is to be subtracted or taken away from the quantity which precedes it, thus: 6 - 4 are 2.

The sign \times is read "times" and is the sign of multiplication. It means that the quantity which precedes this sign is to be multiplied by the quantity which follows it, thus 2×5 are 10.

The sign + is read "divided by" and is the sign of division. It means that the quantity which precedes this sign is to be divided by the quantity which follows it, thus: 4 + 2 are 2.

The sign = is read "equals" or "is equal to" and is the sign of equality. It means that the expressions between which it is placed are identical in value, thus: 4+3=10-3. This sign is very often misused. Great care should be taken at all times to make sure that the quantities connected by it are equal.

The parenthesis () and vinculum — are used to show that two or more quantities are to be treated as one or, in other words, that the operations indicated within the parenthesis or under the vinculum are to be carried out first, thus:

(20-5)+3-2+3=(15)+3-(5)=13

NOTATION

Notation is the art of writing numbers in words, in figures, and in letters.

Arabic Notation. The Arabic notation employs ten characters or figures in expressing numbers. They are: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 0. one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nime, cipher.

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