

# Spreadsheet Challenge

You need  a computer spreadsheet  a classmate

## Activity

This is how Beth used a computer spreadsheet to set up a challenge for a classmate:

- She typed *In* into the A1 cell. Then she typed *Try* into the B1 cell and *Out* into the C1 cell.
- Then, Beth had to type a formula (rule) into the C2 cell and press the return key. She remembered to start with  $\text{=}$  and to use A2 in her formula. She knew that the  $\text{*}$  key was used for multiplication and the  $\text{/}$  key for division. (You will need to find out how to enter formulae on your computer's spreadsheet program.)

	A	B	C
1	In	Try	Out
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

Beth's formula

	A	B	C
1	In	Try	Out
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			



- Beth used the mouse to block the cells C2 to C11. She chose *Fill Down* from the *Calculate* menu to copy her formula into the other column C cells. (Your spreadsheet menus may have different names.)
- Finally, she checked the other cells in column C to see that her formula had been copied down.

**1.** Use Beth's method to set up a challenge for one of your classmates.

	A	B	C
1	In	Try	Out
2	2		7
3	5		16
4	3		10
5			
6			
7			
8			

2. Ask your classmate to guess your formula, using this method:  
 Get your classmate to type some more numbers in the *In* column.  
 The computer will work your formula on these numbers and put them in the *Out* column.  
 At any time, your classmate can put a formula into B2 and use the *Fill Down* function.

A5		x	✓
	A	B	C
1	In	Try	Out
2	2		7
3	5		16
4	3		10
5	4		13
6	7		22
7	8		25
8			

I think  $m(A2+2)+3^2$  will work!

B2		x	✓	=(A2*2)+3
	A	B	C	
1	In	Try	Out	
2	2	7		
3	5	7		
4	3	13		
5	4	9		
6	7	11		
7	8	17		
8		19		

The computer will apply your classmate's formula on the numbers in column A. If the numbers in column B match those in column C, your classmate has worked out the correct formula. (This classmate's formula was not correct.)

