



# Nested Calculations

## What are the 'rules of precedence'?

If you wish to perform more than one calculation at a time then you will need to know about the 'rules of precedence'. In Excel (and maths!) these rules state that operations are performed in a set order.

## What order are the rules performed?

Excel completes formulae in the following order.

- () Anything within brackets is calculated first.
- ^ Any exponentials are calculated next. Eg 2 to the power 3 ( $2*2*2$ ).
- \* / Multiplications and divisions are completed next from left to right as they occur in the formula.
- + - Lastly additions and subtractions are completed again completed from left to right as they occur.

For example:

=6+12/3

You might expect the answer to be 6

( $6+12=18$ ,  $18/3=6$ )

However, in Excel the result would be 10.

Why?

The rules state that the division is completed first, then addition.

Therefore:

$12/3=4$

$6+4=10$ .



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