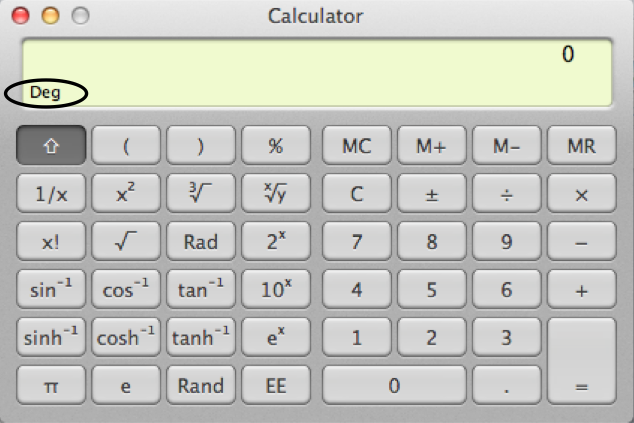
Solving Trig with a Calculator

You’ve learned how to set up and simplify trig equations with the goal of determining the measure of a side or an angle. At this point, your answers look something like this:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | *Which, when solved for x is:* |

The final step to solving trig problems is learning how to translate these answers into numbers. **If you’re using a calculator**, you can simply plug in your solution and push “=”. However, there are a few things you need to check on your calculator first.

1) Make sure it is set on **DEGREE** mode.

If the display says, “RAD” or “GRAD,” you have to

switch it to “DEG” before getting started.

2) Test how your calculator functions. Is it a more advanced calculator that allows you to type in the

problem as written, or do you have to type it in in reverse order?

TEST: Type =

**If it displays 0.4040..,** then you can type in the problems as written.

**If it displays 22**, then clear your calculator and try typing 22tan=. Now, if you get 0.4040…,

then that means your calculator needs you to type the trig pieces of the solution backwards.

Calculating a problem on the more advanced calculators:

*Parentheses are your friends, they keep your calculator from misunderstanding you. Don’t be afraid to use them.*

Calculating a problem *without* an advanced calculator:

**Evaluate *x*. Round your answer to the nearest tenth (one decimal place).**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **EXAMPLE**  Type in:  or  Display reads: 1.25…  1.25 rounds up to | **EXAMPLE**  Type in:  or  Display reads: 14.30…  14.30 doesn’t round up, so the answer is | **EXAMPLE**  Type in:  or  or  or  Display reads: 41.81…  41.81 doesn’t round up, so the answer is | **EXAMPLE**  Type in:  or  or  or  Display reads: 7.37…  7.37 rounds up to |
|  |  |  |  |

**Use a trigonometry equation to evaluate *x*. Round your answer to the nearest tenth.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5. | 6. | 7. |
| 8. | 9. | 10. |
| 11. | 12. | 13. |
| 14. | 15. | 16. |