

Choosing a Systems Method

9th Grade

Graphing, substitution or elimination — decided by the shape of the equations.

All three methods find the same point. Which is quickest depends on how the equations are written.

graph · substitute · eliminate

One variable already alone

substitution

$y = 2x + 1$ is ready to substitute.

Matching or opposite coefficients

elimination

$2x$ in both means they cancel by subtracting.

Both in $y = mx + b$ form

graphing

Quick, but only exact if the crossing is on a grid point.

Neither

multiply, then eliminate

Scale one equation until something matches.

Always substitute your point into BOTH original equations. Checking one proves nothing.