Numerical Expressions & Interpretations

Today's Standard

5.OA.A2 - Write simple expressions that record calculations with numbers, and interpret numerical expressions without evaluating them. For example, express the calculation 'add 8 and 7, then multiply by 2' as 2 * (8 + 7). Recognize that 3 * (18932 + 921) is three times as large as 18932 + 921, without having to calculate the indicated sum or product.

Real-World Applications for this Standard

Budgeting: Calculate total costs without exact sums.; Cooking: Doubling or tripling recipes.; Shopping: Estimating total prices.; Construction: Scaling measurements.

Today I Learned

Today we learned how to write and understand math expressions without solving them. For example, 'add 8 and 7, then multiply by 2' is written as 2 * (8 + 7).

Common Stumbling Blocks

Some kids think they need to solve the math problem to understand it. Others don't see how parentheses change the order of math steps. We use pictures and words to help with these ideas.

Quiz Me

- What does 2 * (3 + 4) mean?
- What does the parentheses do in math?
- Can you write 'add 5 and 6, then multiply by 3' as an expression?
- Why don't you need to solve the expression to understand it?
- What happens if you don't use parentheses in an expression?

Help Me

Math expressions help us understand problems without solving them. For example, if you're shopping and want to know how much 3 shirts and 2 pants cost, you can write an expression to see the total without adding everything up.