

# How To Talk To Computers

by a11ce

add 1 1

add 1 multiply 2 3

add 1 multiply 2 3 4

```
add 1 (multiply 2 3) 4
```

```
add 1 1.5 (multiply 2 3 4)
```

```
add 1 1.5  
multiply 2 3 4
```

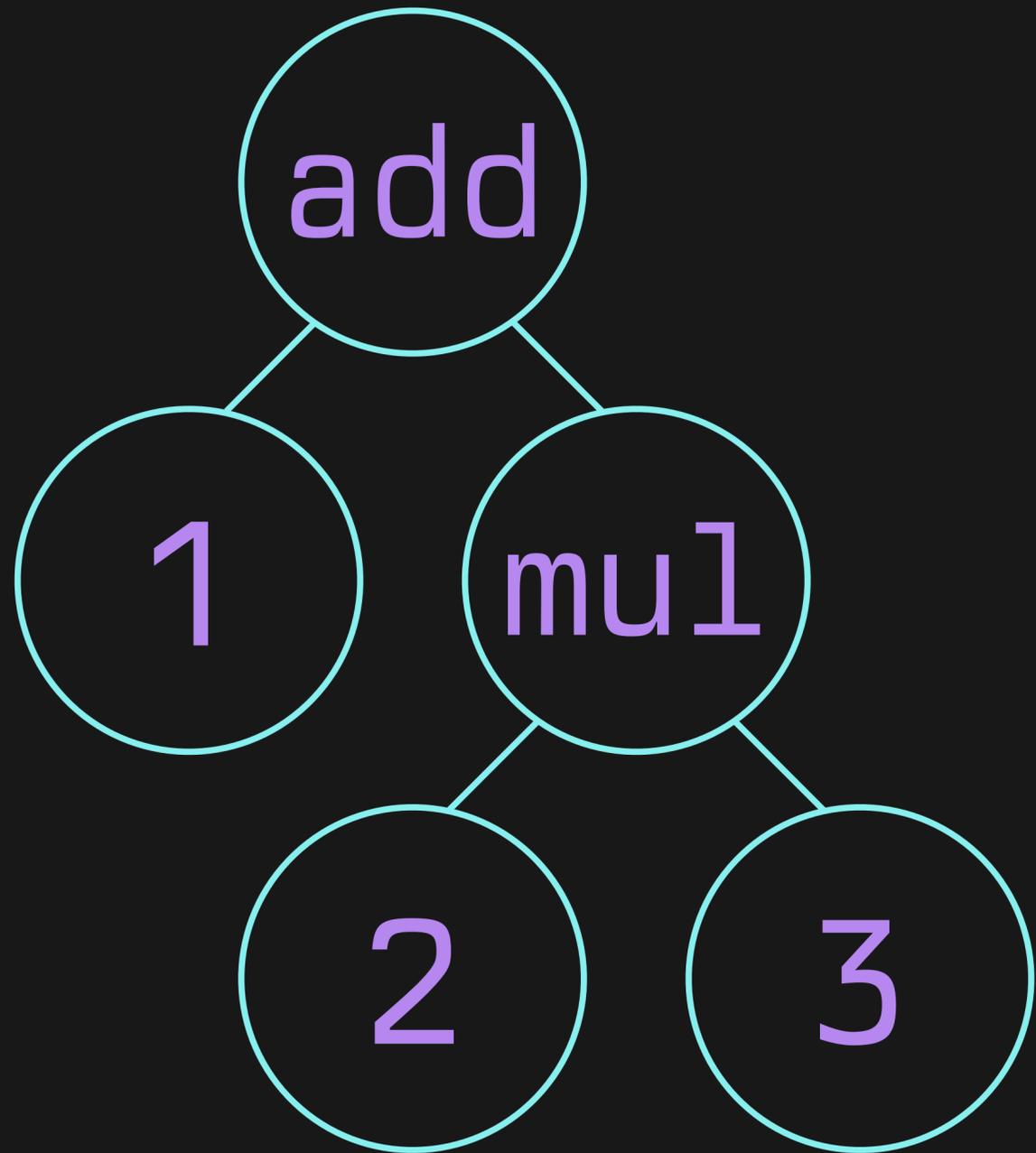
```
(add 1 1.5)  
(multiply 2 3 4)
```

```
(add 1 1.5) (multiply 2 3 4)
```

