

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).

SADMEP

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

Algebra	Words	Algebra	Words
$3(x+5) - 2 = 25$ $+2 +2$ $\frac{3(x+5)}{3} = \frac{27}{3}$ $x+5 = 9$ $-5 -5$ $x = 4$	Undo Subtract Undo Mult. Undo add.	$3(x+5)^2 - 2 = 25$ $+2 +2$ $\frac{3(x+5)^2}{3} = \frac{27}{3}$ $(x+5)^2 = 9$ $\sqrt{} \sqrt{}$ $x+5 = 3$ or $x+5 = -3$ $-5 -5$ $-5 -3$ $x = -2$ $x = -8$	Undo sub. Undo Mult. Undo Square Undo Add.
Check your solution(s) $3(4+5) - 2 \stackrel{?}{=} 25$ $3(9) - 2$ $27 - 2 = 25$!!		Check your solution(s) $3(-2+5)^2 - 2 \stackrel{?}{=} 25$ $3(3)^2 - 2$ $3(9) - 2$ $27 - 2 = 25$	$3(-8+5)^2 - 2 \stackrel{?}{=} 25$ $3(-3)^2 - 2$ $3(9) - 2$ $27 - 2 = 25$

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.

• $x+5 = 30$
 $-5 -5$
 $x = 25$

• $\frac{2(x+5)}{2} = \frac{32}{2}$
 $x+5 = 16$
 $-5 -5$
 $x = 11$

• $-3(x+5) + 1 = -26$
 $-1 -1$
 $\frac{-3(x+5)}{-3} = \frac{-27}{-3}$
 $x+5 = 9$
 $-5 -5$
 $x = 4$

• $x^2 + 5 = 30$
 $-5 -5$
 $\sqrt{} \sqrt{} \sqrt{25}$
 $x = 5$ $x = -5$

• $\frac{2(x+5)^2}{2} = \frac{32}{2}$
 $(x+5)^2 = 16$
 $\sqrt{} \sqrt{}$
 $x+5 = 4$ $x+5 = -4$
 $x = -1$ $x = -9$

• $-3(x+5)^2 + 1 = -26$
 $-1 -1$
 $\frac{-3(x+5)^2}{-3} = \frac{-27}{-3}$
 $(x+5)^2 = 9$
 $\sqrt{} \sqrt{}$
 $x+5 = 3$ $x+5 = -3$
 $x = -2$ $x = -8$

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**.

$(x-3)^2 + 2 = 11$ VF $-2 -2$ $(x-3)^2 = 9$ $x-3 = 3$ $x-3 = -3$ $x = 6$ $x = 0$	$x^2 - 7x - 8 = 0$ SF $(x-8)(x+1)$ $x = 8$ $x = -1$	$\frac{3(x+5)^2}{3} = \frac{48}{3}$ VF $(x+5)^2 = 16$ $x+5 = 4$ $x+5 = -4$ $x = -1$ $x = -9$
$(x-3)(x+5) = 0$ FF $x = 3, x = -5$	$x^2 - 9 = 0$ VF $+9 +9$ $x^2 = 9$ $x = 3$ $x = -3$	$x^2 - 9x - 22 = 0$ SF $(x-11)(x+2)$ $x = 11$ $x = -2$
$-5(x-7)^2 + 5 = 0$ VF $-5 -5$ $-5(x-7)^2 = -5$ $\frac{-5}{-5} \frac{-5}{-5}$ $(x-7)^2 = 1$ $x-7 = 1$ $x-7 = -1$ $x = 8$ $x = 6$	$2(x+5)(x-3) = 0$ FF $x = 5$ $x = 3$	$-2(x+3)^2 + 7 = -1$ VF $-7 -7$ $\frac{-2(x+3)^2}{-2} = \frac{8}{-2}$ $(x+3)^2 = 4$ $x+3 = 2$ $x+3 = -2$ $x = -1$ $x = -5$

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

Undo operations using SADMEP order
 Square root undoes squared & has
2 solutions. Rewrite standard form to solve