WebAssign General and Specific Hints: Lessons 1 – 8

For typing answers into WebAssign in the correct form, the best guides are the odd-numbered answers in the back of the textbook, the even answers to book problems on the course website, and the answers in the textbook's examples.

When you click on an answer box in WebAssign, the calcPad will appear, if needed. The calcPad not only has options for fractions, exponents, radicals, etc., there are also subheadings with other options, such as inequality signs, logarithms, unions, etc. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the different features of the calcPad, including each subheading (Functions, Relations, etc.).

You can submit answers to each individual problem up to 100 times until the due date/time for the assignment has passed. Any problem that is correctly answered 6 hours or more before the due date will earn a 10% bonus. The only time you will receive a point deduction for attempting a problem more than once is when you are completing multiple choice problems. Read through the WebAssign Bonus/Penalty document for more information.

A perfect score on a homework assignment is not necessarily an indication that a student understands everything on that particular assignment. With multiple attempts and the early submission bonus, students can earn a 100% (or more) on an assignment simply by being persistent. All students are encouraged to complete their homework as early as possible, and to answer each homework problem until they get it correct. However, if you require multiple attempts to answer a homework problem, you need to go back and review that type of problem before quizzes and exams. On quizzes and exams, you will not have multiple attempts, bonus, or unlimited time.

GENERAL HW HINT:

- **NEVER** give an approximate answer to a question unless a problem specifically asks you to approximate. **ALWAYS** enter exact answers, unless the directions state otherwise.
- **ALWAYS** use the correct case for letters and symbols; if its lower case in the problem, it should be lower case in the answer
- When graphing lines, parabolas, circles, etc., do not start by plotting points in WebAssign. Simply use the graphing tools available (tutorials are available on the graphs before you begin).

TI-30XA TIPS:

- To enter a fraction or a mixed number into the calculator, use the $a\,{}^{b}/_{c}$ key near the bottom left-hand corner (just above the ← key).
  - $\frac{1}{2}$ is entered 1 $a\,{}^{b}/_{c}$ 2
  - $3\frac{1}{2}$ is entered 3 $a\,{}^{b}/_{c}$ 1 $a\,{}^{b}/_{c}$ 2
- To change from a mixed number to an improper fraction, use the 2nd function on the $a\,{}^{b}/_{c}$ key $\left({}^{d}/_{c}\right)$.
  - To convert $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{7}{2}$, hit 2nd $a\,{}^{b}/_{c}$
  - $\frac{3}{2}+\frac{3}{4}=2\frac{1}{4}$; to convert this to an improper fraction, hit 2nd $a\,{}^{b}/_{c}$
  - You do not need to use the = key
- To change from a decimal to a mixed number or a fraction, use the 2nd function on the ← key in the bottom left-hand corner.
  - $14 \div 49 = 0.2857$ ...; to convert this to a fraction, hit 2nd ←
  - You do not need to use the = key
  - This will not work every time, because not every decimal can be written as a fraction
- To raise any base to any power, use the y^x key located directly above the division key
  - 3^5 is entered 3 y^x 5 =
  - This will not work every time, because not every base can be raised to any power
    - -2 cannot be taken to the power of $\frac{1}{2}$ because the square root of -2 does not exist with real numbers
    - 0 cannot be taken to a negative power because division by zero is not possible

Lesson 1 assignment:

- Read the directions very carefully on problem #8. Be sure to enter your answers in the correct format.

Lesson 2 assignment:

- Read the directions very carefully on problems #1 and 2. Be sure to enter your answers in the correct format.
- A problem given in radical form should have an answer given in radical form, unless it simplifies completely and the radical symbols are not needed.
- On problem #11, once you convert from rational exponents to radical form, be sure to simplify the radicals as much as possible
- On problems #16 and 17, simplify the expressions first, then rationalize the denominators (write an equivalent expression without radicals in the denominator), then simplify completely

Lesson 3 assignment:

- Enter your answers in polynomial form.

Lesson 4 assignment:

- Be sure all answers are factored COMPLETELY. If you factor a polynomial, always check to see if your factors are factorable.

Lesson 5 assignment:

- Enter answers in factored form whenever possible.

Lesson 6 assignment:

- Enter answers in factored form whenever possible.

Lesson 7 assignment:

- Only enter restrictions for equations with INFINITELY MANY SOLUTIONS
- For rational equations, ALWAYS verify that your solutions do NOT produce a zero in the denominator.
- On problem #9, substitute the value for a in for x, then solve for c.

Lesson 8 assignment:

- Read each problem slowly, carefully, and repeatedly.