

What does the F9 key do?

In Excel, pressing the **F9** keyboard key calculates all formulae on the worksheet.

When used in conjunction with the random number function it will generate a new set of random numbers and endless possibilities for interactive worksheets.

Many teachers now have access to interactive whiteboards or Tablet PC's where an F9 button is not always handy.

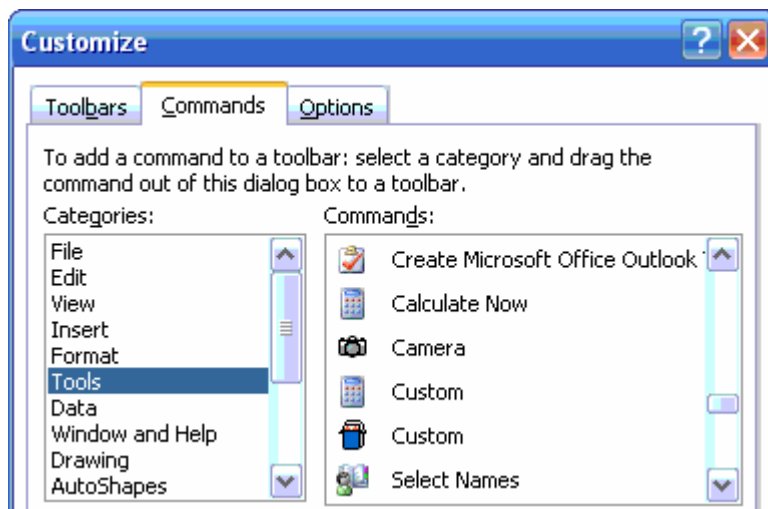
Here are two alternatives to using the F9 key:

### The 'Calculate Now' Button

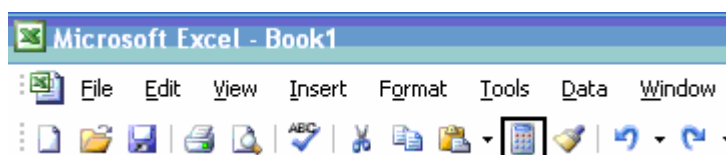
Excel has a toolbar button that will do the same job as the F9 keyboard button.

To obtain this button follow these steps:

1. Go to **View > Toolbars > Customize...**
2. Select **Tools** from the **Categories** list



3. Scroll down the **Commands** list until you find **Calculate Now**
4. Click and drag between two existing buttons on a toolbar and let go



## Macro and Button

This method uses Macros, to allow these to run set your Macro security to Medium:

1. **Tools > Macro > Security...**
2. Select the **Medium** option

To create your custom button open a new Excel file then:

1. **View > Toolbars > Forms**



2. Click the **'Button'** button
3. On the spreadsheet drag a rectangle to create a button



4. The 'Assign Macro' window will appear, click **New**
5. The Visual Basic Editor window will appear.  
In the right-hand pane type **Calculate** between **Sub** and **End Sub**



6. Go to **File > Close and Return to Microsoft Excel**

Try out your button, in an empty cell enter: **=rand()**

This will create a random number.

Clicking your button will calculate the worksheet and generate a new random number each time.

To change the text on your button, Right-click the button then left-click the button. You will now be able to edit the text.

To format the button, right-click the button and select **Format Control...**

Check out some of the interactive Excel files on [www.mathsroom.co.uk/downloads.htm](http://www.mathsroom.co.uk/downloads.htm)