

Appendix A: Using a TI-82 (TI-83) Graphing Calculator

A graphing calculator is a useful tool for doing many different mathematical things. Once you begin to use it, you'll find that it is powerful, fast, and friendly. In fact, your biggest difficulty may be just getting started for the first time! Because this machine can do a lot, it has lots of complicated looking buttons. But you don't have to know about *all* of them before you start to use *any* of them! The sooner you make friends with your electronic assistant, the more it will be able to help you. Let us introduce you to each other by trying a few simple things.

The Cover

The face of the calculator is protected from dirt and scratches by a cover that slides on and off from the top. When you're using the calculator, this cover slips on the back so that you won't lose it. Always put the cover back over the face of the calculator when you finish using it.

On, Off, **2nd**, and Clear

To get the calculator's attention, just press **ON** (at the lower left corner of the calculator). What happens? Do you see a dark block blinking in the upper left corner of the screen? That's the **cursor**, which tells you where you are on the screen. The cursor is always at the spot that will be affected by the next button you push.

Notice that the word OFF is printed in color above the **ON** button, a little to the left of its center. Notice also that there is one key of the same color. It is the key marked **2nd** at the left end of the second row.

When you push **2nd**, it makes the next key that you push behave like what is marked above it on the left.

Try it. Push **2nd**. What has happened to the cursor? Do you see an up arrow inside it as it blinks? That's to remind you that **2nd** key has been pushed and will affect the next key

