

Which Way Should I Take Away?

Every number has a smart way. Find the number, then try the way next to it.

NUMBER	TRY THIS WAY	LIKE THIS
- 0	Nothing is taken away.	$15 - 0 = 15$
- 1	Just say the number before.	$15 - 1 = 14$
- 2	Count back two.	$15 - 2 = 13$
- 3	Count back, or drop down to the ten.	$13 - 3 = 10$
- 4	Take away down to the ten first.	$13 - 4$: $13 - 3 = 10$, then $10 - 1 = 9$
- 5	Down to the ten, or take away a five.	$13 - 5$: $13 - 3 = 10$, then $10 - 2 = 8$
- 6	Take away 5, then 1 more.	$13 - 6$: $13 - 5 = 8$, then $8 - 1 = 7$
- 7	Take away 5, then 2 more.	$13 - 7$: $13 - 5 = 8$, then $8 - 2 = 6$
- 8	Take away 10, then give back 2.	$53 - 8$: $53 - 10 = 43$, then $43 + 2 = 45$
- 9	Take away 10, then give back 1.	$53 - 9$: $53 - 10 = 43$, then $43 + 1 = 44$
- 10	The tens digit goes down by one.	$53 - 10 = 43$
close numbers	Do not take away - count up instead.	$62 - 58$: $58 + 2 = 60$, then $60 + 2 = 62$, so 4
doubles	Half of a double you already know.	$14 - 7 = 7$
big numbers	Split into tens and ones, or stop at the hundred.	$145 - 78$: $78 + 22 = 100$, then $100 + 45$, so 67

If both numbers have a trick, use the one for 10, 9, 11 or 5 first. If two ways both work, use the one that feels quicker in your head.

