

# Avoid Errors with Negatives and Use Error Screen MathPrint view

## Objectives:

- Avoid a common Error with Negative versus Subtract
- Use an Error Screen to Fix Mistakes

## Avoid a Common Error with Negative versus Subtract



means subtract.



is used before a number to make it negative.

**CAUTION:** Do not mix these up or you'll get either a error message or an answer you don't want!

entry solve

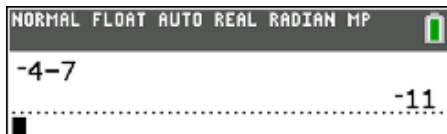


Remember: is used as an equal sign.



**Example 1:** Calculate.  $-4 - 7 = -11$



Press these buttons:



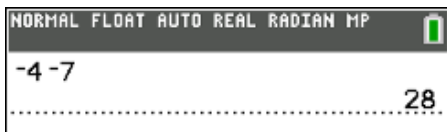
See this screen:

Notice on your screen that the negative  is smaller and higher than the subtract .

**Example 2:** Use  when you mean  and get a result you didn't expect.  $-4 - 7$





Press these buttons:



See this screen:

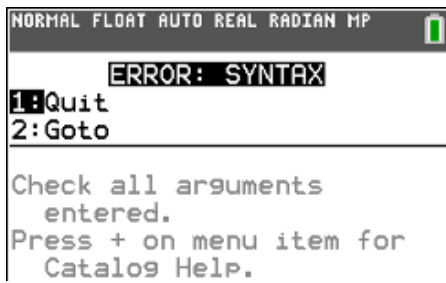
The calculator interpreted your keystrokes as two negative numbers side-by-side, which it interpreted as this multiplication:  $(-4)(-7) = 28$ .

**Example 3:** Use  when you mean  and get an error screen:  $4 - -7$



Press these buttons:




You'll get an error screen like this:







Don't press anything yet! Let's look at this screen more closely.


## Use an Error Screen to Fix Mistakes

- Graphing calculators have several error screens.
- Sometimes the error screen will tell you what you did wrong. If so, use it!
- "SYNTAX" means you typed something wrong. The syntax error screen has a menu.



If you press    for "Goto", the calculator put the cursor over the entry you typed wrong, like this:


**Example 4:** Use the error screen to identify the mistake. While viewing the error screen from Example 2,




press this button:    and see this screen: 



This means the second  is a mistake!






**Example 5:** Type the correct key on top of the error to finish the calculation correctly.

Press these buttons:  

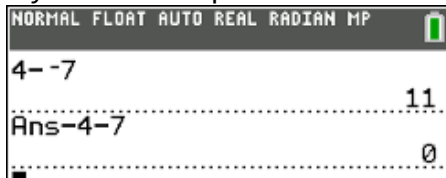
See this screen: 


**NOTE** Instead of Example 4, you could press    to Quit, but you wouldn't get help with your error!

**Example 6:** Use  when you mean . Calculate  $-4-7$ .

Press these buttons.     

If you did Example 5 followed immediately by Example 6, you'll see this screen:



 is always subtracting two numbers. If there's no first number, the calculator inserts "Ans".  
 "Ans" means "answer from the previous calculation".

Your calculator did  $11-4-7=0$