**Tips on How to Input Answers into WebAssign:**

Familiarize yourself early with how to input answers into the answer boxes. Some tips:

1. Don’t click in an answer box until you are ready to type in an answer. Once you click, WebAssign is expecting to score your answer.
2. Answer boxes are scored separately. For instance, if a problem has three boxes, you can submit the first box and leave the other two blank, and only the first is graded.
3. Once you click on a (large) answer box on any assignment, a CalcPad will show up on the right side of your browser. Play around with your CalcPad to see where all the input options are located. Some keyboard shortcuts are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Math Term</th>
<th>Shortcut</th>
<th>Math Term</th>
<th>Shortcut</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Square root:</td>
<td>sqrt(</td>
<td>π</td>
<td>pi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>infinity</td>
<td></td>
<td>θ:</td>
<td>theta</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. WebAssign almost never cares if you simplify an expression or not. For instance, a correct answer of 5 can be input as \((4)(2) - 3(1)\). The exceptions to this are if you do not get a CalcPad (in which case you probably need to use a decimal approximation) or if it is a multiple-choice question (in which case, you will have to simplify your answer to match one of the choices.)
5. WebAssign is CaSe sEnsItive. Make sure your variables are in the correct case! If you accidentally type Y instead of y but the formula is correct, you can visit your instructor and s/he might give you your points back.
6. WebAssign is also variable sensitive. An answer of \(3t+4\) is not the same as \(3x+4\). If your work is otherwise correct, your teacher may be inclined to return these points too, but don’t bet on it. The variable name provides important context!
7. **Make sure you are answering the question being asked.** The directions will tell you how to submit multiple answers, such as larger/smaller answers, etc.
8. **Follow directions carefully!** If the answer requires an equation, your answer must include an equal sign somewhere. For example, the linear equation \(y = 2x + 3\) will be marked incorrect if you input just \(2x+3\).
9. You are not required to input units (such as cm, in, ft, etc.) in WebAssign. The exception to this rule is the degree symbol when we get to the Trig sections.
10. WebAssign prefers a symbolic answer to a numeric approximation (say, \(\pi\) versus 3.14). Do not use decimal approximations unless the directions specifically say otherwise. In the event that a problem allows decimal approximations, make sure that you follow directions on how far to round off. For example, if it says “round \(\pi\) to two correct decimal places”, then 3.14 will be marked correct, while 3.15 and 3.1 will be marked wrong. (Besides, an exact answer shows better understanding of the work!)
11. Do not use mixed numbers (fractions with integer parts). WebAssign will read an answer of \(5 \frac{1}{8}\) as \(5 \times \frac{1}{8}\) (i.e. \(\frac{5}{8}\)), not as \(5 + \frac{1}{8}\). Improper fractions, such as \(41/8\), are acceptable.
12. Make sure you are answering the question being asked. This requires that you carefully read and understand the question/word problem. If it asks you for the surface area of a box, do not input the volume of the box! If the question asks for points of the form \((a,a)\), then \((7, 12)\) is not a good answer to input! **Think before you click submit!**

---

1 Credit goes to Stacy Musgrave for this useful collection of tips, of which I’ve only made minor changes.