CLASSTALK ®

TI-83 Student User Guide

For use with software v8.5

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Classtalk Files for TI-83

To use Classtalk with your TI-83, ALL of the following files need to be copied to your calculator. You can copy files from another TI-83 using the link cable, or from a computer using the TI-Graphlink software and cable.

CTALK.83p
DLOG.83p
DOUTARGS.83p
DREG.83p
GETMENU.83p
MOUTARGS.83p
Pic9.83i
PRDIALOG.83p
PRLOGIN.83p
PRMENU.83p
STRCHECK.83p

Instructions & Notes

Overview of the Classtalk-TI System:

- Classtalk is a network that facilitates interactive teaching & learning...
  Teachers send questions or sets of questions for the class to answer. Students enter their responses on **TI** calculators, and transmit these answers to the teacher's computer. Several students may share one calculator. Sometimes the teacher will want your individual answer; sometimes you will answer with one answer for the group.
- To use Classtalk, you must connect your calculator to the network, and login to open your private Classtalk account. Your account is just like an account on a full-sized computer network except your teacher may have you create your account for yourself--by "registering" ("sending" in special information)the first time you use Classtalk.
- Your TI acts like a "dumb terminal" accessing the Classtalk Network box (the BLACK box) which runs your Classtalk session. Up to 16 TIs can share a single box, each running its own session on the BOX's multi-tasking processor. SO WHAT? So, you can unplug your calculator and your session will continue running. You can even plug a different calculator into your port, and use it to work on your questions. You can exit CTalk, use your calculator to do some calculations, and then restart the CTalk program to answer a question. IMPORTANT! If you move to a different seat or change ports, you will have to relogin so the computer knows where you are now located--Don't try to change ports in the middle of a question.

Hardware & Software:

- Student Unit: TI-83
- Classtalk software (11 files, including CTalk) must be loaded either...
  - 1) using TI's Graphlink and the TI program files from the Classtalk diskette, or
  - 2) from another TI-83 using TI cable & built-in file transfer functions.
    - Plug two together and type [2nd][LINK] on both TIs
    - On the slave TI, Arrow to the right to select "RECEIVE" then press[ENTER] You will get a message that says "Waiting"
    - On the master TI use the up and down arrow keys to select "C:Back up" and press [ENTER]
    - Now select "TRANSMIT" and press[ENTER]
    - A message will appear that says "Warning - Backup" select "Continue" and press [ENTER]
    - This will take a few seconds. If successful you will get a message that says "MEMORY BACKUP DONE"
    - Now press [2nd][MODE] to exit

Note: If you are updating an old Program or reloading one that was somehow corrupted you will be asked if you wish to replace any files of the same name.

Starting CTalk, the Classtalk-TI program:

- Connect your TI-83 to the Classtalk network
  Make sure the plug at the TI is pushed in all the way!
- Verify that the network is ready to connect.
  Your teacher will tell you when it is time to start your TI.
- Start up the CTalk program on your TI...
  Press the [ON] key
  Press the [Prgm] key
  Select CTALK from the Program list
  Press [ENTER] [ENTER]
- If you see no message on your screen, try pressing the [VARS] key. Pressing the [VARS] key tells the processor to send the latest screen to your TI.

Stopping CTalk:
To stop the CTalk program, press [2nd] [MODE] repeatedly until the dark cursor appears on screen.
You may now use other calculator functions, or press [2nd] [ON] to turn the **TI "Off".**

Using CTalk's Menu Items:
Whenever CTalk is running, except in the full-screen editor (see below), you will see menu items on the bottom line of the screen. These items help make CTalk. work for you. Menu commands are implemented by pressing the blue key directly below them. Some of the MENU ITEMS and there corresponding [KEYS] are listed below:

> **OK [GRAPH]:** *During login*, use this key to send in your completed login information. *During questioning*, this key finalizes an action such as selecting a user or question or sending in an answer.

> **ED [TRACE]:** use this key whenever you need to type more than a couple of characters to answer a question. This key activates your TI's "Full screen editor" for rapid entry of number, letters or words. After typing your response, press the [ENTER] key or **OK** to send it in. *This editor responds quickly to your typing, but regrettably blanks out almost all CTalk information AND keeps the TI from listening to what's going on in the BLACK box. We suggest you try not to leave CTalk in the "screen editor" mode any longer than is required to type in your response.*

> **ESC [Y=]:** this key will normally take you to the "Select User" menu or back one screen. Use it if you chose something you didn't want by mistake.

> **USR [WINDOW]:** this key allows you to change the designated user of the TI, unless the teacher has turned on Group-mode. It takes you to a "Select User" menu.

> **FB [GRAPH]:** use this key to view feedback from a question you have answered.

> **QN [TRACE]:** use this key to review the question when you're looking at your feedback.

[VARS] Key-- brings your TI up to date...
Press the [VARS] key if you suspect your TI is not listening to the BLACK box, or that your screen is wrong for what should be happening on the network. This key sends a special message to the BLACK box to retransmit the screen your TI should be showing. A second or two after pressing [VARS] you should see your screen blink as it redraws--this is your clue that all is well. *If the screen doesn't blink*, check your cable connections and try pressing [VARS] again.

Your choice of Editors...
CTalk has two editors that you can use to enter answers or other information...

