

# Calculator Confusion

## Tricky Situations

Can you solve these with your calculator?

- 1)  $8,765 - 2,143 = ?$
- 2)  $\$2.37 + \$5.13 = ?$
- 3)  $45\text{¢} + 73\text{¢} = ?$
- 4) Subtract 18 from 25
- 5)  $20 \div 8 = ?$



## Tricky Situation Hints

1. **Comma Use** – Commas are placed in long numbers to help us read them more easily. The calculator doesn't have a comma key, so when you write your answer, you'll have to add the commas where needed.  
Ex:  $8,765 - 2,143 = 6622$  or  $6,622$
2. **Displaying Money Answers** – The calculator doesn't have a key for the dollar or cent sign, but you still need to write these symbols in your answers when you record them. Also, the calculator won't display any zeros to the far right of the decimal point, but money answers are generally written by displaying two places after the decimal point.  
Ex:  $7.5 = \$7.50$
3. **Adding Dollars and Cents** – Since calculators don't use the cent sign, we have to use decimal place value to enter cent amounts.  
Ex:  $45\text{¢} + 73\text{¢} \rightarrow 0.45 + 0.73 = 1.18 = \$1.18$
4. **Subtraction** – Be sure to enter the larger number first! When subtracting one number from another number, enter the larger number and then subtract the smaller number. Ex:  $25 - 18 = 7$
5. **Division** – In real life, division problems frequently have remainders or decimal answers. Some calculators don't have a special key for division and you have to use the  $\square/\square$  key.  
Ex:  $20 \div 8 = 20 \square/\square 8 = 2 \text{ r } 4$  or  $2.5$  or  $2\frac{1}{2}$