

Two Ways to Subtract

Name: _____

Date: _____

Two-digit numbers - solve each problem both ways.

Solve each one twice. Both ways are good ones - which felt faster for you?

1) $72 - 47 =$ _____

Way A

Keep the Difference the Same

add 3 to make it friendly

$47 + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

add 3 to the other number too

$72 + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

now take away the easy way

$\underline{\quad} - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

Way B

Take Away to Ten First

take away the tens first

$72 - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

now drop down to the ten

$\underline{\quad} - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

take away the ones that are left

$\underline{\quad} - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

Both ways give the same answer. Which one felt faster? ☐ Way A ☐ Way B

2) $61 - 45 =$ _____

Way A

Count Up to Subtract

count up to the next ten

$45 + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

add whole tens

$\underline{\quad} + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

add the last ones

$\underline{\quad} + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

add up your jumps

$5 + 10 + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

Way B

Think Addition

45 plus what makes 50?

$45 + \underline{\quad} = 50$

50 plus what tens make 60?

$50 + \underline{\quad} = 60$

60 plus what makes 61?

$60 + \underline{\quad} = 61$

add up your jumps

$5 + 10 + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

Both ways give the same answer. Which one felt faster? ☐ Way A ☐ Way B

3) $88 - 71 =$ _____

Way A

Count Up to Subtract

count up to the next ten

$71 + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

add the last ones

$\underline{\quad} + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

add up your jumps

$9 + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

Way B

Think Addition

71 plus what makes 80?

$71 + \underline{\quad} = 80$

80 plus what makes 88?

$80 + \underline{\quad} = 88$

add up your jumps

$9 + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

Both ways give the same answer. Which one felt faster? ☐ Way A ☐ Way B

4) $83 - 16 =$ _____

Way A

Keep the Difference the Same

add 4 to make it friendly

$16 + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

add 4 to the other number too

$83 + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

now take away the easy way

$\underline{\quad} - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

Way B

Take Away to Ten First

take away the tens first

$83 - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

now drop down to the ten

$\underline{\quad} - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

take away the ones that are left

$\underline{\quad} - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

Both ways give the same answer. Which one felt faster? ☐ Way A ☐ Way B



Answer Key

Two Ways to Subtract - Two-digit numbers

Every step is filled in. Check your work.

Solve each one twice. Both ways are good ones - which felt faster for you?

1) $72 - 47 = \underline{25}$

Way A

Keep the Difference the Same

add 3 to make it friendly

$$47 + 3 = 50$$

add 3 to the other number too

$$72 + 3 = 75$$

now take away the easy way

$$75 - 50 = 25$$

Way B

Take Away to Ten First

take away the tens first

$$72 - 40 = 32$$

now drop down to the ten

$$32 - 2 = 30$$

take away the ones that are left

$$30 - 5 = 25$$

Both ways give the same answer. Which one felt faster? ☐ Way A ☐ Way B

2) $61 - 45 = \underline{16}$

Way A

Count Up to Subtract

count up to the next ten

$$45 + 5 = 50$$

add whole tens

$$50 + 10 = 60$$

add the last ones

$$60 + 1 = 61$$

add up your jumps

$$5 + 10 + 1 = 16$$

Way B

Think Addition

45 plus what makes 50?

$$45 + 5 = 50$$

50 plus what tens make 60?

$$50 + 10 = 60$$

60 plus what makes 61?

$$60 + 1 = 61$$

add up your jumps

$$5 + 10 + 1 = 16$$

Both ways give the same answer. Which one felt faster? ☐ Way A ☐ Way B

3) $88 - 71 = \underline{17}$

Way A

Count Up to Subtract

count up to the next ten

$$71 + 9 = 80$$

add the last ones

$$80 + 8 = 88$$

add up your jumps

$$9 + 8 = 17$$

Way B

Think Addition

71 plus what makes 80?

$$71 + 9 = 80$$

80 plus what makes 88?

$$80 + 8 = 88$$

add up your jumps

$$9 + 8 = 17$$

Both ways give the same answer. Which one felt faster? ☐ Way A ☐ Way B

4) $83 - 16 = \underline{67}$

Way A

Keep the Difference the Same

add 4 to make it friendly

$$16 + 4 = 20$$

add 4 to the other number too

$$83 + 4 = 87$$

now take away the easy way

$$87 - 20 = 67$$

Way B

Take Away to Ten First

take away the tens first

$$83 - 10 = 73$$

now drop down to the ten

$$73 - 3 = 70$$

take away the ones that are left

$$70 - 3 = 67$$

Both ways give the same answer. Which one felt faster? ☐ Way A ☐ Way B

