

## Algebra Mini Series: Lesson 2

### Evaluation ... A Closer Look

**Rationale:** Algebra ...like who sat around saying "math isn't hard enough, let's add some letters". Alright, that's not exactly how it happened but no matter how they arrived, all those symbols and letters are here to stay.

The good news, after these lessons you're sure to have a better understanding of the topic or at least have some better questions to ask. Soon you'll see algebra for what it is...just the alphabet that we write our mathematical sentences in. No biggie! One thing is very important though...at almost every step ask yourself "Do I understand what just happened?" It's in the moments where you say "No" that we need to focus.

**This lesson:** Within this lesson we are going to focus on three main topics:

1. What is evaluation?
2. What do you mean by working inside out?
3. Is the order of operations important for this stuff?

**Lesson Sequence:** We'll start with a short videos. In this video, you'll look at what evaluation is, and walk through an example. Please feel free to rewind or fast forward as much as you want. This is learning on your time, at your pace, in short ... it's all about you!

[Video: Evaluation ... A Closer Look](#)

So that's it! I know what you're thinking, I know an eleven year old that can eat more cookies than that too. But anyway, the next step for us is to see whether or not you truly have mastery of this concept. To do this we are going to hit up the most revolutionary educational site in recent times ... Khan Academy. It's like Goodlife for math peeps, only it's open 24/7.

On the site you're about to visit there are 2 activities you should complete. There are suggestions for mastery goals found at the top of the screen and there is a scratch pad option that allows you to work on the page you're viewing. If that's not enough, there are hints and example videos found to the right of the workspace.

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The screenshot shows the Khan Academy interface for the lesson 'Adding fractions with unlike denominators'. The main content area displays the problem  $\frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{4} = ?$  and a scratchpad where the word 'MATH!' is written in red. The interface includes a sidebar with a 'Topics' cloud, a 'Hint' cloud, and a 'Video Examples' cloud. The 'Video Examples' cloud points to a video titled 'Example of adding fraction' in the 'Stuck? Watch a video.' section. The 'Hint' cloud points to the 'I'd like a hint' button. The 'Activate Scratchpad to write on the screen!' cloud points to the scratchpad area. The 'Topics' cloud points to the sidebar navigation. The interface also shows a search bar, a 'Log in' button, and a 'Unclaimed points' indicator.

### Activity 1: Evaluating expressions with one variable

Here you'll look at the ol' plug and chug with one variable expressions

### Activity 2: Evaluating expressions with two variables

Yup...you guessed it...two variables!

If the Order of Operations (BEDMAS) is causing issues... check this out:

[https://www.khanacademy.org/math/pre-algebra/order-of-operations/order\\_of\\_operations/v/introduction-to-order-of-operations](https://www.khanacademy.org/math/pre-algebra/order-of-operations/order_of_operations/v/introduction-to-order-of-operations)

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#### What Else Do You Need To Know?:

In this section, you can provide up to five questions you have about the material. Write them on this lesson or just email them to your teacher. If you're feeling brave, tweet them out to friends ...see if they know!

	What's up?
Question 1	
Question 2	
Question 3	
Question 4	
Question 5	

#### Show me what you know!

Alright, we've made it. Now it's time to demonstrate your understanding and create something that might help others along the way. I want you to create a piece that shows me you now know this material. That same piece should be designed to help others who would have trouble just like you did earlier. The only thing I ask, if you've done one of these lessons before, please try something new!

The piece can be any format you like, provided that it communicates your understanding, and can be used to help others having similar struggles.

Some suggested formats are:

*Screencast*

*Show Me Composition*

*Weebly or Blog Site*

*PowerPoint / Prezi*

*Poster*

*NearPod Lesson*

*A song/Poem*

When you've finished it, come see me and we'll talk about ways, if you're comfortable, to share it.