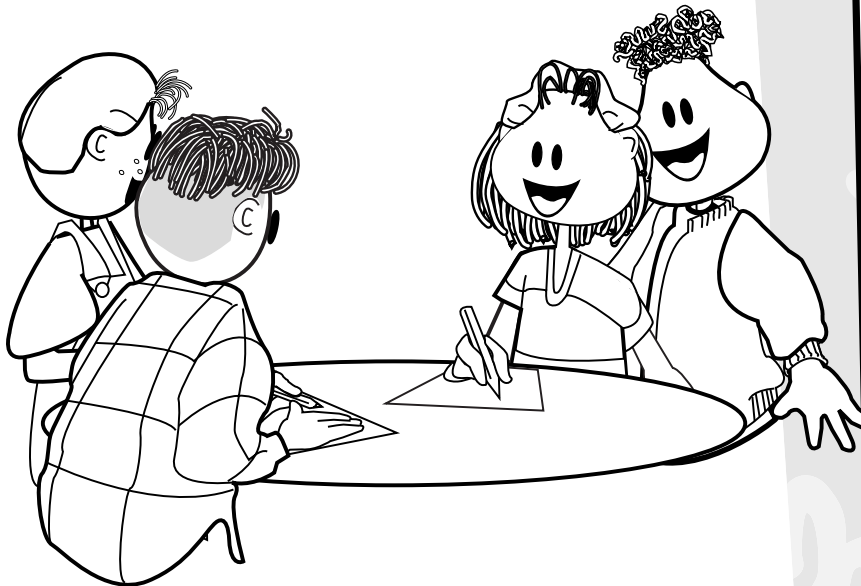


# Pairs Check



keep the rest of the team on track. All students benefit from helping and coaching each other. Students who are having difficulty often learn more easily from other students who have mastered a skill. Students who have mastered a skill are more likely to retain their knowledge after teaching it to someone else.

For easy management, divide each team of four into two sets of partners. Name one person in each pair Partner A and the other Partner B. Give each pair one **Pairs Check Form** worksheet (page 165). Each pair works the problems simultaneously, only stopping to compare answers after completing each row. A checkmark is placed in the box after teammates celebrate correct answers for that row.



## Overview...

Pairs Check involves students alternately working in pairs and teams. Students first solve one or two problems as a pair, then check their answers with their teammates. The pair work results in a high level of on-

task behavior. In addition, the frequent "team checks" ensure a high degree of mathematical accuracy. No matter how difficult the task, at least one student on the team is likely to have mastered the skill and will

## Steps...

**1** Partner A works the first problem as Partner B coaches and praises.

**2** Partner B works the next problem as Partner A coaches and praises.

**3** Pairs compare and discuss answers.

**4** Teams celebrate correct answers or resolve differences, placing a check mark in the box next to the completed problems.

**5** Pairs repeat steps as they complete the worksheet.



## Hints...

- **Pairs Check Form** - Make copies of the blank **Pairs Check Form** (page 165) to use with your own problems. Using a **Pairs Check Form** worksheet helps students stay focused and together as a team.

Pairs Check Form		
Name _____	Name _____	
A	B	
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>

- **Verbalizing Steps** - Encourage students to talk out loud as they solve their problems. For example, "Three plus nine is twelve. I put down the two and carry the one." As they talk, their partner should be listening to the steps to provide help if needed.
- **Patient Waiting** - The most difficult task part for many students involves waiting for the other pair of students to complete a

row of problems. Teach students to wait patiently in a non-disruptive manner. You may need to change the pairs or offer help if one set always finishes first.

- **Half Sheets** - If students don't finish in class and you want to assign the other problems for homework, have students cut the worksheet vertically down the center of the page.