



Checking your answers

Introduction

This material was drawn from materials developed by Lotus Training and Alder Travel as part of their Key Skills Support Programme development projects.

Some methods for checking answers

When you complete a task, you should check your answers to make sure that they are correct and that they make sense.

You can do this using any of the ways listed below:

- **Approximate calculations:** you can re-check your answer using whole numbers instead of decimal fractions. For example, to check the sum 18.95×81.32 you can use the approximate calculation 19×81 . This will help you be sure that your original sum is right.

Examples

10 people buy holiday insurance for £8.99 each. Approximate answer will be:

$$£9 \times 10 = £90$$

The exchange rate is 3067 Italian lire to the £. How many do I buy for £50?

$$50 \times 3000 = 150,000$$

- **Estimating:** you can also check whether the results are reasonable using your knowledge and the context of the situation, for example:

Example

If 15 people paid £10 each into a social fund, would an answer of £1500 be a reasonable answer?

- **Inverse operations:** if your calculation involves subtraction, you can check the answer by adding – or vice versa. In the same way, you can check division by multiplication.

Example

Obtain answer by subtraction: $1582 - 941 = 641$

Check by addition: $641 + 941 = 1582$

Make sure that you write down any checking procedures that you use, and include these with your answers.

