

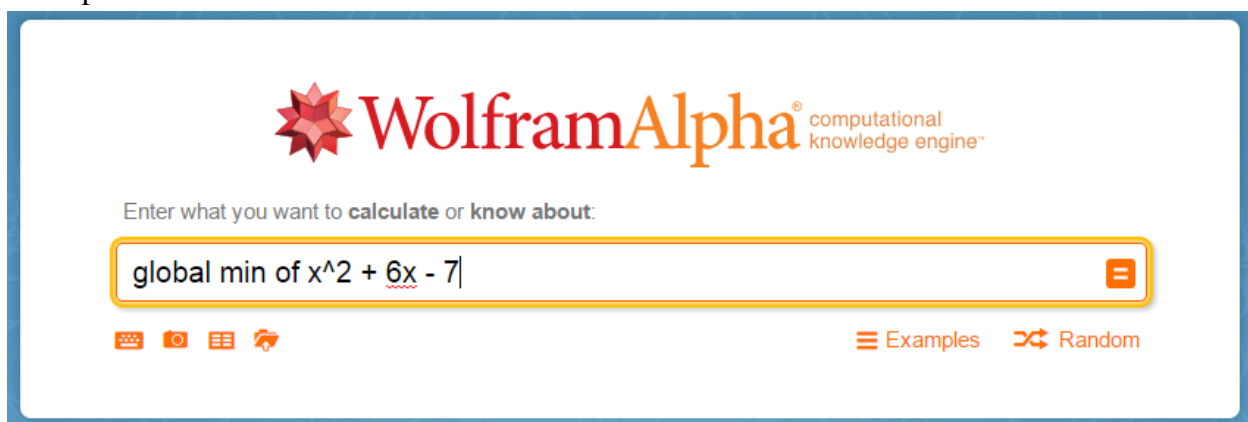
Having trouble getting answers?

What will frequently happen in math is that you will be unsure whether or not you're doing a problem right or whether or not you have arrived at the right answer. This uncertainty can be incredibly frustrating to deal with, especially when you're dealing with it for several problems rather than one. While it is not always to obtain perfect answers single-handedly or from someone else, the knowledge on how to maximize your chances of finding the correct answers can be obtained.

When confronted with uncertainty, the first obvious thing to do is to google it. Type up the problem word for word, plug it into google, and see what you get. Plugging in the problem word for word is more likely to work for non-word problems, so for word problems a different approach must be taken. For word problems, you can either take a part of the word problem and google it or plug in the entire problem without any numbers. You will rarely get answers for the same exact problem with Google, but you will most likely end up getting information about nearly the exact same problem with different numbers.

Another good alternative to Google is WolframAlpha. While WolframAlpha will not be of help for word problems, if you are able to strip the problem down to a mathematical form (like an equation), then WolframAlpha can probably get you the answer. In addition to being able to provide information on equations, WolframAlpha allows you to query certain properties of an equation.

Example:



WolframAlpha gives me:

Input interpretation:

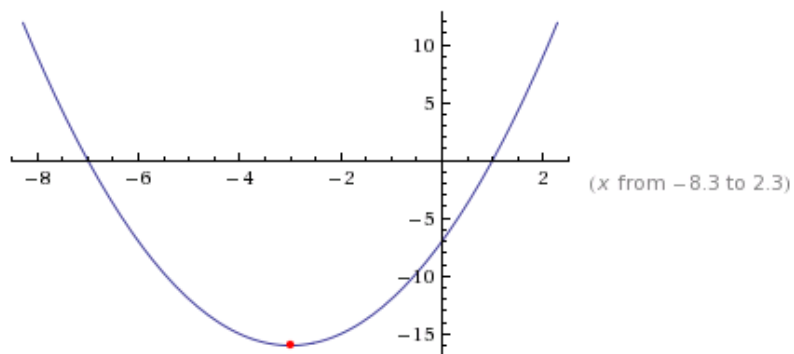
minimize

$$x^2 + 6x - 7$$

Global minimum:

$$\min\{x^2 + 6x - 7\} = -16 \text{ at } x = -3$$

Plot:



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POWERED BY THE WOLFRAM LANGUAGE