



Mystery Number

 **CALCULATOR
CRUNCH**

MEI[®]
Mathematics
Education
Innovation

What could this number in your display mean and how might it have got there?
What would it mean if it was:

- Time – days, hours, minutes, seconds
- Money
- Length
- Mass
- Capacity ... or ...



12.5 could be:

Aim of the game

To work out what 12.5 might mean as the answer to a problem.

Calculators are great at doing calculations, but they don't always tell us what the answer means. The answer the calculator has given us is 12.5 but what could that mean?

How to play

Think of all the different things that the question could have been about. Here are a few examples:

What would it mean if it was:

- Time – days, hours, minutes, seconds?
- Money?
- Length?
- Mass?
- Capacity?

For example, if it was 12.5 hours, the display would mean 12 hours and 30 minutes as 30 minutes is half an hour or 0.5 of an hour.

What would it mean if the problem was about money and the 12.5 was pounds (£)?

What else could you have been working out?

12.5 could be ...

Top Tip

0.5 is a half ($\frac{1}{2}$) as a decimal so think about what a half means in different situations.