MATHEMATICS · KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3

Checking subtraction using addition

Difficulty level: Easy

Mathematics: Kindergarten to Grade 3

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Overview of the concept

This is how you check change at a shop. You add the change back to what you spent and see if you get back to the amount you paid with. It is faster than redoing the subtraction, and it is the check cashiers and customers have used for as long as shops have given change.



Rule

Check a subtraction by adding the answer to the amount taken away.

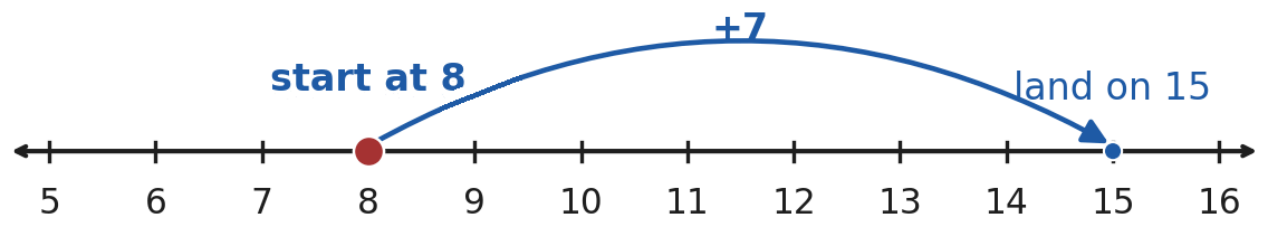
The sum must be the number you started with. If adding the answer back gives you the starting number, the subtraction is correct.

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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Check 15 - 7 = 8



SOLUTION

Add the answer back to what was taken away: 8 + 7

8 + 7 = 15

The check lands on the number you started with, so the subtraction is right.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Check 42 - 19 = 23

SOLUTION

Add the answer to the amount taken away: 23 + 19

23 + 19 = 42

The check lands on the number you started with, so the subtraction is right.

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Practice questions

1. 12 - 5 = 7. Add the answer to the amount taken away: 7 + 5. What number should you get back?

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2. What is 20 - 13?

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3. 9 - 4 = 5. Add the answer to the amount taken away: 5 + 4. What number should you get back?

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4 What is 30 - 18?

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5 47 - 26 = 21. Add the answer to the amount taken away: 21 + 26. What number should you get back?

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6 17 - 9 = 8. Add the answer to the amount taken away: 8 + 9. What number should you get back?

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7 What is 52 - 34?

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8 Leo checks 25 - 9 = 16 by working out 16 - 9 = 7. Is his check right, and why not?

A. Yes, his check is right: 16 - 9 = 7 proves 25 - 9 = 16.

B. No, a subtraction is checked by adding the answer to the number taken away, 16 + 9 = 25

C. No, a subtraction is checked by adding the number taken away to the starting number, 9 + 25 = 34

D. No, a subtraction is checked by multiplying the answer by the number taken away, 16 × 9 = 144

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9 Which check proves that 42 - 12 = 30?

- **A** 30 + 12 = 42
- **B** 30 - 12 = 18
- **C** 42 + 12 = 54
- **D** None of the checks proves it

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10 Three of these belong to the same fact family. Which one does not belong?

- **A** 40 - 15 = 25
- **B** 25 + 15 = 40
- **C** 40 - 25 = 15
- **D** 40 + 15 = 55

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ANSWER KEY

1. 12

2. 7

3. 9

4. 12

5. 47

6. 17

7. 18

8. No, a subtraction is checked by adding the answer to the number taken away, 16 + 9 = 25

9. 30 + 12 = 42

10. 40 + 15 = 55

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