Lesson #11

$$-x^2 \text{ vs } (-x)^2$$

A common misunderstanding that often occurs for users of the TI-84 is the difference between $-x^2$ and $(-x)^2$.

Set 1 – Evaluate each expression with and without the parenthesis. Compare the results.

LP#1 -5^2	$(-5)^2$	-18^2	$(-18)^2$
LP#2 -9^2	$(-9)^2$	-13^2	$(-13)^2$
R#1 -11^2	$(-11)^2$	-22^2	$(-22)^2$
R#2 -8^2	$(-8)^2$	-31^2	$(-31)^2$
R#3 -15^2	$(-15)^2$	-19^2	$(-19)^2$

The examples above show that a negative number will not be completely squared unless the negative sign (–) and the number are grouped together inside of parenthesis.