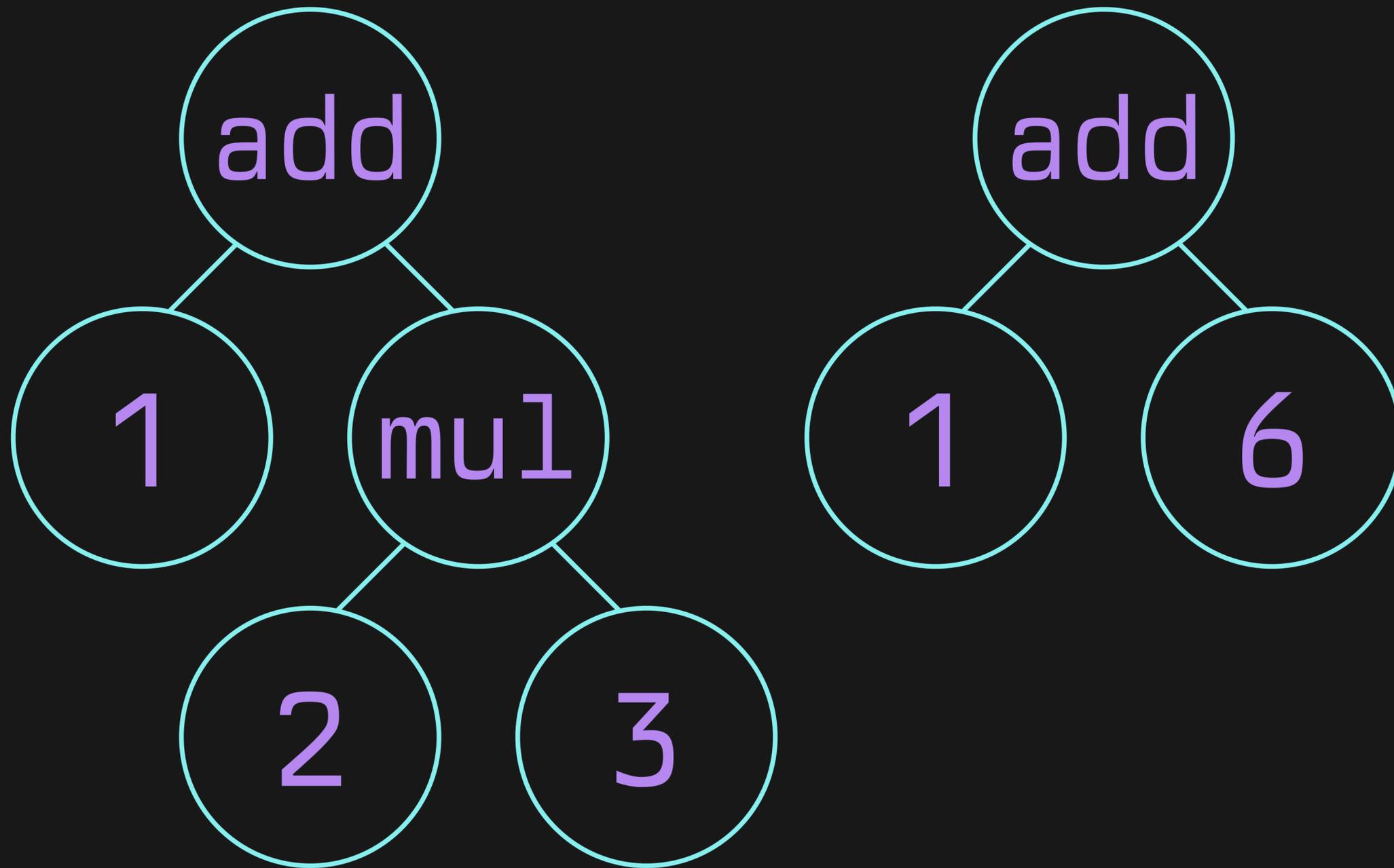
add 1 multiply 2 3

```
(add 1 (multiply 2 3))
```

