

What does E mean on a calculator?

From: *A Maths Dictionary for Kids* by Jenny Eather at www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com

If a number is too big or too small to fit in a calculator display, often, scientific notation using the letter E (or e) for exponent (power or index) will be used.



Practice

If you multiply $10\,000\,000\,000 \times 10\,000\,000\,000 =$
the answer is too big so you will see $1e+20$
which means **one times ten to the power of 20**
or **1.0 with the decimal point moved 20 places to the right.**

Click the calculator buttons to multiply large numbers.



Watch the calculator to see if it shows e.



Examples

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| decimal notation | ▶ 100 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 |
| | ▶ 0.000 000 000 000 000 000 000 01 |
| scientific notation | ▶ 1×10^{20} |
| | ▶ 1×10^{-20} |
| calculator version | ▶ 1e + 20 |
| | ▶ 1e - 20 |



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