KEY

Using a Calculator

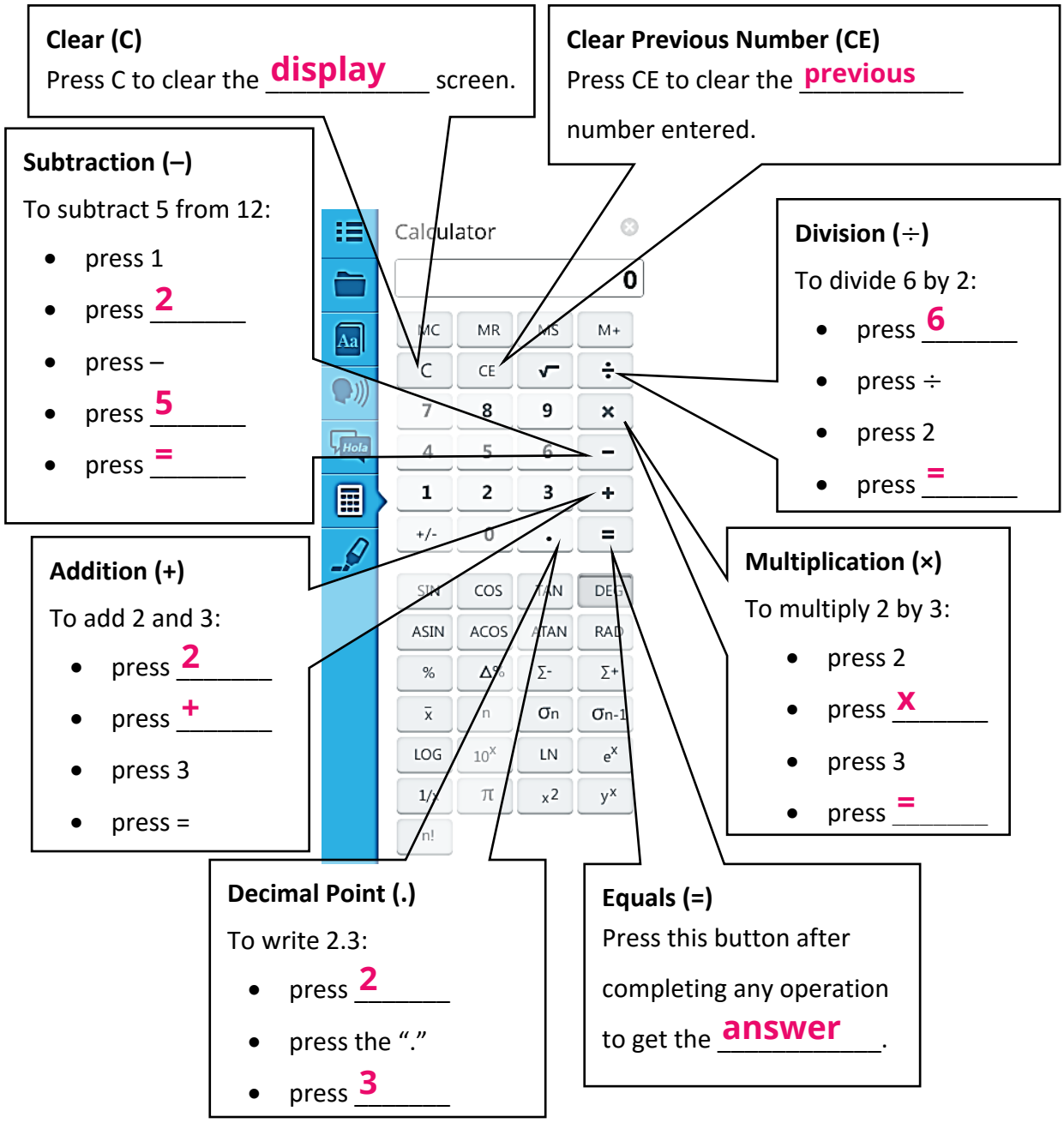
Objective

In this lesson, you will

demonstrate the ability to use a calculator for basic arithmetic operations.

Calculator Buttons

Use the calculator included in the course tools menu to learn the basic calculator functions.



The *PEMDAS* Rule

Follow a certain order of **operations** to solve problems containing more than one operation.

Order of Operations		Remember the Order
parentheses or brackets		**Please**
exponents		**E**xcuse
multiplication or **d**ivision	(whichever comes first, going left to right)	**My** **Dear**
addition or **s**ubtraction	(whichever comes first, going left to right)	**A**unt **S**ally

Use this order to solve the expression. $(50 + 40) + 60 \times 28$

1. Solve the part of the problem inside the **parentheses** first. **90** $+ 60 \times 28$
2. **Multiply** 60 and 28. $90 +$ **1680**
3. **Add** the two numbers to get the final answer. **1,770**

Note: Separate operations, hitting the clear button between each.

Solving Word Problems

Example: Donald puts $15 in his piggy bank every week. How much money will he have in his piggy bank at the end of 49 weeks?

Step 1: Write the word problem as a mathematical **expression**.

Donald adds the same amount, **$15**, to his piggy bank every week. So the expression for this problem is 15 **x** 49

Step 2: Use a calculator to get the answer.

$735

We know that Donald saved $735. He wants to use this money as follows:

- to buy some books and camping gear for $550
- to divide the rest of the money equally between his two brothers

How much will each brother get?

Step 1: Donald wants to buy some items first, so you need to subtract the value of the items from his savings.

735 – 550

Step 2: He wants to divide the remaining amount between his brothers, so divide the remaining amount by 2. Remember to put the first expression in parentheses!

(735 – 550) / 2

Step 3: Solve the expression using the PEMDAS rule.

$92.50

So, Donald's brothers each get $92.50.

Lesson Activity

Question 1: Darlene's room measures 12 feet on one side and 9 feet on another. Calculate the area of her room.

The area of a rectangular room is a product of its ***length*** and ***width***.

Part A: Write the expression.	12 x 9
Part B: Solve the expression to find the area of Darlene's room.	108 square feet

Question 2: Zane bought the following items during a recent shopping trip.

- Two shirts for $26 each
- Three T-shirts for $19.25 each
- One pair of jeans for $68.50 each

How much did he spend?

Part A: Write the expression.	(26 **x** 2) + (**19.25** × 3) + (68.50 × **1**)
Part B: Solve the expression to find how much Zane spent.	$**$178.25**

Summary

What types of problems does a calculator make easier to solve? Are there problems that are easier to solve without a calculator?

Answers will vary.