MATHEMATICS · KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3

Multi-digit subtraction

Difficulty level: Easy

Mathematics: Kindergarten to Grade 3

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Overview of the concept

This is how you find the difference between larger amounts, like working out change from a price or how many seats are left in a theatre. When the numbers are too big to do in your head, a written method keeps the borrowing straight so the answer comes out right. You use it to work out change, to check how much of a budget is left, or to find the gap between two large numbers like a target and what you have saved so far.



Rule

Subtract column by column from the right, ones first, then tens, then hundreds.

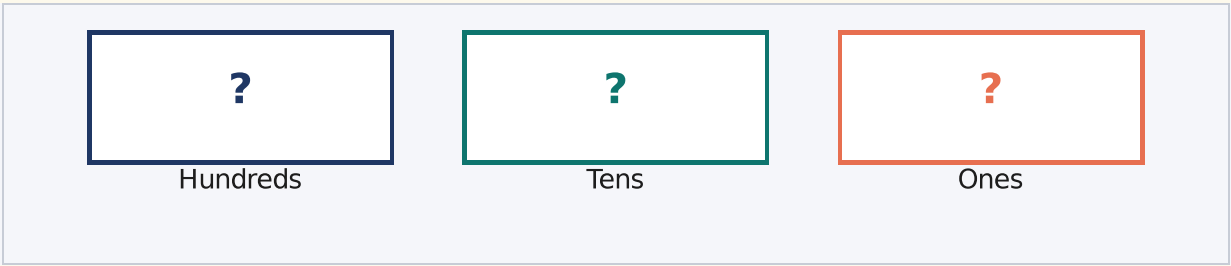
If the top digit is smaller than the bottom digit, borrow ten from the next column.

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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q 68 - 25 = ?



SOLUTION

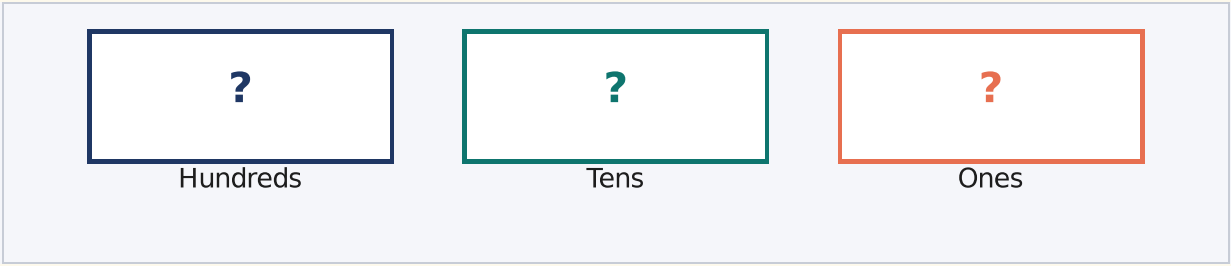
Subtract the ones: 8 - 5 = 3

Subtract the tens: 60 - 20 = 40

Put them together: 40 + 3 = 43

EXAMPLE 2

Q 457 - 231 = ?



SOLUTION

Subtract the ones: 7 - 1 = 6

Subtract the tens: 50 - 30 = 20, and the hundreds: 400 - 200 = 200

Put them together: 200 + 20 + 6 = 226

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Practice questions

1. A bus has 47 seats and 23 seats are taken. How many seats are free? Subtract the ones first, then the tens and the hundreds. What is left?

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2. A book has 92 pages and Sara has read 47 pages. How many pages are left?

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3. In a game, the first team scores 356 points and the other team scores 124 points. By how many points did the first team win?

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4 Maya starts with 782 beads. She uses 486 beads for a necklace. How many beads does she have left?

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5 Ben has 95 stickers. He gives some to a friend and has 62 left. How many stickers did he give away?

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6 A jar holds 540 marbles. Some marbles are taken out and 210 are left. How many marbles were taken out?

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7 A fruit stand has 67 apples in the morning. 15 apples sell by noon and 12 more sell in the afternoon. How many apples are still on the stand?

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8 Tom has 904 coins and spends 602 coins at the arcade. Which is closest to how many coins he has left?

A 200

B 300

C 400

D 500

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9 A library has 38 books on a shelf. It lends out 19 books. How many books are left on the shelf?

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10 A show has 700 tickets. 325 are sold on Monday and 175 on Tuesday. How many tickets are still unsold?

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ANSWER KEY

1. 24

2. 45

3. 232

4. 296

5. 33

6. 330

7. 40

8. 300

9. 19

10. 200

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