

Two Ways to Subtract

Name: _____

Date: _____

Three-digit numbers - solve each problem both ways.

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

1) $307 - 279 =$ _____

Way A

Take Away Too Much, Give Back

take away 280 instead

_____ - _____ = _____

give back the extra 1

_____ + _____ = _____

Way B

Stop at the Hundred

count up to the next hundred

_____ + _____ = _____

count up to the big number

_____ + _____ = _____

add your two jumps

_____ + _____ = _____

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

2) $376 - 357 =$ _____

Way A

Count Up to Subtract

count up to the next ten

_____ + _____ = _____

add whole tens

_____ + _____ = _____

add the last ones

_____ + _____ = _____

add up your jumps

_____ + _____ + _____ = _____

Way B

Think Addition

357 plus what makes 360?

$357 + \underline{\hspace{1cm}} = 360$

360 plus what tens make 370?

$360 + \underline{\hspace{1cm}} = 370$

370 plus what makes 376?

$370 + \underline{\hspace{1cm}} = 376$

add up your jumps

_____ + _____ + _____ = _____

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

3) $128 - 111 =$ _____

Way A

Count Up to Subtract

count up to the next ten

_____ + _____ = _____

add the last ones

_____ + _____ = _____

add up your jumps

_____ + _____ = _____

Way B

Think Addition

111 plus what makes 120?

$111 + \underline{\hspace{1cm}} = 120$

120 plus what makes 128?

$120 + \underline{\hspace{1cm}} = 128$

add up your jumps

_____ + _____ = _____

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

4) $921 - 86 =$ _____

Way A

Keep the Difference the Same

add 4 to make it friendly

_____ + _____ = _____

add 4 to the other number too

_____ + _____ = _____

now take away the easy way

_____ - _____ = _____

Way B

Take Away to Ten First

take away the tens first

_____ - _____ = _____

now drop down to the ten

_____ - _____ = _____

take away the ones that are left

_____ - _____ = _____

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



Answer Key

Two Ways to Subtract - Three-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) $307 - 279 = \underline{28}$

Way A

Take Away Too Much, Give Back

take away 280 instead

$$\underline{307} - \underline{280} = \underline{27}$$

give back the extra 1

$$\underline{27} + \underline{1} = \underline{28}$$

Way B

Stop at the Hundred

count up to the next hundred

$$\underline{279} + \underline{21} = \underline{300}$$

count up to the big number

$$\underline{300} + \underline{7} = \underline{307}$$

add your two jumps

$$\underline{21} + \underline{7} = \underline{28}$$

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

2) $376 - 357 = \underline{19}$

Way A

Count Up to Subtract

count up to the next ten

$$\underline{357} + \underline{3} = \underline{360}$$

add whole tens

$$\underline{360} + \underline{10} = \underline{370}$$

add the last ones

$$\underline{370} + \underline{6} = \underline{376}$$

add up your jumps

$$\underline{3} + \underline{10} + \underline{6} = \underline{19}$$

Way B

Think Addition

357 plus what makes 360?

$$\underline{357} + \underline{3} = \underline{360}$$

360 plus what tens make 370?

$$\underline{360} + \underline{10} = \underline{370}$$

370 plus what makes 376?

$$\underline{370} + \underline{6} = \underline{376}$$

add up your jumps

$$\underline{3} + \underline{10} + \underline{6} = \underline{19}$$

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

3) $128 - 111 = \underline{17}$

Way A

Count Up to Subtract

count up to the next ten

$$\underline{111} + \underline{9} = \underline{120}$$

add the last ones

$$\underline{120} + \underline{8} = \underline{128}$$

add up your jumps

$$\underline{9} + \underline{8} = \underline{17}$$

Way B

Think Addition

111 plus what makes 120?

$$\underline{111} + \underline{9} = \underline{120}$$

120 plus what makes 128?

$$\underline{120} + \underline{8} = \underline{128}$$

add up your jumps

$$\underline{9} + \underline{8} = \underline{17}$$

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

4) $921 - 86 = \underline{835}$

Way A

Keep the Difference the Same

add 4 to make it friendly

$$\underline{86} + \underline{4} = \underline{90}$$

add 4 to the other number too

$$\underline{921} + \underline{4} = \underline{925}$$

now take away the easy way

$$\underline{925} - \underline{90} = \underline{835}$$

Way B

Take Away to Ten First

take away the tens first

$$\underline{921} - \underline{80} = \underline{841}$$

now drop down to the ten

$$\underline{841} - \underline{1} = \underline{840}$$

take away the ones that are left

$$\underline{840} - \underline{5} = \underline{835}$$

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

