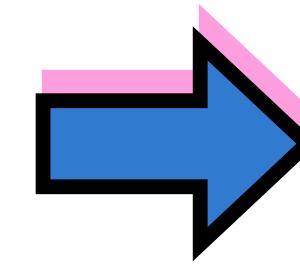
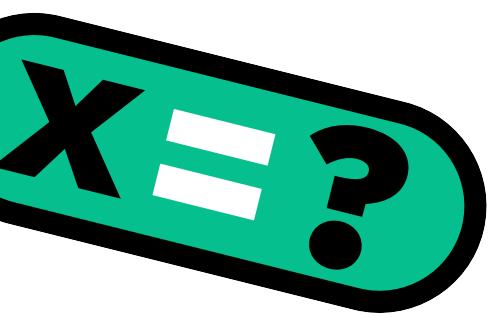


# The Sign Rule



The sign rule is used to determine whether the answer to a multiplication or division operation is positive or negative.

 Multiplying or dividing two numbers with the **same sign** gives a **positive** answer.

 Multiplying or dividing two numbers with **different signs** gives a **negative** answer.

## The sign rule

+	$\times$ or $\div$	+	=	+
-	$\times$ or $\div$	-	=	+
+	$\times$ or $\div$	-	=	-
-	$\times$ or $\div$	+	=	-



### Tip

When dealing with a chain of operations involving several multiplications or divisions, simply count the number of “-” signs.

- If there is an **even number** of “-” signs, the answer will be **positive**.
- If there is an **odd number** of “-” signs, the answer will be **negative**.

For example, the following chain of operations has three **negative numbers**, which means that the answer is **negative**:  $-452 \div -16 \times 12 \times 2 \div -15 = -45.2$ .