PRACTICAL AND FINANCIAL LITERACY

Checking Answers Independently

Difficulty level: Easy

Practical and Financial Literacy

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Overview of the concept

This is how you catch your own slips before they cost you marks. You check an answer a different way instead of just rereading the same working, because rereading tends to show you what you meant to write rather than what you actually wrote. A second, independent check is the most reliable way to be sure an answer is right.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Check by inverse operation

SOLUTION

Problem: 47 + 36 = 83.

To check an addition, undo it with the inverse operation: subtract one addend from the answer.

83 - 36 = 47, which is the other addend, so the answer checks out.

If it did not match, the addition was wrong.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Check by substitution

SOLUTION

Equation: x + 5 = 12. You found x = 7.

To check, put the answer back into the original equation: 7 + 5 = 12.

The equation balances (12 = 12), so x = 7 is correct.

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Practice questions

1 You solved $65 + 27 = 92$. How do you check by inverse operation?

- **A** Calculate 92 + 27 and see if it gives 65
- **B** Calculate 92 - 27 and see if it gives 65
- **C** Calculate 65 - 27 and see if it gives 92
- **D** Calculate 92 - 27 and see if it gives 27

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2

You solved 73 - 28 = 45. How do you check by inverse operation?

A Calculate 45 + 28 and see if it gives 73

B Calculate 73 - 28 and see if it gives 45

C Calculate 73 + 28 and see if it gives 45

D Calculate 45 - 28 and see if it gives 73

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3

You check 83 - 36 and get 47. What does that mean?

A The addition is wrong

B The addition checks out

C The subtraction is wrong

D The numbers do not match

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4 Solve 9 x 6 = 54. How do you check it?

A Calculate 54 + 6 and see if it gives 9

B Calculate $\frac{54}{6}$ and see if it gives 9

C Calculate 54 - 6 and see if it gives 9

D Calculate $\frac{54}{6}$ and see if it gives 6

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5

You solved x + 9 = 17 with x = 8. How do you check?

A. Substitute 9 into the equation: 9 + 9 = 17, which is true

B. Substitute 8 into the equation: 8 + 9 = 17, which is true

C. Substitute 8 into the equation: 8 + 9 = 16, which is true

D. Substitute 17 into the equation: 17 + 9 = 17, which is true

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6

You solved x + 3 = 10 with x = 7. How do you check, and is it correct?

A. Substitute 7: 7 + 3 = 10, which is true, so x = 7 is correct.

B. Substitute 3: 3 + 3 = 10, which is true, so x = 3 is correct.

C. Substitute 7: 7 + 3 = 9, which is true, so x = 7 is correct.

D. Substitute 7: 7 + 3 = 10, which is false, so x = 7 is wrong.

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7 **You solved x - 4 = 9 with x = 13. How do you check, and is it correct?**

- **A** Substitute 13: 13 - 4 = 9, which is false, so x = 13 is wrong.
- **B** Substitute 4: 4 - 4 = 9, which is true, so x = 4 is correct.
- **C** Substitute 13: 13 - 4 = 9, which is true, so x = 13 is correct.
- **D** Substitute 13: 13 + 4 = 9, which is true, so x = 13 is correct.

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8 **You solved $x + 8 = 15$ with $x = 6$. How do you check, and is it correct?**

- **A** Substitute 6: 6 + 8 = 15, so x = 6 is correct.
- **B** Substitute 8: 8 + 8 = 15, so x = 8 is correct.
- **C** Substitute 6: 6 + 8 = 14, not 15, so x = 6 is wrong.
- **D** Substitute 6: 6 + 8 = 14, so x = 6 is correct.

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9 Why check with a different method rather than re-reading?

- A Because re-reading is slower
- B Because re-reading tends to repeat the same slip
- C Because a different method always gives a different answer
- D Because re-reading is not allowed

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10 What is the inverse operation of addition?

- A Addition
- B Multiplication
- C Subtraction
- D Division

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ANSWER KEY

1. Calculate 92 - 27 and see if it gives 65

2. Calculate 45 + 28 and see if it gives 73

3. The addition checks out

4. Calculate $\frac{54}{6}$ and see if it gives 9

5. Substitute 8 into the equation: 8 + 9 = 17, which is true

6. Substitute 7: 7 + 3 = 10, which is true, so x = 7 is correct.

7. Substitute 13: 13 - 4 = 9, which is true, so x = 13 is correct.

8. Substitute 6: 6 + 8 = 14, not 15, so x = 6 is wrong.

9. Because re-reading tends to repeat the same slip

10. Subtraction

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