

Possible Solutions

Parentheses and brackets dictate the order in which the expression is evaluated by grouping certain numbers and operators. If there are multiple sets of grouping symbols, start with the innermost symbols and work your way outward.

$$8 \times [2.5 + 12 - (3 + 4)] - 6$$

$$8 \times [2.5 + 12 - (3 + 4)] - 6$$

Evaluate this next because it is not the innermost symbol,
but still grouped.

Evaluate this first because it is the innermost symbol.

Sometimes, you might see parentheses inside of parentheses instead of parentheses inside of brackets. You still start with the innermost set of numbers.

Sometimes, you might see something like $8(6)$ or $(8)(6)$. In each case, the implication is 8×6 .