



# Math Strategies

## A Problem-Solver's Journal

### Student Book

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# Guessing and Checking

Guessing and checking can be used to solve a variety of problems. Begin with an educated guess (a guess based on information you already know or ideas that seem reasonable). Don't make a wild guess.

Base your first guess on important facts. Check your guess against the facts and information in the problem.

If your guess is wrong, change it according to whether it is too small or too large.

Repeat these steps until you find the solution.

Learning how to make reasonable guesses will take practice. The best way to work with the facts in the problem is to draw a table.

The table helps you keep track of your guesses and results (checks) until you find the correct solution. Let's see how this is done.

Before you begin using this strategy, you will learn about how and when to use "guess and check" to solve problems. Use the problems on the following pages to practice the strategy.

## Today's Problem

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## Strategy: Guessing and Checking

## Problem

The school cafeteria served 78 lunches. Pizza was the favorite and selected by the greatest number of students. There was one-third the number of hamburgers as pizzas served. There were twice as many tacos as hamburgers served. How many of each food item were selected by the students?

## Using the Strategy

## My Solution

