

Unit 1 Discussion Example – Post 2: Reply to a Classmate

Hi Classmate. The posted expression was:

$$1 + (2 \times 3) - \frac{4}{5^2} \text{ and it was solved correctly to equal } 6.84$$

- a) Let's purposefully solve it without following the order of operations, just evaluating the operations going from left to right:

$$1 + (2 \times 3) - \frac{4}{5^2}$$

$$= 1 + 6 - \frac{4}{5^2}$$

$$= 7 - \frac{4}{5^2}$$

$$= \frac{3}{5^2}$$

$$= (0.6)^2$$

$$= 0.36$$

- b) This is very different than the result when following the order of operations!
- c) The posted real-life situation was about how a swimmer swims a swim race. What would happen if the proper order was not followed? Well, most likely it would not be a legal race! If the swimmer did not start on the starting blocks but instead started swimming in the middle of the pool, did a flip turn and then got up on the blocks and then swam to the touchpad for a finish?? That would not be a legal swim race!