

$$2 \cdot 5 + 3$$

This expression is made up of symbols. The symbols in order of their appearance are:

1. the number, 2
2. the operation,  $\cdot$  (which means multiply)
3. the number, \_\_\_\_\_
4. the operation, \_\_\_\_\_
5. the number, \_\_\_\_\_

Let's find the value of  $2 \cdot 5 + 3$ .

$$2 \cdot 5 + 3 = 10 + 3 = 13$$

To find the value of  $2 \cdot 5 + 3$  we first performed the multiplication, and then we performed the \_\_\_\_\_.

Find the following values:

$$3 \cdot 7 + 4 = 21 + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

$$8 \cdot 2 + 5 = \underline{\quad} + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

$$6 \cdot 2 + 1 = 12 + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

$$3 \cdot 6 + 5 = \underline{\quad} + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

$$8 \cdot 2 + 6 = \underline{\quad} + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

To find the value of an expression formed both by multiplication and addition, we first do the \_\_\_\_\_ and then do the \_\_\_\_\_.

$$2 \cdot (5 + 3)$$

The above expression is made up of symbols. The symbols in order of their appearance are:

1. the number, 2
2. the operation,
3. the *left parenthesis*, (
4. the number, \_\_\_\_\_
5. the operation, \_\_\_\_\_
6. the number, \_\_\_\_\_
7. the *right parenthesis*, )

What is the value of  $2 \cdot (5 + 3)$ ?

When parentheses are used in an expression, we must *first* find the value of that part of the expression within the parentheses. Then we find the value of the rest of the expression.

$$2 \cdot (5 + 3) = 2 \cdot 8 = \underline{\quad}$$

Find the following values:

$$3 \cdot (4 + 6) = 3 \cdot 10 = \underline{\quad}$$

$$5 \cdot (2 + 7) = 5 \cdot \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

$$8 \cdot (4 + 2) = \underline{\quad} \cdot \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

$$-2 \cdot (-3 + 5) = \underline{\quad} \cdot \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

5

+

3

16

30

$$5 \cdot 8 = 40$$

$$8 \cdot 6 = 48$$

$$-2 \cdot 2 = -4$$

In this book, *Using Algebra*, we will take equations that *have* parentheses in them and rewrite the equations in a form that *does not* have parentheses.

We accomplish this step by use of the **distributive property**.

In a general form the distributive property says that for any three numbers **a**, **b**, and **c**:

$$a \cdot (b + c) = a \cdot b + a \cdot c$$

We can test this property by substituting numbers for the letters to see if the right side of the equation equals the left side.

Let's say that  $a = 2$ ,  $b = 4$ , and  $c = 5$ . The distributive property says that:

$$2 \cdot (4 + 5) = 2 \cdot 4 + 2 \cdot 5$$

Does the left side of this equation equal the right side?

$$2 \cdot (4 + 5) = 2 \cdot 4 + 2 \cdot 5$$

$$2 \cdot 9 = 8 + \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$$

$$18 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$$

$$2 \cdot 9 = 8 + 10$$

$$18 = 18$$

yes

So does  $2 \cdot (4 + 5) = 2 \cdot 4 + 2 \cdot 5$ ? yes  
no

We call the rule:

$$a \cdot (b + c) = a \cdot b + a \cdot c$$

the distributive property.

Let's see if the distributive property works when we use other numbers for **a**, **b**, and **c**.

$$3 \cdot (11) = 12 + 21$$

$$33 = 33$$

yes

$$3 \cdot (4 + 7) = 3 \cdot 4 + 3 \cdot 7$$

$$3 \cdot (\underline{\quad}) = \underline{\quad} + \underline{\quad}$$

$$\underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

So does  $3 \cdot (4 + 7) = 3 \cdot 4 + 3 \cdot 7$ ? yes  
no

$$6 \cdot (6) = 15 + 21$$

$$36 = 36$$

yes

$$6 \cdot \left(\frac{5}{2} + \frac{7}{2}\right) = 6 \cdot \frac{5}{2} + 6 \cdot \frac{7}{2}$$

$$6 \cdot (\underline{\quad}) = \underline{\quad} + \underline{\quad}$$

$$\underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

So does  $6 \cdot \left(\frac{5}{2} + \frac{7}{2}\right) = 6 \cdot \frac{5}{2} + 6 \cdot \frac{7}{2}$ ? yes  
no

$$-5 \cdot (5) = -20 + -5$$

$$-25 = -25$$

yes

$$-5 \cdot (4 + 1) = -5 \cdot 4 + -5 \cdot 1$$

$$-5 \cdot (\underline{\quad}) = \underline{\quad} + \underline{\quad}$$

$$\underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

So does  $-5 \cdot (4 + 1) = -5 \cdot 4 + -5 \cdot 1$ ? yes  
no

$$3 \cdot (-3) = -15 + 6$$

$$-9 = -9$$

yes

$$3 \cdot (-5 + 2) = 3 \cdot -5 + 3 \cdot 2$$

$$3 \cdot (\underline{\quad}) = \underline{\quad} + \underline{\quad}$$

$$\underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

So does  $3 \cdot (-5 + 2) = 3 \cdot -5 + 3 \cdot 2$ ? yes  
no