Calculated fields cheat sheet

Five operations, three worked formulas and the naming rule, for a form that adds up while people answer.

How a calculated field works

A calculated field holds a number the person filling in the form never types. Logic rules change it: each Calculate rule adds, subtracts, multiplies, divides or sets the value, using a number you type (Value) or an earlier answer (Field).

The rules run in the order you added them, then the value is rounded. A rule only sees answers that come before the calculated field, so put the field after the questions it uses.

Pipe the field into a question label or a paragraph and the total updates as people change their answers. The server works it out again when the form is submitted.

The five operations

Operation	What it does	Example
Set to	Replaces the value with a number or an earlier answer.	Set to the field tickets (start from the number of tickets).
Add	Adds a number or an earlier answer.	Add 8 (a delivery fee).
Subtract	Takes away a number or an earlier answer.	Subtract 5 (a discount).
Multiply by	Multiplies by a number or an earlier answer.	Multiply by 15 (price per ticket).
Divide by	Divides by a number or an earlier answer.	Divide by 3 (three questions, for an average).

Start each calculated field with a Set to rule, so it begins from a number you know.

Three worked formulas

Ticket count times price: ticket_total

Rule	Calculate step
1	Set to the field tickets
2	Multiply by 15

Worked example: 4 tickets: 4 x 15 = 60.

Order total with delivery: order_total

Rule	Calculate step
1	Set to the field cupcakes
2	Add the field muffins
3	Multiply by 3.50
4	Add 8, in a rule that runs when delivery is Yes

Worked example: 12 cupcakes, 6 muffins, delivery: (12 + 6) x 3.50 + 8 = 71.

Average score: average_score

Rule	Calculate step
1	Set to the field q1
2	Add the field q2
3	Add the field q3
4	Divide by 3

Worked example: Ratings 4, 5 and 3: (4 + 5 + 3) / 3 = 4.

In the order total, cupcakes and muffins share one price, so the rules add the two counts and multiply once. Place order_total after the questions it uses.

The naming rule

Every calculated field (and hidden field) has a name. A name:

- starts with a letter (A to Z or a to z),
- then uses only letters, numbers, the underscore _ and the hyphen -,
- and is at most 64 characters long. No spaces.

Name	OK?	Why
order_total	Yes	Letters and an underscore
ticket-total	Yes	A hyphen is fine
q1	Yes	Starts with a letter, then a number
Order total	No	Has a space: try Order_total
1st_total	No	Starts with a number: try total_1
total$	No	The $ sign is not allowed: try total_usd

Before you share the form

- Ask how many of each item with a Number question, and set Min, Max and Whole numbers only where they fit.
- Pipe the total into a paragraph near the end, like "Your order total is $" followed by the field.
- Preview the form and try a small order you can check in your head.
- To charge the total, add a Payment block and use the calculated field as the price.
- To show the total in the confirmation email, insert the calculated field (number calculations can go in it).

Your own calculated field

Field name (letters, numbers, _ and - only, starting with a letter)

Rule	Operation	Value or field	Runs when (optional)
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

Test answers and the total you expect

Companion sheet: calculated-fields-order-total.xlsx works the order total rule by rule. Guide: hornetforms.com/blog/can-google-forms-calculate