



Puzzle time

The largest number

You need a calculator for this puzzle.

Using the numbers 2, 4, 6 and 8, the multiply sign, the add sign and the equals sign, what is the largest number you can make?

You may only press each digit and sign once, but you don't have to press all the signs.

2

4

6

8

X

+

=

Hmm! Is 42×68 bigger than 684×2 ?

What about $864 + 2$?



Find the answer on the next page.



Puzzle time

The largest number - answer

Remember what this puzzle was? The rules are below.

Using the numbers 2, 4, 6 and 8, the multiply sign, the add sign and the equals sign, what is the largest number you can make?

You may only press each digit and sign once, but you don't have to press all the signs.



The favourite answer for this puzzle is 5 248, which is achieved by 82×64 . Well done if you got that.

But!!!! if you are a bit smart you might come up with 8642. Yes, just the digits written down will give a larger answer! Note that the rules said that the signs did not have to be used.

However!!! If you are a real whizz on the calculator you can get the incredible answer of 74 684 164.

You get this by pressing $8642 \times =$ on the calculator.

What the calculator does when you put in a number and press \times and then $=$ is to multiply the number by itself. If in doubt try it for your self!