

Secret Numbers

Show students how to play a calculator game, *Secret Numbers*, to practise inverting number sentences. Organize the students into pairs. One student secretly enters a number into a calculator and then adds a number they both agree on, such as five. The student with the calculator shows their partner what the new number is. The partner says what the original number was and checks it on the calculator by entering a subtraction. For example: The first student secretly enters seven, adds five and gets 12. The partner says “The number was seven”, but must check on the calculator by entering a subtraction ($12 - 5$), not by entering $7 + 5$.

From Department of Education and Training, Western Australia. (2006). *First Steps in Mathematics: Operation Sense: Operations, Computations, and Patterns and Algebra*. Toronto: Pearson Canada Inc. (p. 43).