\_\_\_\_
- 25) \_\_\_\_\_  $-(6^2 + 2^2)$  = \_\_\_\_\_
- 26) \_\_\_\_\_  $-12 + 2 \times 3$  = \_\_\_\_\_

Useful words

- 0, 1, 2, 3, 4... are **whole** [hoʊl] numbers whereas  $-3$ ;  $1.6$  and  $2/3$  are not.
- The **whole** numbers together with their **opposites** form the set of **integers** [ˈɪntɪdʒəz]. For example,  $-3$  and  $+17$  are integers whereas  $1.6$ ,  $-\sqrt{7}$  and  $4/3$  are not.
- The number  $-2$  (« **negative** two») is the **opposite** of 2.
- «  $5-2=3$  » reads « Five **minus** two is equal to three».  $5-2$  is the **difference** between 5 and 2.
- $\sqrt{7}$  is the **square root** of 7.
- $5^2$  (read « five **squared**») means  $5 \times 5$
- $8^3$  (read « eight **cubed**») means  $8 \times 8 \times 8$ .
- $7^n$  (read « seven **raised to the n<sup>th</sup> power**») is the number obtained by multiplying 7 by itself  $n$  times.
- (...) are **parenthesis** [pə'renθəsis], [...] are **brackets** and {...} are **braces**.

<sup>1</sup> Words in italics [ɪ'tælk] are explained in the « useful words » box

- 27) \_\_\_\_\_ 2 to the third power times  $-5 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- 28) \_\_\_\_\_ The number you get if you add 3 squared to the square root of 4 = \_\_\_\_\_
- 29) \_\_\_\_\_ If  $x = -2$ , then  $-5x^2 =$  \_\_\_\_\_

Answer bank						
$T = -12$	$N = -9$	$A = 25$	$E = -40$	$S = -20$	$I = 20$	$U = -5$
$M = 36$	$O = 18$	$G = -6$	$H = 17$	$F = 12$	$R = 11$	$Q = 112$

Joseph Louis Lagrange, an 18th-century Italian mathematician, found that every natural number can be written as \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_.

**Part 2:** Can you find examples that illustrate this statement?

### Exercise 2. Check your progress

**Part 1:** Translate the algebraic expressions below into phrases. Produce as many phrases as you can. The wording of the questions of the previous activity might help you.

- 1)  $5^2 - 7$ ;    2)  $10 - 2 \times 4$ ;    3)  $5 \times (12 + 20)$ ;    4)  $\sqrt{25} - \sqrt{16}$ ;    5)  $-[2 \times (-4)]$     6)  $\sqrt{25 - 16}$

**Part 2:** Compute those numbers.

### Exercise 3. Check your progress

Operations must be carried out according to a precise order. What is the correct order?

### Exercise 4. In-class game "Guess what my expression is"

- Pick an algebraic expression that looks like one in the activity above (it could be  $5^2 - 1$  or  $\frac{28}{(6+1)}$  or  $21 - (5+6)$  ... etc) and write it on a piece of paper without letting your neighbour see it. Put the paper face down.
- Describe orally your expression with a phrase (in English of course!!!) to your neighbour<sup>2</sup> and he/she will write the corresponding algebraic expression down. When he/she is done, show him/her the paper with your algebraic expression on it: Is it the same one? (It should be!)
- Now it is your turn to guess your neighbour's expression: Switch roles.
- Finally, assess you team: You get one point for each expression written correctly and one extra point for using English only (A single word of French, Wolof or Spanish and you lose that point!!). What is your score? . . . . . / 3.

<sup>2</sup> Neighbor /'neɪbər/ is preferred in American English, and neighbour is preferred in all major varieties of English outside the U.S

Adapted from : *Algebra Teacher's activity Kit* by Judith Muscha.

Classe : Seconde, exercice de début d'année.

Objectifs :

- Acquisition des mots «product », « sum »,...etc dans une démarche active.
- Mise en confiance en mathématiques : Je suis capable de faire l'exercice.
- Mise en confiance en anglais : Je suis capable de faire un exercice de mathématiques en anglais (et non un exercice fabriqué pour la section européenne).
- Révision en douceur des règles opératoires

Coin prof

Remarque sur l'Exercice 3: Aux USA, les élèves se rappellent l'ordre des opérations au moyen du “mot” **PEMDAS** ou de la phrase **Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally**, where P stands for Parenthesis, E stands for Exponent, M stands for Multiplication, D stands for Division, A stands for Addition and S stands for Substarction.

Présentation pour le site EUROMATH: Une première activité en seconde qui permet de mettre en place le vocabulaire du calcul (somme, fraction, puissance...) adaptée d'un manuel américain *Algebra Teacher's activity Kit* by Judith Muscha.

Dans un premier temps les élèves doivent effectuer des petits calculs décrits par des mots. Les resulats obtenus permettent de décoder une phrase.

Par la suite, des activités de réinvestissement de ce vocabulaire sont proposées (en général en groupe et à l'oral) .

<http://mathematoques.weebly.com>