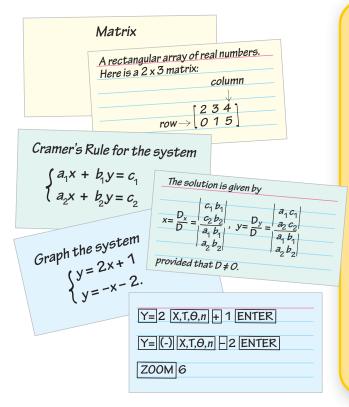
Study Skills in Action

Viewing Math as a Foreign Language

Learning math requires more than just completing homework problems. For instance, learning the material in a chapter may require using approaches similar to those used for learning a foreign language in that you must:

- understand and memorize vocabulary words;
- understand and memorize mathematical rules (as you would memorize grammatical rules); and
- apply rules to mathematical expressions or equations (like creating sentences using correct grammar rules).

You should understand the vocabulary words and rules in a chapter as well as memorize and say them out loud. Strive to speak the mathematical language with fluency, just as a student learning a foreign language must strive to do.



Smart Study Strategy

Make Note Cards

Invest in three different colors of 4 × 6 note cards. Use one color for each of the following: vocabulary words; rules; and calculator keystrokes.

- Write vocabulary words on note cards, one word per card. Write the definition and an example on the other side. If possible, put definitions in your own words.
- Write rules on note cards, one per card.
 Include an example and an explanation on the other side.
- Write each kind of calculation on a separate note card. Include the keystrokes required to perform the calculation on the other side.

Use the note cards as references while doing your homework. Quiz yourself once a day.