

# Microsoft Excel The Order of Precedence



## The Order of Precedence

The order of precedence is used in all mathematical spreadsheets - Priority Rule .

Certain calculations have a higher priority than others.

Example:

=2+3\*5 answer expected 25? Breakdown 2+3 (5) \*5 expected 25

Excel will return the answer 17 why? **BODMAS** (the priority rule)

<b>B</b>	Brackets
<b>O</b>	To the power of
<b>D</b>	Divide
<b>M</b>	Multiplication
<b>A</b>	Addition
<b>S</b>	Subtraction

In short BODMAS is a way of remembering which operator takes precedence.

Example Continued...

=2+3\*5 answer 17 Breakdown 3\*5 (15) plus 2

Multiplication takes precedence over Addition. (BODMAS)

To get the answer 25 the formula must be entered:

=(2+3)\*5

In this case the formula entered using brackets will apply the BODMAS, the calculation in the bracket will be performed first. (5)\*5 =25.