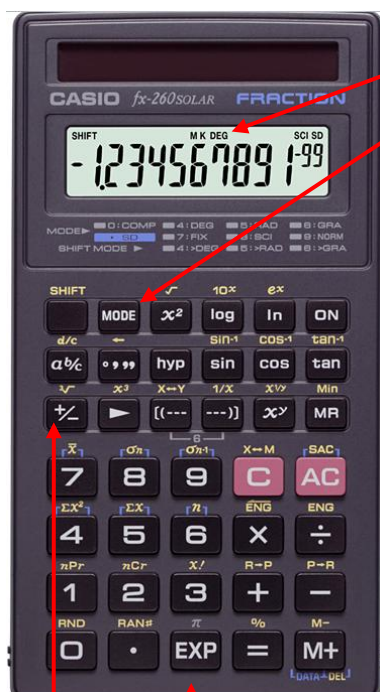


## Quick Guide to the Use of Casio fx260 Calculator

(These instructions apply to other Casio scientific calculators such as Casio fx300.)

The User's Guide that comes with your calculator gives you much more information than you need to in your **chemistry class**. You can ignore most of the functions such as M+, a b/c, sin, cos.

Here are the basics you should know about your calculator.



1. Check the top of the display. It should read "DEG" only. If not, press "MODE" "4".
2. Press "MODE" "9" which enables you to read the maximum number of digits. You don't want the calculator to round numbers to a pre-determined number of digits. In this mode when a number is excessively small or large, it will automatically convert into scientific notation.
3. You can now do the normal functions such as + - x ÷.
4. To enter  $3.4 \times 10^{-5}$  you should do this sequence of keystrokes: 3 . 4 EXP 5 +/-.  
Do NOT enter "X 10" anywhere.  
The Exponential Key, EXP, replaces "X 10".  
Note also that for the negative sign, do NOT use the Minus Key (-). Use the Change Sign Key (+/-).
5. **To enter a negative number**, you should also use the Change Sign Key. To enter "-5+6" the keystrokes are 5 +/- +6. You have to press +/- *after* you have entered the number 5.

Exponential Key

Change Sign Key

Test yourself:  $4.835 \times 10^3 \times 1.522 \times 10^{-4}$  The display should show 0.735887

*The keystrokes should be 4.835 EXP 3 X 1.522 EXP 4 +/-*

Test yourself:  $4.835 \times 10^{31} \times 1.522 \times 10^{-42}$  The display should show 7.35887<sup>-11</sup> which is  $7.35887 \times 10^{-11}$

*The keystrokes should be 4.835 EXP 31 x 1.522 EXP 42 +/-*

Test yourself:  $-3.8 + 4.2$  Display should show 0.4

*The keystrokes should be 3.8 +/- + 4.2*

Test yourself:  $123456789 \times 123456789$  The display should show 1.524157<sup>16</sup> which is  $1.524157 \times 10^{16}$

*Note that even though you entered non-exponential numbers, the answer is automatically showing in scientific notation because the display cannot show all the digits otherwise.*

Test yourself:  $\frac{3+8}{4+6}$  Display should show 1.1. *The keystrokes should be (3+8) ÷ (4+6).*

**USEFUL TIP:** Always enclose the numerator and denominator with brackets. If you entered

$3+8 \div 4+6$ , you are telling the calculator to do this instead:  $3 + \frac{8}{4} + 6$

**Keep your User Guide in a safe place in case you need to learn the other functions for more advanced classes.**