

Please Eliminate My Dear Aunt Sally

THE NATION'S PREMIER MATH EDUCATION EVENT

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Why Eliminate Aunt Sally

PEMDAS implies 6 steps

$$6 \div 3 \times 2 \neq 1$$

Students think they need to
Multiply before they Divide
and Add before they Subtract.

$$4 - 3 + 1 \neq 0$$

PEMDAS is a “trick” that is
WRONG 50% of the time

~~PEMDAS~~

~~PEMDAS~~

~~PEMDAS~~

Strategies:

Conceptual Understanding

Reinforce Inverses

Use Graphic Organizers

Conceptual Understanding

Don't teach in isolation

Students must make connections among
operations

Reinforce Inverses

Consistently alternate between inverse operations in all representations

OR

Graphic Organizers

$()$	$[\]$
n^2	\sqrt{n}
\div	\times
$-$	$+$

$[\]$	$()$
\sqrt{n}	n^2
\times	\div
$+$	$-$

Grouping

Exponents

\div or \times



$-$ or $+$



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