The following characters can be used for typing the source file:

a-z
A-Z
0-9
+ = * / ( ) [ ]
, ; . ? ! : ' ' -

The following are used by LaTeX commands and therefore reserved:

$ % & ~ _ ^ \ { } @ " | < >

In some cases, it may be necesary to enter text with \text {someText} in order to build the correct layout. This is demonstrated in the next line.

Inline formulas are enclosed with \$, for example typing:

\$2\textless \textbar x \textbar \textgreater y\$

yields $2 < |x| > y$.

Displayed formulas are enclosed in \[and \], as typsetted below:

$$\lim_{x \to a} \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}$$

Math symbols are invoked by command, e.g. \infty and \to: as $x \to \infty$. Many require arguments to produce:

$$\frac{\sqrt{3} + 7}{x + r}$$

Note from this source that there are no blank lines before a displayed formula, only after. Formulas are styled according to the document class. Whitespace within a math environment (as denoted above) is mostly ignored.

One can temporarily revert to regular text in a math environment with \text{something}, for example $a + b$ is not the same as $a - b$. Again, check how spaces are not ignored in regular text (in the source) and therefore the extra space is required.