



Subtraction

Subtraction is the process of taking one number away from another. The number that is subtracted is called the subtrahend, the number from which we subtract is called the minuend, and the result is called the difference.

For example, if you have 900 apples and give away 350, the subtraction would be:

$900 - 350 = 550$ apples (difference).

Steps to Subtract Large Numbers

Align the numbers: Place the numbers one below the other, making sure the digits are aligned properly according to their place value (ones, tens, hundreds, thousands, etc.).

Start from the right: Begin subtracting from the rightmost column (ones place).

Borrow if needed: If the top digit is smaller than the bottom digit, borrow from the next higher place value.

Continue subtracting: Move left and continue subtracting, borrowing when necessary.

Write the difference: After subtracting all columns, write the final difference.

Properties of Subtraction

Subtraction is not commutative: Changing the order of numbers in subtraction gives a different result.

For example, $10 - 3 \neq 3 - 10$.

Subtraction of 0: Any number minus 0 gives the same number.

For example, $7 - 0 = 7$.

Subtraction from itself: Any number subtracted from itself gives 0.

For example, $5 - 5 = 0$.

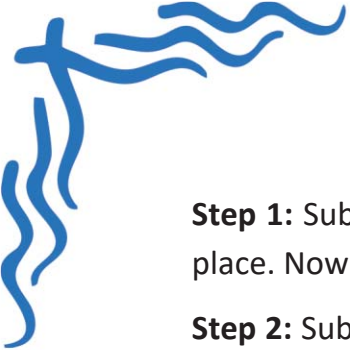
Example 1

Question: Subtract 5,876 from 8,432.

Solution:

Align the numbers:

$8,432 - 5,876$



Step 1: Subtract ones place: $2 - 6$. Since 2 is smaller than 6, borrow 1 from the tens place. Now we have $12 - 6 = 6$.

Step 2: Subtract tens place: 2 (after borrowing) $- 7$. Since 2 is smaller than 7, borrow 1 from the hundreds place. Now we have $12 - 7 = 5$.

Step 3: Subtract hundreds place: 3 (after borrowing) $- 8$. Since 3 is smaller than 8, borrow 1 from the thousands place. Now we have $13 - 8 = 5$.

Step 4: Subtract thousands place: 7 (after borrowing) $- 5 = 2$. So, $8,432 - 5,876 = 2,556$.

Answer: $8,432 - 5,876 = 2,556$

Example 2

Question: Subtract 3,457 from 9,321.

Solution:

Align the numbers:

$$9,321 - 3,457$$

Step 1: Subtract ones place: $1 - 7$. Since 1 is smaller than 7, borrow 1 from the tens place. Now we have $11 - 7 = 4$.

Step 2: Subtract tens place: 1 (after borrowing) $- 5$. Since 1 is smaller than 5, borrow 1 from the hundreds place. Now we have $11 - 5 = 6$.

Step 3: Subtract hundreds place: 2 (after borrowing) $- 4 = 8$.

Step 4: Subtract thousands place: $8 - 3 = 5$. So, $9,321 - 3,457 = 5,864$.

Answer: $9,321 - 3,457 = 5,864$

Summary Points

- ☐ Subtraction is the process of finding the difference between two numbers.
- ☐ Start by aligning the numbers and subtracting from the rightmost digit.
- ☐ Borrow if the digit to subtract is larger than the digit you are subtracting from.
- ☐ Subtraction is not commutative and follows the same properties like subtraction of 0 and subtraction from itself.