Solving Problems with Brackets and Parentheses

-13 + {(17-10) – (11-4)} this is our initial equation. Remember “Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally”: Parentheses, Exponents, Multiply, Divide, Add, Subtract. Also known as PEMDAS. So first we are going to look at our parentheses. We do those from inside to outside, so we will do ( ) before { }.

-13 + {(17-10) \- (11-4)} \ let’s take this one at a time, (17-10) is 7. So we will replace the parenthetical expression.

-13 + {7 \- (11-4)} \ now let’s look at the other parentheses. (11-4) is 7. So we will replace the parenthetical expression.

-13 + {7 - 7} \ now we work inside the brackets { }. 7-7 is 0.

-13 + 0 \ now we solve the problem and get -13 as our answer

-13