You can use MATLAB to evaluate mathematical expressions. Type the expression into the command window and press return:

```
>> 5 + 3 - 1
ans =
    7
```

Alternately, you can assign values to variables, and compute with those variables:

```
>> x = 8
x =
    8

>> y = 10
y =
    10

>> z = y/x
z =
    1.2500
```

Some built-in functions of MATLAB:

- `pi`
- `sin` (also other trig functions: type `sin(pi/4)`, for example)
- `log` (natural log: `log10` and `log2` are logs base 10 and 2)
- `sqrt` (type `sqrt(12)`, for example)
- `exp` (exponential: to obtain $e^x$, type `exp(x)`)
- `abs` (absolute value: type `abs(-10)` to obtain 10. Can be used with complex numbers.)

You can use MATLAB’s help browser, or type `help` with the command you want to learn more about:

```
help log
```
To suppress output, finish a line with a semicolon (;). If you prefer to see all output, do not use the semicolon.

```matlab
>> 3/4
ans =
   0.7500

>> 3/4;
>>
```

To change the format of output:

```matlab
>> format short
>> pi
ans =
   3.1416

>> format long
>> pi
ans =
   3.14159265358979

>> format short e
>> pi
ans =
   3.1416e+000

>> format long e
>> pi
ans =
   3.141592653589793e+000
```