

## Order of Operations

Many times, in math classes, the problems involve more than one operation in the same problem. We need a system to determine the order in which we perform our operations. There is a hierarchy of operations that keep us from being confused by the messy problems.

The Order of Operations can be remembered by learning the phrase **Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally**.

Parenthesis – Exponents – Multiplication & Division – Addition & Subtraction (4 levels)

Ex.  
 $4+5*6$  from left to right we see addition and multiplication  
(multiplication first priority)  
 $4+30$  now we can add  
 $34$

Ex.  
 $55 - 2*10 + 43$  subtraction – multiplication – addition  
(multiplication first)  
 $55 - 20 + 43$  now left to right (subtraction and division equal  
priority)  
 $35 + 43$   
 $78$

Ex.  
 $(3 + 4)^2$  parenthesis and exponent (p first)  
 $7^2$  now exponent  
 $49$