MAKE A CONNECTION

Make a Connection is a simple yet useful strategy that students can use to help them make sense of a math concept or problem. It means using what they already know about math or what they did to solve a similar problem to help them learn something new.

When students are able to make a connection, they are able to
- persevere in solving math problems and
- build problem-solving memory so they can easily recall this learning.

Example:

Let's say I am solving the problem 3 + 8. I might be able to make a connection in the following ways:

Connection A	Connection B
I remember that I know the fact 8 + 3 = 11. So, even though the numbers are reversed, 3 + 8, the answer will still be 11.	I know that 2 + 8 = 10, so 3 + 8 must be 1 more, which would be 11.

How You Can Help Your Child with This Strategy at Home

1. Give your child a real-world problem (math you use every day) and ask them to *make a connection*. You might help by asking them, "Have you seen a problem like this before? If so, how did you solve it?" Encourage them to think about and explain how they know that their way of solving will work.

2. As you make connections when you are doing math, model out loud what this conversation in your mind sounds like and how it helps you solve a problem.