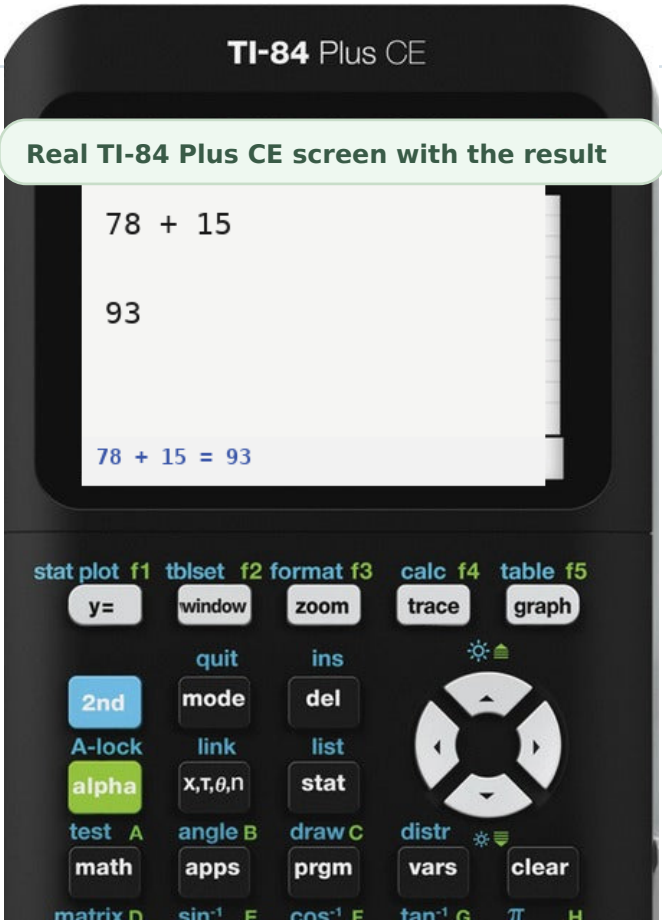
1. Calculator basics

School-poster style • Main keys, 2nd, ALPHA, and ENTER

C4C POSTER



Real TI-84 Plus CE screen with the result

What students should notic

- ENTER evaluates the expression.
- 2nd opens the secondary function above a key.
- ALPHA enters letters when a task needs them.
- DEL edits one character; CLEAR

Teacher talk

Ask students: “Which key evaluates the expression? Which key changes another key’s function?”

Expected result

Students should read 93 and explain that ENTER evaluated the expression.

Key sequence 7 → 8 → + → 1 → 5 → ENTER

Enter 78 + 15

7 → 8 → + → 1 → 5

Type the arithmetic expression exactly as written.

Press ENTER

ENTER

Use ENTER to evaluate the expression.

Read the result

The home screen should show 93.

Edit with purpose

Use DEL for one character and CLEAR for the whole current line.

Calculator basics: classroom support

Key-by-key reminder, common mistakes, and a student challenge

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Key-by-key reminder

2nd
Open a secondary function.

ALPHA
Enter letters.

DEL
Delete one character.

CLEAR
Clear the current entry.

ENTER
Evaluate or confirm.

Y=
Remember: graphing starts here.

5-minute classroom routine

1. Enter a simple expression.
2. Predict the answer mentally.
3. Press ENTER and compare.
4. Demonstrate DEL versus CLEAR.
5. Show one 2nd or ALPHA example.

Common mistakes to watch

- Using subtraction instead of the negative-number key for a negative value.
- Pressing CLEAR when only one character needs editing.
- Forgetting that 2nd changes the next key press.

Student challenge / exit ticket

Try one of these follow-up tasks:

63 + 28	**120 − 47**	**9 × 8**

Predict each answer first, then use the calculator to check.