



CHECK SOLUTION USING A DIFFERENT METHOD

Students are often reminded to “check their work,” but what does that really mean? This strategy, Check Your Solution Using a Different Method, helps students check the work they’ve done by solving the problem in a different way. To find success with this strategy, students must understand that there are multiple ways to arrive at a solution. Additionally, they need opportunities to learn and practice different approaches to solving the same problem

For example, if I am solving the problem  $48 + 27$ , I could use the following strategies and arrive at the same solution each time:

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ 48 \\ + 27 \\ \hline 75 \end{array}$$

Number Line: *Begin at 48 on the number line, count ahead 27 more, and end at 75.*

Standard Algorithm:

Decomposition:  
 $48 + 27 =$   
 $(40 + 8) + (20 + 7) =$   
 $(40 + 20 + 8 + 7) =$   
 $(60 + 15) = 75$

When students use this strategy, keep these points in mind:

- It is important for the student to use a strategy they are confident using. If the student uses a strategy that they do not have much practice with, or one that just doesn’t make sense to them, they are likely to be confused and make miscalculations.
- Checking a solution should not take lots of time. Have the student use a method that will quickly help them see if they made any errors in their calculations.

### How You Can Help Your Child with This Strategy at Home

1. Ask your child to explain how they solved a particular math problem. Then, *you* model how you could solve that same problem in a different way and still arrive at the same solution as your child.
2. With your child, practice solving the same problem using different methods. This will familiarize them with different approaches for solving a particular type of problem, and the more they practice these approaches, the more confident with using them they will become.