

Subtract Using Mental Math



You can use these two strategies to subtract mentally.

Compensation

Use compensation when one number is close to a ten or a hundred. Add or subtract the same number from both numbers.

$$\begin{array}{r} 95 \\ - 28 \\ \hline \end{array} \rightarrow \begin{array}{r} 97 \\ - 30 \\ \hline 67 \end{array}$$

Add 2 to 28 to make 30: $28 + 2 = 30$.
Add 2 to the other number: $95 + 2 = 97$.

$$\begin{array}{r} 103 \\ - 45 \\ \hline \end{array} \rightarrow \begin{array}{r} 100 \\ - 42 \\ \hline 58 \end{array}$$

Subtract 3 from 103 to make 100: $103 - 3 = 100$.
Subtract 3 from 45: $45 - 3 = 42$.

Zig-zag

Use the zig-zag method to subtract $95 - 28$.
Take apart 28.

$$28 = 20 + 8$$

Then subtract each place separately.

$$\begin{array}{r} 95 \\ - 28 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 95 \\ - 20 \\ \hline 75 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 75 \\ - 8 \\ \hline 67 \end{array}$$

Subtract mentally.

1. $26 - 7 =$ _____
2. $84 - 32 =$ _____
3. $79 - 31 =$ _____
4. $\$58 - \$17 =$ _____
5. $94 - 38 =$ _____
6. $86 - 24 =$ _____
7. $196 - 49 =$ _____
8. $\$253 - \$42 =$ _____
9. $395 - 91 =$ _____
10. $888 - 277 =$ _____
11. $245 - 197 =$ _____
12. $\$428 - \$117 =$ _____
13. $482 - 204 =$ _____
14. $613 - 307 =$ _____
15. $354 - 99 =$ _____
16. $\$755 - \$402 =$ _____
17. $519 - 404 =$ _____
18. $505 - 301 =$ _____
19. $\$535 - \$122 =$ _____
20. $350 - 198 =$ _____
21. $657 - 312 =$ _____
22. $648 - 305 =$ _____