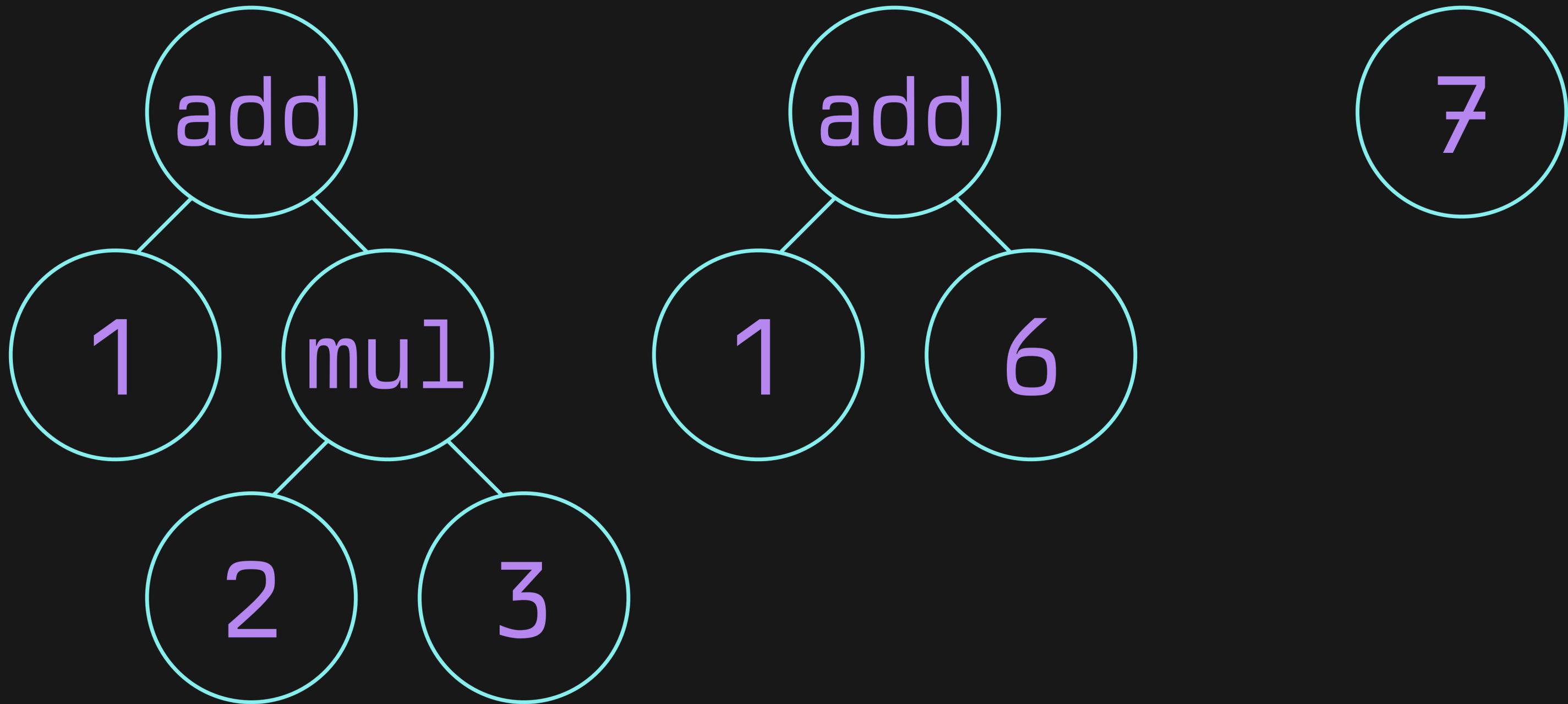
```
(add 1 (multiply 2 3))
```



`(add 1 (multiply 2 3))`



`(add 1 (multiply 2 3))`



```
"(add 1 (multiply 2 3))"
```

```
"(add 1 (multiply 2 3))"
```

```
split on parens and whitespace,  
trim whitespace
```

```
["(", "add", "1", "(",  
"multiply", "2", "3", ")", ")"]
```

"(add 1 (multiply 2 3))"

split on parens and whitespace,  
trim whitespace

["(", "add", "1", "(", "multiply", "2", "3", ")", ")", ""]

start a list at "(", end and add  
the list to the parent at ")"

["add", "1",  
["multiply", "2", "3"]]

```
(add 1 (multiply 2 3))
```

```
(add 1 (multiply 2 3))
```

as a string

```
"(add 1 (multiply 2 3))"
```

```
(add 1 (multiply 2 3))
```

as a string

```
"(add 1 (multiply 2 3))"
```

parsed to

```
["add", "1", ["multiply", "2", "3"]]
```

```
(add 1 (multiply 2 3))
```

as a string

```
"(add 1 (multiply 2 3))"
```

parsed to

```
["add", "1", ["multiply", "2", "3"]]
```

written as

```
['add', '1', ['multiply', '2', '3']]
```

'2

'2 -> 2

' 2 -> 2

' add -> add

'2 -> 2  
'add -> add

1. Numbers evaluate to themselves.

'2 -> 2  
'add -> add

1. Numbers evaluate to themselves.
2. Other non-lists evaluate to ??

'2 -> 2  
'add -> add

1. Numbers evaluate to themselves.
2. Other non-lists evaluate to ??

```
{ 'add: function that adds numbers }
```

'2 -> 2  
'add -> add

1. Numbers evaluate to themselves.
2. Other non-lists evaluate to whatever the environment says the name means.

```
{ 'add: function that adds numbers }
```

```
['multiply' 2 3]
```

```
['multiply '2 '3]
```

