

Rearranging equations.

This resource was written by Derek Smith with the support of CASIO New Zealand. It may be freely distributed but remains the intellectual property of the author and CASIO.

This activity links the Main window together by using the commands to interact the algebraic equations

Changing the subject of a formula can be challenging! BEDMAS is essentially completed in the reverse order with the target variable identified and SAMDEB prevails.

For example, we know the area of a circle and want to find its radius. We rearrange the formula for the area of a circle to make the radius the subject.

The area of a circle (A) is πr^2 . So, $A = \pi r^2$.

Dividing both sides by π gives: $\frac{A}{\pi} = r^2$

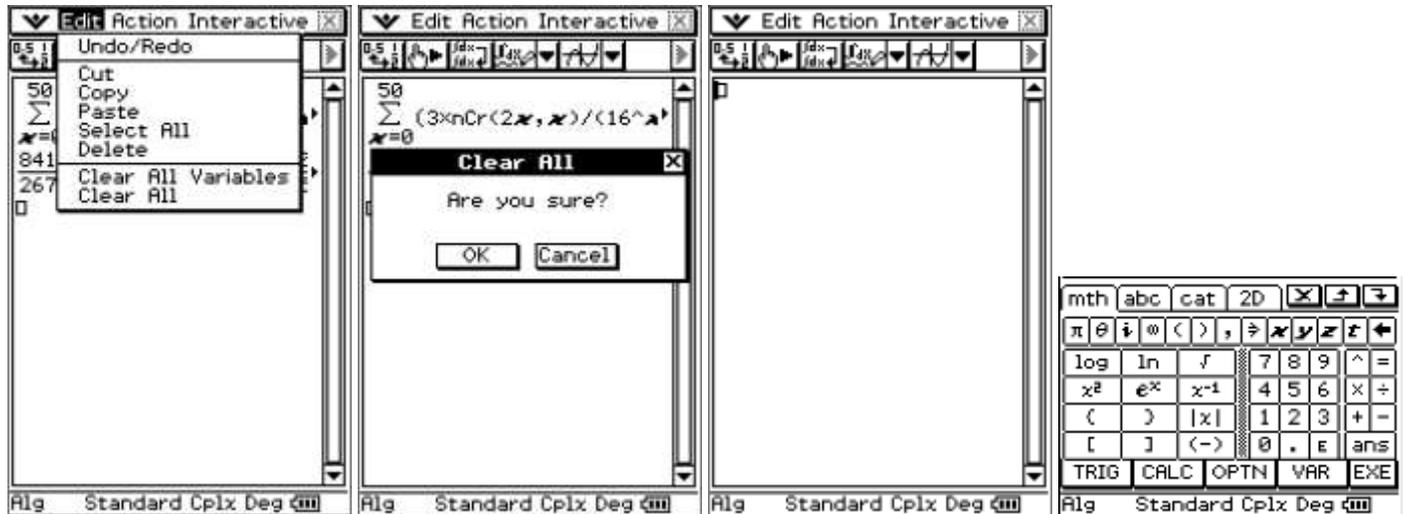
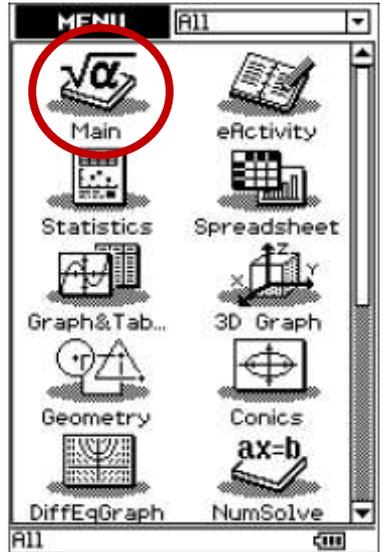
Then taking the square root of both sides gives: $r = \pm \sqrt{\frac{A}{\pi}}$

Because we are dealing with a physical measurement we can ignore the negative sign to have $r = \sqrt{\frac{A}{\pi}}$

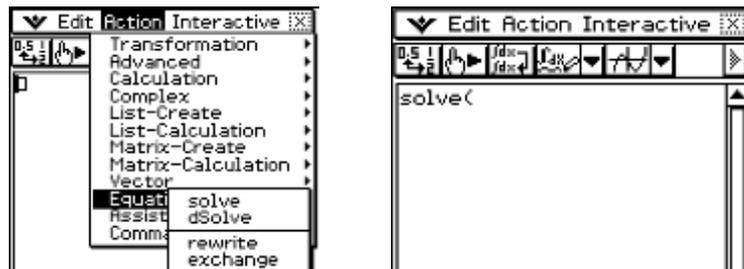
Enter the **MAIN** icon from the **MENU**

Clear any work you have so that the working area is 'clean select 'Clear All' and tap on 'OK'.

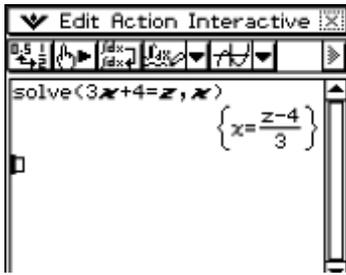
Remember that you can use the soft keyboard to enter the equations into the workspace (Press the Keyboard Button).



To rearrange use 'solve' which is accessed via the drop down 'Action' then 'Equation/Inequality' and tap on 'solve'. Then enter the equation followed by a comma then the variable (letter).

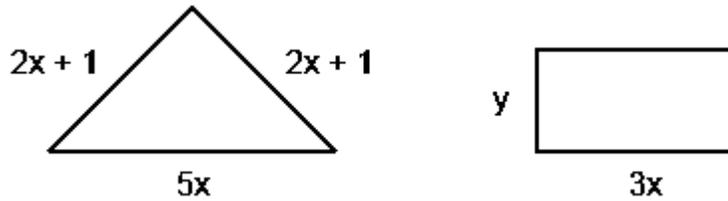


Example: For the equation $3x + 4 = z$, make x the subject.



Using your Classpad to ...

Problem 1: The triangle and rectangle have equal perimeters.



This gives: $(2x + 1) + (2x + 1) + 5x = y + 3x + y + 3x$

which simplifies to: $9x + 2 = 6x + 2y$

- (i) Rearrange the formula to make 'x' the subject.
- (ii) Rearrange the formula to make 'y' the subject.

Problem 2: A circular pond is inside a square shaped lawn. The area (A) of the lawn is given by $A = 4x^2 - \pi x^2$. Rearrange the formula to make 'x' the subject.

Problem 3: Rearrange the formula $2x^2 - 3x - 4 = 0$ to make 'x' the subject.

Problem 4: Make 'a' the subject of the formula: $s = \frac{a}{4} + 8u$.

Solutions:

