



# Graphing calculators

That calculator on your computer can do only so much. Real math whizzes require specialised tools like these that graph complex mathematical functions. The best models combine ease of use with enough horsepower to handle the toughest tasks.



## Texas Instruments TI-89 Titanium

Updated Basic makes programming easy, even with a rudimentary understanding of the language. Includes PDA functions like contacts and calendar. 300-page manual will bore all but true geeks. More calculator than casual users need.

R1 200, [www.education.ti.com](http://www.education.ti.com)



## HP 50g

With practice, high-end Reverse Polish Notation is the fastest way to handle tough problems. Training modules available from HP's Web site. Steepest learning curve of the lot. This calculator is favoured by engineers and scientists.

R1 900, [www.hp.com](http://www.hp.com)



## Casio ClassPad 300Plus

Graphical interface makes it great for English majors and those stymied by more complicated calculators. Manipulate geometry onscreen by dragging points. Too few hard keys for advanced users. Programming ability not as robust as other calculators'. Suitable for only lower-division math and science courses. Pricy.

R1 600, [www.casio.com](http://www.casio.com)



## Sharp EL-9900C

Double-sided keypad, for beginning and advanced functions. Great bargain. Trains the user for more advanced calculators. Might be good for families with students at different grade levels. Lose the keypad and you have yourself one handy-dandy paperweight. Not as robust as other brands. Only 64 Kbytes of memory. Not much of a user community.

R700, [www.sharpusa.com](http://www.sharpusa.com)

