

Solving Quadratics by Undoing

Many quadratic equations can be solved by undoing operations on both sides of the equation.

These quadratics are in what is called **vertex form** (more on that in Unit 2).

Remember that these equations often have **2 solutions** (but can also have 1 or no solutions).

Example: Compare these two equations. Notice how similar the steps for solving are.

Algebra $3(x + 5) - 2 = 25$	Words	Algebra $3(x + 5)^2 - 2 = 25$	Words
Check your solution(s)		Check your solution(s)	

Remember that solving an equation means finding a number (or numbers) that make the equation true. You can feel confident in your solution(s) by plugging in the value(s).

Solve the following equations and check your answers.

- $x + 5 = 30$

- $x^2 + 5 = 30$

- $2(x + 5) = 32$

- $2(x + 5)^2 = 32$

- $-3(x + 5) + 1 = -26$

- $-3(x + 5)^2 + 1 = -26$

Not all quadratic equations are written in **vertex form**. When they are in **standard form** or in **factored form**, we use different techniques to solve them. Below are examples of each form:

Vertex Form	Standard Form	Factored Form
$-5(x-3)^2 - 3 = -122$ $(x+1)^2 - 5 = 31$ You can solve by undoing because "x" is isolated	$x^2 - 4x - 5 = 0$ $x^2 + 7x + 12 = 0$ You cannot solve by undoing because "x" is in two locations	$-3(x-5)(3x-2) = 0$ $(x+5)(x+2) = 0$ You cannot solve by undoing because "x" is in two locations

The following quadratic equations are mixed up. Your task is to **identify** what form the equation is in, and then **solve** the equations in **vertex form**. If you finish early, try to reach back in your memory bank and remember how to solve equations in **standard form** or **factored form**.

$(x-3)^2 + 2 = 11$	$x^2 - 7x - 8 = 0$	$3(x+5)^2 = 48$
$(x-3)(x+5) = 0$	$x^2 - 9 = 0$	$x^2 - 9x - 22 = 0$
$-5(x-7)^2 + 5 = 0$	$2(x+5)(x-3) = 0$	$-2(x+3)^2 + 7 = -1$

Write yourself a summary of what you have learned about solving quadratic equations: