

Subtraction



Method

We recommend using the column method to subtract numbers. This involves writing one number underneath the other.

Example: What is $73 - 27$?

$$\begin{array}{r} 6 \text{ } 13 \\ 7 \text{ } 3 \\ - 2 \text{ } 7 \\ \hline 4 \text{ } 6 \end{array}$$

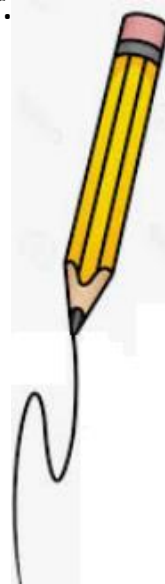
Use the language of place value to ensure understanding.

'We can't subtract seven from three, so we need to exchange a ten for ten ones to give us $60 + 13$.'

Example: What is $258 - 73$?

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \text{ } 15 \\ 2 \text{ } 5 \text{ } 8 \\ - 7 \text{ } 3 \\ \hline 1 \text{ } 8 \text{ } 5 \end{array}$$

In this example it has been necessary to exchange from the hundreds column.



A to Z

Other words and phrases that mean subtraction:

Subtract
Deduct
Take away
Difference

Minus
Less than
Decrease
Reduce

How many more?
How many are left?

Top Tip

When subtracting two numbers in a place value column, if the second number is larger than the first it cannot be subtracted. You need to exchange a digit from a higher column (which is to the left of it).



Why was the subtraction sign elected president?

Because he promised to make a difference!

REAL LIFE

At a football match there are 2942 Rovers fans and 9381 City fans.
How many more fans did City have?

How many more tells us we need to SUBTRACT the number of fans Rovers have from how many fans City has.

$$\begin{array}{r} 8 \text{ } 13 \text{ } 7 \text{ } 11 \\ 9381 \\ - 2942 \\ \hline 6439 \end{array}$$

Write the numbers underneath each other to subtract them. Don't forget to exchange a digit from a higher column when the second number is larger than the first.



Work out what the * must be.

$$\begin{array}{r} 3*5 \quad *** \\ - 26* \quad - 596 \\ \hline 82 \quad 187 \end{array}$$