Exercise 3

What do the Associative Properties allow us to do when following the order of operations? Explain your answer.

Solution

The associative properties allow us to add or multiply numbers in any order; for example,

$$12 \times 10 \times 2 = (120)(2) = 240$$
$$= 12(20) = 240,$$

or

$$2 + 5 + 10 = 7 + 10 = 17$$
$$= 2 + 15 = 17.$$