• *Single Character Editor* (you must type SLOWLY to use this editor):
> Pressing one key at a time is slow but convenient for short answers such as multiple choice. It's hard to correct mistakes with this editor, but easy to see what's going on.

• *Screen Editor* (fast, but you must remember the question, and you may miss some action):
> If you have to select ED to use this editor, then you will only see a short prompt on the editor screen-- you'll have to remember the question. We recommend using the screen editor if you are entering a word, long number , algebraic expression, or sentence. Pressing [ENTER] leaves the screen editor and sends in your answer. You can not re-edit an answer using the screen editor-- to change an answer you must retype it.

Logging in: (every CTalk user needs to login to activate his or her personal account before class)...
Select "Add User" from the CTalk user menu:

> • move the = selection mark to "Add User" using the cursor down key, then
> • press the [Enter] key or **OK** [GRAPH]. shortly you should get the Login Screen.

Enter the following Login information

> • *"Seat location"*: the location code of the seat you're sitting in (e.g., A1 ask your teacher.);
> • *"Handle"*: use your nickname or familiar name. Your "handle" must be unique so add initials or special characters if others in your class share the same nickname.
> • *"Password"*: a secret identifier that you must remember, which keeps others from impersonating the real you on the Classtalk system.

Press [ENTER] after filling in each field. It takes a second for the TI to transmit the information and move the cursor to the next field.
When all log in information is filled in, you are allowed to correct any errors by selecting the field with the "=" and pressing **ED.**
When all your Login information is correct ...

> • choose **REG** if you are a new (first-time) Classtalk user in this class, or
> • choose **OK** to send in your login data (if you have previously registered).

You need to login every day you are using Classtalk!

Registration: (You must register to create a personal Classtalk account in each class' first session)
First-time users--after you fill in your Login information (but before you press OK), you must establish an account by selecting **REG**, and filling in your registration data...

> • *Last Name:* Enter your last name in this field;
> • *First Name:* Enter your full first name in this field;
> • Student ID#: your ID# *must be unique.* If you're unsure what to use ask the teacher.

You Register only once to establish an account, but you have to Login for every class.

Answering a question as an individual:

If you are the only user on a TI:
Shortly after the teacher starts the Task timer, the text of the question will appear on your TI's screen...

> • For a multiple-choice question, just press the key representing your choice, and then press [ENTER] or **OK**. *Remember to use [Alpha] for letter choices.*
> • For question requiring a long number, a word or text, read the question carefully before you press **ED** to activate the "Screen editor". then type in your answer and press [ENTER] to "send" it in. Use [2nd] [Alpha] to lock the TI in alpha mode.
> • Once you've answered, you may change your answer by editing and resending it provided that time is still available. The message **"Done! Change answer?"** means your task has been successfully transmitted and there is time to change your answer.

If you're one of several users answering as "Individuals":
> • Before you can answer, or change your answer, you must select your handle from the "User Menu" so the BLACK box knows who is answering.
> • Read and answer the question as described for *only users* above.

Group Answers (consensus or consensus with dissent):

If the top line of the TI display says Group then you know that the teacher is asking you to answer this question as a group-- with one answer for all users of your TI.

> • Read the question and discuss possible answers with your groups' members;
> • Answer the question as described in individual answers above;

Dissenting from the group answer (when allowed)...

> • When dissent is allowed, a User menu appears on the TI immediately after the group "sends in" its answer. To dissent, select your name from the menu and press [ENTER] or **OK**. You may now edit or replace the group answer if they agree.

Changing the group answer will eliminate dissenting answers. *You will have to reenter your dissent if your group changes its answer.*

Question sets:
A Question Set (QS) is a group of questions that come to your TI all at once. There are two types of Question Sets, each of which is answered slightly differently:

"Random Access" QS: in this case, after you select a user (or group), you are given a list of question titles to choose among. You pick which question to answer first by arrowing up or down the list and pressing [EN-TER] or OK to finalize your selection. The question's text appears, and you enter your answer the usual way. After answering, you select the next question to answer from the list, etc. With this type of Question Set, you determine what order to answer the questions.
"In-order" QS: in this case, the questions are presented in a fixed order, so after you answer the first question, you are given the second to answer, etc. With this type of Question Set, you'll want to answer all the questions before going back to change an answer.

Feedback:
The Classtalk software will analyze your answers and provide on-screen feedback that depends on what you answered, provided your instructor is using tasks that include feedback.
The instructor can decide whether or not to allow feedback, and when the feedback becomes available. Feedback is normally available after all the students have answered (when the task is over), but your instructor may decide to provide feedback immediately after each answer, without waiting for the task to get over.

What to do if your TI Crashes:
Occasionally a TI will get a message it does not recognize. This causes an unavoidable error message to appear on the TI screen (and the CTalk program will stop). The message will often say "Error Break" and then provide two options: 1.Quit 2 Goto. Choose Quit and then restart Classtalk.

To resume after such a TI "Crash"...
>   Press [ENTER] (to break out of the program)
>   Press [ENTER] (this will restart the program unless you've pressed other keys).

If this doesn't work, restart the program the normal way...
>   Press the [ON] key
>   Press the [Prgm] key
>   Select CTALK from the Program list
>   Press [ENTER] [ENTER]