3. For a list, eval each of the elements...

```
[multiply 2 3]
```

```
['multiply '2 '3]
```

3. For a list, eval each of the elements...

```
[multiply 2 3]
```

Then call the first element (a function) with the other elements as arguments

1. Numbers evaluate to themselves.
2. Other non-lists evaluate to whatever the environment says the name means.
3. For a list, eval each of the elements then call the first element (a function) with the other elements

```
['add' 1 ['multiply' 2 3]]
```

1. Numbers evaluate to themselves.
2. Other non-lists evaluate to whatever the environment says the name means.
3. For a list, eval each of the elements then call the first element (a function) with the other elements

```
['add' '1' ['multiply' '2' '3']]  
[add 1 ['multiply' '2' '3']]
```

1. Numbers evaluate to themselves.
2. Other non-lists evaluate to whatever the environment says the name means.
3. For a list, eval each of the elements then call the first element (a function) with the other elements

```
['add' 1 ['multiply' 2 3]]
```

```
[add 1 ['multiply' 2 3]]
```

```
[add 1 [multiply 2 3]]
```

1. Numbers evaluate to themselves.
2. Other non-lists evaluate to whatever the environment says the name means.
3. For a list, eval each of the elements then call the first element (a function) with the other elements

```
['add' 1 ['multiply' 2 3]]
```

```
[add 1 ['multiply' 2 3]]
```

```
[add 1 [multiply 2 3]]
```

```
[add 1 6]
```

1. Numbers evaluate to themselves.
2. Other non-lists evaluate to whatever the environment says the name means.
3. For a list, eval each of the elements then call the first element (a function) with the other elements

```
['add' 1 ['multiply' 2 3]]
```

```
[add 1 ['multiply' 2 3]]
```

```
[add 1 [multiply 2 3]]
```

```
[add 1 6]
```

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```
(if (whatever)
  (print "yes")
  (print "no"))
```

```
{ 'add: function that adds numbers
  'print: print}
```

```
(if (whatever)
    (print "yes")
    (print "no"))
```

```
{'add: function that adds numbers
 default: the interpreter's def!}
```

1. Numbers (and strings and stuff) evaluate to themselves.
2. Other non-lists evaluate to whatever the environment says the name means.
3. For a list, eval each of the elements then call the first element (a function) with the other elements

```
(if (whatever) "yes"
    (print "yes") "no"
    (print "no")) <yes or no again>
```

```
{'add: function that adds numbers
 default: the interpreter's def!}
```

1. Numbers (and strings and stuff) evaluate to themselves.
2. Other non-lists evaluate to whatever the environment says the name means.
3. For a list,
  1. If the first element evaluates to a special form, do the special form thing
  2. Otherwise, eval each of the elements then call the first element (a function) with the other elements

```
(if (whatever)
    (print "yes")
    (print "no"))
```

```
{ 'if: special: checks the condition
  THEN evaluates only one branch }
```

1. Numbers (and strings and stuff) evaluate to themselves.
2. Other non-lists evaluate to whatever the environment says the name means.
3. For a list,
  1. If the first element evaluates to a special form, do the special form thing
  2. Otherwise, eval each of the elements then call the first element (a function) with the other elements

```
(define x (add 1 2))  
  (print x)
```

```
{'define: special: evaluates the  
second arg, adds it to the env named  
as the first arg}
```

1. Numbers (and strings and stuff) evaluate to themselves.
2. Other non-lists evaluate to whatever the environment says the name means.
3. For a list,
  1. If the first element evaluates to a special form, do the special form thing
  2. If the first element evaluates to a lambda object, do the lambda thing
  3. Otherwise, eval each of the elements then call the first element (a function) with the other elements

```
(define y (lambda (x)
            (add 1 x)))
(print (y 2))
```

{'lambda: special: evaluates to an object that stores the lambda body and the parameter names. when called as a function, creates a temporary environment with the parameter names resolving to the values that it was applied to, evaluates the body with that environment}

1. Values (numbers/strings/etc) evaluate to themselves.
2. Names (other non-lists) evaluate to whatever the environment says the name means.
3. For a list,
  1. If the first element evaluates to a special form, do the special form thing
  2. If the first element evaluates to a lambda object, do the lambda thing
  3. Otherwise, eval each of the elements then call the first element (a function) with the other elements

1. Values (numbers/strings/etc) evaluate to themselves.
2. Names (other non-lists) evaluate to whatever the environment says the name means.
3. For a list, (this part is usually called apply)
  1. If the first element evaluates to a special form, do the special form thing
  2. If the first element evaluates to a lambda object, do the lambda thing
  3. Otherwise, eval each of the elements then call the first element (a function) with the other elements

THIS IS LISP!!!!!!