Subtraction

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Subtraction means taking away one number from another to find the difference. It tells us how many are left or how much more or less.

Example: If you have 8 pencils and give away 3, you are left with 8 - 3 = 5 pencils

Symbols and Terms

The minus sign (−) is used for subtraction

The number from which we subtract is called the minuend

The number we subtract is the subtrahend

The result is called the difference

Example: In 635 − 218 = 417

- 635 is the minuend

- 218 is the subtrahend

- 417 is the difference

Properties of Subtraction

Subtracting 0: If you subtract 0 from any number, the number remains the same

Example: 56 − 0 = 56

Subtracting a Number from Itself: If a number is subtracted from itself, the answer is always 0

Example: 89 − 89 = 0

Subtraction is not Commutative: Changing the order changes the result

Example: 50 − 30 ≠ 30 − 50

How to Subtract Big Numbers

Step 1: Arrange numbers in columns (ones, tens, hundreds, thousands)

Step 2: Start subtracting from the rightmost digit (ones place)

Step 3: Borrow from the next digit if the upper digit is smaller

Step 4: Write the final difference

Example 1:

Question: Subtract 2,138 from 4,265

   Solution: 4265 − 2138 = 2127

   Answer: 4,265 − 2,138 = 2,127

Example 2:

Question: Subtract $\frac{3}{7}$ from $\frac{6}{7}$

   Solution:

   Since the denominators are the same, subtract the numerators $\frac{6-3}{7} = \frac{3}{7}$

   Answer: $\frac{6}{7} - \frac{3}{7} = \frac{3}{7}$

- Summary Points
- Subtraction is used to find how much is left or how many more
- Always subtract smaller number from the bigger one
- Borrow if the top digit is smaller than the bottom digit
- Subtract fractions only when the denominators are the same
- Use subtraction to solve real-life problems like shopping, remaining items, or comparing values