MATHEMATICS · KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3

Understanding subtraction

Difficulty level: Easy

Mathematics: Kindergarten to Grade 3

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Overview of the concept

This is how you take some away, find how many are left, or work out the difference between two amounts, like spending part of your money or comparing two scores. Subtraction covers all three ideas, taking away, finding what is left, and finding the gap between two numbers. The same operation answers each one, because each one is about the difference between a start and an end. That is why subtraction shows up everywhere, from spending money to comparing scores to checking how much time is left.

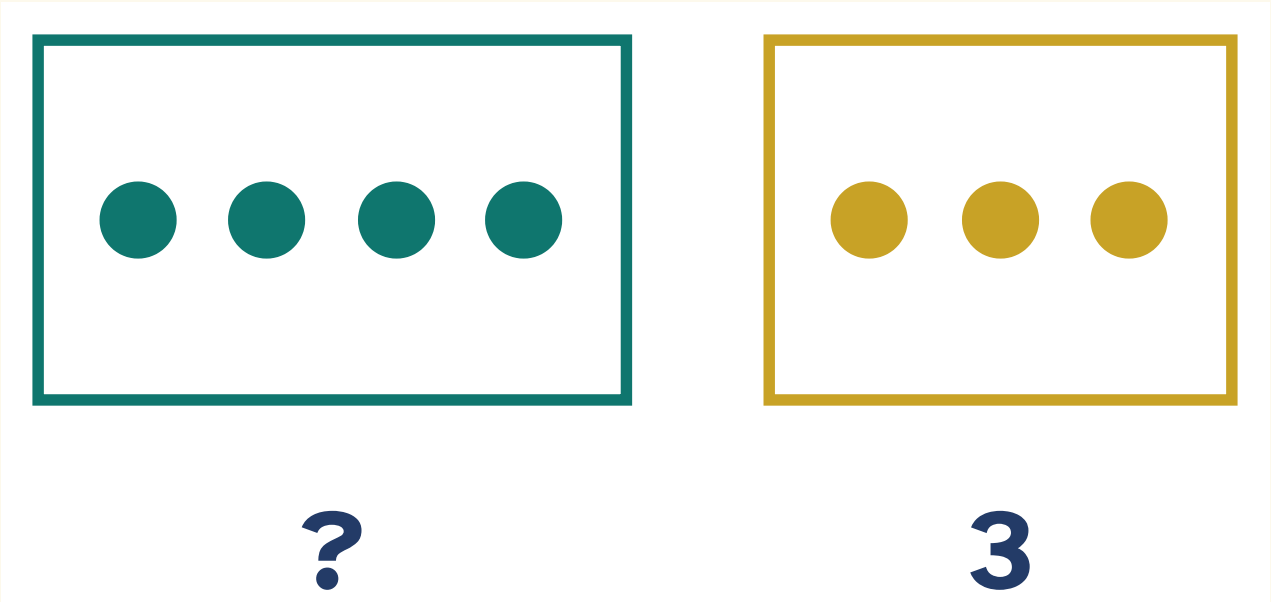


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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q You have 7 apples and take away 3. How many apples are left?



SOLUTION

Start with 7 apples.

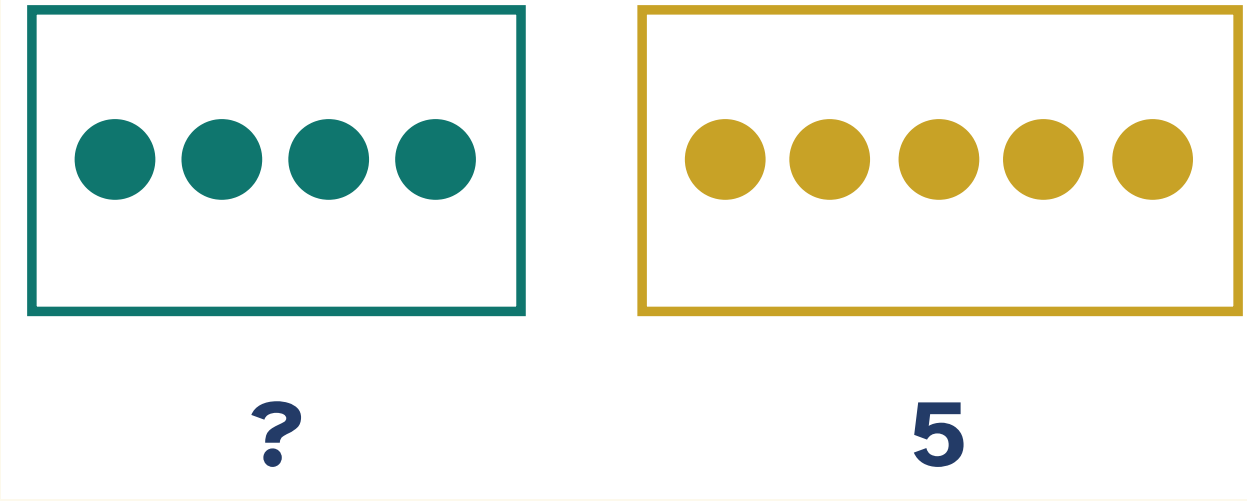
Take away 3 apples.

4 apples are left, so 7 - 3 = 4

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EXAMPLE 2

Q You have 9 dots and take away 5. How many dots are left?



SOLUTION

Start with 9 dots.

Take away 5 dots.

4 dots are left, so 9 - 5 = 4

Practice questions

1 You have 9 marbles. You give away 3 marbles. How many marbles do you have now?

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2 Start with 6 dots. Take away 1 dot. How many dots are there now?

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3 A plate has 10 cookies. You eat 4 cookies. How many cookies are left?

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4 Start with 3 dots. Take away 3 dots. How many dots are there now?

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5 You have 8 stickers. You give away 2 stickers. How many stickers do you have now?

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6 Mia has 9 stickers and Leo has 4 stickers. How many more stickers does Mia have than Leo?

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7 You have 7 balloons. You give away 0 balloons. How many balloons do you have now?

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8 Start with 5 dots. Take away 3 dots. How many dots are there now?

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9 A box has 6 pencils. You take out 1 pencil. How many pencils are left in the box?

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10 You have 8 apples. You eat 5 apples. How many apples do you have now?

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ANSWER KEY

1. 6

2. 5

3. 6

4. 0

5. 6

6. 5

7. 7

8. 2

9. 5

10. 3

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