and their assignments are displayed. A variable is not displayed if a semicolon is typed instead of a comma. For example, the assignments of the variables a, B, and C above can all be done in the same line.

```
>> a=12, B=4; C=(a-B)+40-a/B*10

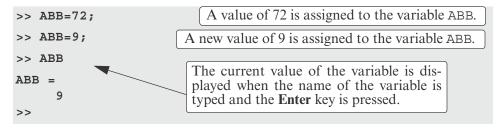
a =

12

The variable B is not displayed because a semicolon is typed at the end of the assignment.

18
```

• A variable that already exists can be reassigned a new value. For example:



Once a variable is defined it can be used as an argument in functions. For example:

```
>> x=0.75;
>> E=sin(x)^2+cos(x)^2
E =
1
```

1.6.2 Rules About Variable Names

A variable can be named according to the following rules:

- Must begin with a letter.
- Can be up to 63 characters long.
- Can contain letters, digits, and the underscore character.
- Cannot contain punctuation characters (e.g., period, comma, semicolon).
- MATLAB is case-sensitive: it distinguishes between uppercase and lowercase letters. For example, AA, Aa, aA, and aa are the names of four different variables.
- No spaces are allowed between characters (use the underscore where a space is desired).
- Avoid using the name of a built-in function for a variable (i.e., avoid using cos, sin, exp, sqrt, etc.). Once a function name is used to for a variable name, the function cannot be used.