The **order of operations** is a collection of rules that define which procedures to perform first in **order** to evaluate a given mathematical expression.

Students need multiple opportunities to practice with order of operations in problem situations. Because it can be presented in numerous ways, the more opportunities students have to practice fluently, the better.

Teachers may be having students remember acronyms or a pneumonic, such as PMDAS or "Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally." Be cautious with this approach as students can easily become confused when presented expressions involving brackets, radicals, or thinking they must multiply before divide, by forgetting to pay attention that we perform left to right within each step.

Here is a visual to assist students without using an acronym or pneumonic:

Order of Operations	
( ), [ ], { }	Parentheses, Brackets, Braces
x^2, $\sqrt{}$	Exponents, Radicals
x, ÷	Multiplication, Division
+, --	Addition, Subtraction