

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) $54 - 17 =$ _____

Way A

Keep the Difference the Same

add 3 to make it friendly

$17 + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

add 3 to the other number too

$54 + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

now take away the easy way

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

Way B

Take Away to Ten First

take away the tens first

$54 - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

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) $73 - 16 =$ _____

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

$73 + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

now take away the easy way

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

Way B

Take Away to Ten First

take away the tens first

$73 - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

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

3) $93 - 73 =$ _____

Way A

Count Up to Subtract

count up to the next ten

$73 + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

add whole tens

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

add the last ones

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

add up your jumps

$7 + 10 + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

Way B

Think Addition

73 plus what makes 80?

$73 + \underline{\quad} = 80$

80 plus what tens make 90?

$80 + \underline{\quad} = 90$

90 plus what makes 93?

$90 + \underline{\quad} = 93$

add up your jumps

$7 + 10 + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

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

4) $59 - 45 =$ _____

Way A

Count Up to Subtract

count up to the next ten

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

add the last ones

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

add up your jumps

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

Way B

Think Addition

45 plus what makes 50?

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

50 plus what makes 59?

$50 + \underline{\quad} = 59$

add up your jumps

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

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) $54 - 17 = \underline{37}$

Way A
Keep the Difference the Same

add 3 to make it friendly

$$17 + 3 = 20$$

add 3 to the other number too

$$54 + 3 = 57$$

now take away the easy way

$$57 - 20 = 37$$

Way B
Take Away to Ten First

take away the tens first

$$54 - 10 = 44$$

now drop down to the ten

$$44 - 4 = 40$$

take away the ones that are left

$$40 - 3 = 37$$

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

2) $73 - 16 = \underline{57}$

Way A
Keep the Difference the Same

add 4 to make it friendly

$$16 + 4 = 20$$

add 4 to the other number too

$$73 + 4 = 77$$

now take away the easy way

$$77 - 20 = 57$$

Way B
Take Away to Ten First

take away the tens first

$$73 - 10 = 63$$

now drop down to the ten

$$63 - 3 = 60$$

take away the ones that are left

$$60 - 3 = 57$$

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

3) $93 - 73 = \underline{20}$

Way A
Count Up to Subtract

count up to the next ten

$$73 + 7 = 80$$

add whole tens

$$80 + 10 = 90$$

add the last ones

$$90 + 3 = 93$$

add up your jumps

$$7 + 10 + 3 = 20$$

Way B
Think Addition

73 plus what makes 80?

$$73 + 7 = 80$$

80 plus what tens make 90?

$$80 + 10 = 90$$

90 plus what makes 93?

$$90 + 3 = 93$$

add up your jumps

$$7 + 10 + 3 = 20$$

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

4) $59 - 45 = \underline{14}$

Way A
Count Up to Subtract

count up to the next ten

$$45 + 5 = 50$$

add the last ones

$$50 + 9 = 59$$

add up your jumps

$$5 + 9 = 14$$

Way B
Think Addition

45 plus what makes 50?

$$45 + 5 = 50$$

50 plus what makes 59?

$$50 + 9 = 59$$

add up your jumps

$$5 + 9 = 14$$

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

