

WeBWork Cheatsheet for Students

WeBWork Syntax for Operations

Operation	Your Answer	What to type in WeBWork
Addition	$2 + 7$	$2 + 7$ or $2+7$
Subtraction	$5 - 3$	$5 - 3$ or $5-3$
Multiplication	4×2	$4 * 2$ or $4*2$
Division	$10 \div 2$	$10/2$
Exponents	4^3	4^3 or $4**3$
Fractions	$\frac{3}{7}$	$3/7$
Square Root	$\sqrt{3}$	$\text{sqrt}(3)$ or $3^{(1/2)}$
Absolute Value	$ x $	$\text{abs}(x)$ or $ x $

Putting it All Together - Entering Expressions

Your Answer	What to type in WeBWork	Notes
$(9 + 5 - 6) \times 8$	$(9+5-6)*8$	
$(9 + 5) - (6 \times 8)$	$(9+5)-(6*8)$	
$2 \times x$	$2x$ or $2 x$ or $2*x$ or $2(x)$	
$\frac{2}{3x}$	$2/(3x)$	NOT $2/3x$ which equals $\frac{2}{3}x$
$(3 \times 10)^2$	$(3 * 10)^2$	NOT $3 * 10^2$ which equals 3×10^2
5×10^{-45}	$5 x 10^{-45}$	NOT $5 x 10 ^{-45}$
$\frac{3+5}{7 \times 12}$	$(3+5)/(7*12)$	NOT $3+5/7*12$ which equals $3 + \frac{5}{7} \times 12$
$\frac{2x}{(5+3) \times 4}$	$(2x)/[(5+3)*4]$	NOT $2x/5+3*4$ which equals $\frac{2x}{5} + 3 \times 4$ Note the use of square brackets []
$\frac{5x-2}{3+(8+6) \times 7}$	$(5x-2)/[3+(8+6)*7]$	NOT $5x-2/3+8+6*7$ which equals $5x - \frac{2}{3} + 8 + 6 \times 7$ Note the use of square brackets []

Grouping with () [] and { } to Enter Complex Expressions

Use Parentheses: () - Square Brackets: [] and Curly Braces: { } to group.

- Example: to enter $\frac{1+2}{3(4+5)}$ do this in WeBWork [1+2]/[3(4+5)]
- for $\frac{4}{2+5}$ don't enter 4/2+5 (which is 7) when you really want 4/(2+5) (which is 4/7).
- Is -5^2 positive or negative? It's negative! This is because the square operation is done before the negative sign is applied. Use $(-5)^2$ if you want to square negative 5.
- When in doubt use parentheses!!! :-)

Miscellaneous

Use the "Preview Answer" button to see exactly how your entry looks.

- Example: to tell the difference between $1+2/3*4$ and $[1+2]/[3*4]$ click the "Preview Answer" button.

Only enter what the question asks for!

- Example: If the question says solve for x and $x = 5$ is the solution, only enter 5, do not enter $x = 5$.

WeBWork is case sensitive!

- Example: if the answer is $x = 5$, do not enter $X = 5$. x and X are different!

WeBWork Specific Order of Operations

Operator	Description	Order	Examples
(), [], { }	Grouping	1st	
^ or **	Exponentiation	2nd	WeBWork exponents are taken <i>right to left</i> so $2^3^4 = 2^{(3^4)} = 2^{81} =$ a big number. Note: this may not be the same as your calculator!
-	negation (indicates that a value is negative)	3rd	
* and /	Multiplication and Division	4th	Multiplications and divisions are performed <i>left to right</i> $2/3*4 = (2/3)*4 = 8/3$.
+ and -	Addition and Subtraction	5th	Additions and subtractions are performed <i>left to right</i> $1-2+3 = (1-2)+3 = 2$