

# MA.5.AR.2.1

Overarching Standard: *MA.5.AR.2: Demonstrate an understanding of equality, the order of operations and equivalent numerical expressions.*

## Benchmark of Focus

MA.5.AR.2.1: Translate written real-world and mathematical descriptions into numerical expressions and numerical expressions into written mathematical descriptions.

*Examples:* The expression  $4.5 + (3 \times 2)$  in word form is *four and five tenths plus the quantity 3 times 2*.

## Benchmark Clarifications

*Clarification 1:* Expressions are limited to any combination of the arithmetic operations, including parentheses, with whole numbers, decimals and fractions.

*Clarification 2:* Within this benchmark, the expectation is not to include exponents or nested grouping symbols.

---

## Related Benchmark/Horizontal Alignment

- MA.5.NSO.1.1
- MA.5.NSO.1.2
- MA.5.NSO.1.3
- MA.5.NSO.1.4
- MA.5.NSO.1.5
- MA.5.NSO.2.3
- MA.5.AR.3.1
- MA.5.M.1.1

---

## Vertical Alignment

Previous Benchmarks

MA.4.AR.2.2

Next Benchmarks

MA.6.AR.1.1

---

## Terms from the K-12 Glossary

- Expression

---

## Purpose and Instructional Strategies

The purpose of this benchmark is for students to translate between numerical and written mathematical expressions. This builds from previous work where students wrote equations with unknowns in any position of the equation in Grade 4 (MA.4.AR.2.2). Algebraic expressions are a major theme in Grade 6 starting with MA.6.AR.1.1.

- During instruction, teachers should model how to translate numerical expressions into words using correct vocabulary. This includes naming fractions and decimals correctly. Students should use diverse vocabulary to describe expressions. For example, in the expression  $4.5 + (3 \times 2)$  could be read in multiple ways to show its operations. Students should explore them and

find connections between their meanings (MTR.3.1, MTR.4.1, MTR.5.1).

- o 4 and five tenths plus the quantity 3 times 2
- o 4 and 5 tenths plus the product of 3 and 2
- o The sum of 4 and 5 tenths and the quantity 3 times 2
- o The sum of 4 and 5 tenths and the product of 3 and 2
- The expectation of this benchmark is to not use exponents or nested grouping symbols. Nested grouping symbols refer to grouping symbols within one another in an expression, like in  $3 + [5.2 + (4 \times 2)]$ .
- Instruction of this benchmark helps students understand the order of operations, the expectation of MA.5.AR.2.2.

---

### Common Misconceptions or Errors

- Students can misrepresent decimal and fraction numbers in words. This benchmark helps students practice naming numbers according to place value.
- Some students can confuse the difference between what is expected in the expressions  $5(9 + 3)$  and  $5 + (9 + 3)$ . Students need practice naming the former as multiplication (e.g., *5 times the sum of 9 and 3*) and understanding that in that expression, both 5 and  $9 + 3$  are factors.

---

### Questions to ask students:

- **Point to or write a numerical expression, such as  $3 + 7 \times 2$ , and ask students to translate it into words.**
- Sample answer that indicates understanding: the product of seven and two added to three.
- Sample answer that indicates an incomplete understanding or a misconception: the sum of three and seven, multiplied by two.
- **Give students a mathematical expression in words (*four times three added to six*) and ask them to represent it with a numerical expression.**
- Sample answer that indicates understanding:  $6 + 4 \times 3$

---

### Instructional Tasks

#### *Instructional Task 1*

Nadia sees the numerical expression  $6.5 + \frac{1}{2}(4 - 2)$ . She translates the expression as,

*"6 and five tenths plus 1 half times 4, minus 2."*

Part A: Is her translation correct? Explain.

Part B: Evaluate the expression.

#### *Instructional Task 2*

Translate the written mathematical description below into a numerical expression:

*Divide the difference of 20 and 5 by the sum of 4 and 1.*

---

### Instructional Items

#### *Instructional Item 1*

Translate the numerical expression below into a written mathematical description.

$$2(53.8 + 4 - 22.9)$$

*Instructional Item 2*

Translate the written mathematical description into a numerical expression.

*"One half the difference of 6 and 8 hundredths and 2"*

---

Achievement Level Descriptors

Benchmark		Context	Assessment Limits
MA.5.AR.2.1 Translate written real-world and mathematical descriptions into numerical expressions and numerical expressions into written mathematical descriptions. Example: The expression $4.5 + (3 \times 2)$ in word form is <i>four and five tenths</i> plus the quantity 3 times 2. Clarification 1: Expressions are limited to any combination of the arithmetic operations, including parentheses, with whole numbers, decimals, and fractions. Clarification 2: Within this benchmark, the expectation is not to include exponents or nested grouping symbols.		Both	Items containing fractions will not include decimals. Items containing decimals will not include fractions. Expressions will not exceed three operations. Denominators will be limited to 1–10, 12, 16, 20, 50, and 100.
ALD 2	ALD 3	ALD 4	ALD 5
Translates one-step written real-world or mathematical descriptions into numerical expressions.	Translates written real-world or mathematical descriptions into numerical expressions.	Translates written real-world and mathematical descriptions into numerical expressions and numerical expressions into written mathematical descriptions.	N/A

---

Additional Resources:

[CPALMS Resources](#)

[Learn Zillion](#): Write a numerical expression to represent a verbal description of a calculation.

---

Resources/Tasks to Support Your Child at Home:

[Kahn Academy](#): Translating Expressions with Parenthesis

[Khan Academy](#): Constructing Numerical Expressions