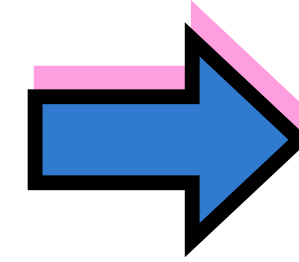
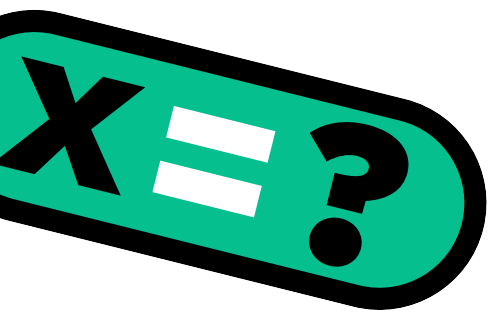


# The Sign Rule

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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

+	× or ÷	+	=	+
-	× or ÷	-	=	+
+	× or ÷	-	=	-
-	× or ÷	+	=	-



## 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**:  $-452 \div -16 \times 12 \times 2 \div -15 = -45.2$ .