Tips for Learning How to Create Calculations

There is no easy way to know exactly how to create the perfect formula; it takes practice and research. However, here are some ways you can start to learn:

* **Know your question or purpose**

If you know the type of data you need, this can help you choose the correct function, as well as format your formula properly. For example, if you need to show profit for an order, you might create a formula similar to the following: SUM (Sales) - SUM (Cost).

* **Learn Tableau functions**

There are many different functions available in Tableau. Each type serves a different purpose. To learn more, see [Functions in Tableau](https://help.tableau.com/current/pro/desktop/en-gb/functions.htm).

* **Learn how to format calculations**

Once you are familiar with the different types of Tableau functions and their purpose, make sure to learn how to format calculations using the proper syntax. To learn more, see [Formatting Calculations in Tableau](https://help.tableau.com/current/pro/desktop/en-gb/functions_operators.htm).

* **Learn from other examples**

Learning by example is very effective. Try to collect a list of common calculations to use in your everyday analysis. There are several resources available to you:

* + [Tableau Community Resource: Calculation Reference Library](https://community.tableau.com/community/viz-talk/tableau-community-library/calculation-reference-library)
  + [Tableau Blog: Top 10 Tableau table calculations](https://www.tableau.com/en-gb/about/blog/2017/2/top-10-tableau-table-calculations-65417)
  + [Tableau Blog: Top 15 LOD Expressions](https://www.tableau.com/en-gb/about/blog/LOD-expressions)
  + [Tableau Blog: Save time and stay consistent with a template of calculated fields](https://www.tableau.com/en-gb/about/blog/2017/2/save-time-and-stay-consistent-template-workbook-calculated-fields-66016)

Still having trouble? [Ask for help on the Tableau Community](https://community.tableau.com/community/forums/content?filterID=contentstatus%5Bpublished%5D~category%5Bcalculations%5D)