





Assigning Values to Constants and Variables



Everything on your LiveMath is active. It is all "on" at the same time. LiveMath remembers what you have done and monitors these steps for any changes and then recomputes automatically.

This can be confusing when there is more than one definition in a notebook for a particular constant, variable, or function. To clear these situations up LiveMath has a way for you to indicate which definitions you want to be active and which ones it should ignore temporarily.



To indicate that you want a particular definition to be active you place a dot in its assumption/statement box . You do this by clicking on the assumption/statement box (which will highlight it) and then clicking  in the palette.



Here is an example.

Below are five statements. The first four are definitions for the value of **a**. The last one is a calculation involving **a**. Depending on which definition is active the calculation will give a different result.

Try it. Activate the **a = 4** definition by highlighting its

assumption/statement box and then making it "hot" via the palette. 

The calculated value of **a² + 1** will update automatically to reflect the new value of **a**. Activate each definition of **a** and watch LiveMath recalculate.


a = 3

a = 4

a = 5

a = 6

a² + 1

 a² + 1 = 10 Calculate



Here's another example.

Make different definitions of **b** and **c** active and watch LiveMath automatically update the calculation **b + c** and the bottom.

b = 1

c = 2

b = 3

c = 3

b = 1

$c = 0$

$b + c$

$b + c = 4$ Calculate



Now It's Your Turn... Follow the directions below to get hands on experience.



1.

Enter in these definitions into their own statements:

$$x = 3, x = 4, x = -1$$

Enter in this expression into a statement:

$$x^2 + x - 1$$

Activate the $x = 3$ statement.

Calculate the expression $x^2 + x - 1$

Activate the other definitions of x and watch LiveMath update the calculation.