



'How To' Guide – Using a Calculator



Calculator

Calculators are a little bit like mobile phones in the way that they all work in completely different ways. At Byrchall, we recommend students buy the Casio calculator like the one below.

SHIFT = press this first to access the **yellow** functions.

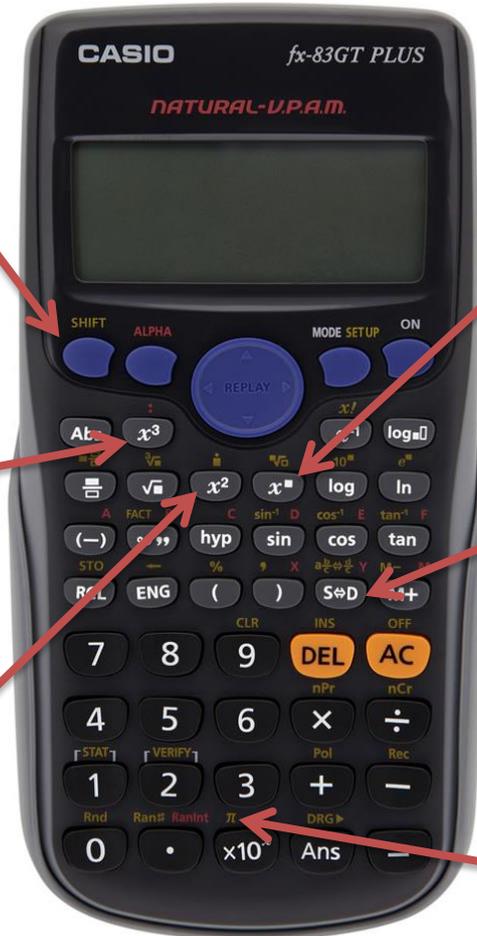
x^{\square} = Use this button to raise a number to any power (4, 5 etc)

x^3 = Use this button to cube a number.

S <-> D = this changes a fraction into the decimal value.

x^2 = Use this button to square a number.

π = this gives you the value of pi (3.141592...)



Common mistakes

- Your calculator has been programmed to use BIDMAS.
- If you want to add together 15 and 25 and then divide the answer by 2 you cannot type this into the calculator

$$15 + 25 \div 2$$

- Your calculator will do the division first and then add 15 to the answer.
- Instead type this

$$(15 + 25) \div 2$$

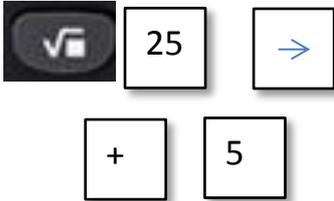


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Example

$$\sqrt{25} + 5$$



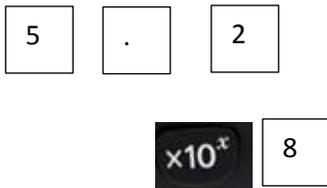
Example

$$\pi \times 5^2$$



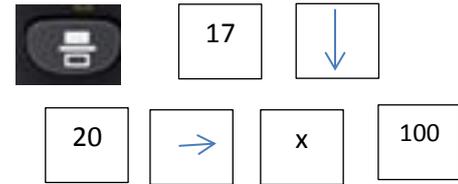
Example

$$5.2 \times 10^8$$



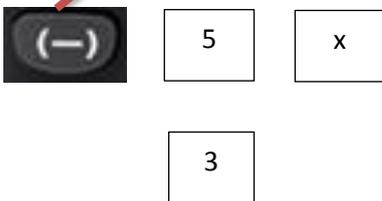
Example

Change $\frac{17}{20}$ into a percentage.



Example

$$-5 \times 3$$



This is an important one. Students need to know the difference between the button to make a negative number and the subtract button.

Note

The arrow buttons are important so you can move a calculation out of a function.

It can be the difference between $\sqrt{25} + 5$ and $\sqrt{25 + 5}$.

Example

$$\frac{5}{8} =$$



There is a fraction button on this calculator that is easier to use than other calculators.

Students must use the arrows to move the cursor to where they want to type.

