

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) $264 - 246 =$ _____

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

246 plus what makes 250?

$246 + \text{_____} = 250$

250 plus what tens make 260?

$250 + \text{_____} = 260$

260 plus what makes 264?

$260 + \text{_____} = 264$

add up your jumps

_____ + _____ + _____ = _____

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

2) $243 - 26 =$ _____

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

3) $798 - 589 =$ _____

Way A

Take Away Too Much, Give Back

take away 590 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

4) $393 - 97 =$ _____

Way A

Keep the Difference the Same

add 3 to make it friendly

_____ + _____ = _____

add 3 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) $264 - 246 = \underline{18}$

Way A
Count Up to Subtract

count up to the next ten
 $246 + 4 = 250$

add whole tens
 $250 + 10 = 260$

add the last ones
 $260 + 4 = 264$

add up your jumps
 $4 + 10 + 4 = 18$

Way B
Think Addition

246 plus what makes 250?
 $246 + 4 = 250$

250 plus what tens make 260?
 $250 + 10 = 260$

260 plus what makes 264?
 $260 + 4 = 264$

add up your jumps
 $4 + 10 + 4 = 18$

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

2) $243 - 26 = \underline{217}$

Way A
Keep the Difference the Same

add 4 to make it friendly
 $26 + 4 = 30$

add 4 to the other number too
 $243 + 4 = 247$

now take away the easy way
 $247 - 30 = 217$

Way B
Take Away to Ten First

take away the tens first
 $243 - 20 = 223$

now drop down to the ten
 $223 - 3 = 220$

take away the ones that are left
 $220 - 3 = 217$

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

3) $798 - 589 = \underline{209}$

Way A
Take Away Too Much, Give Back

take away 590 instead
 $798 - 590 = 208$

give back the extra 1
 $208 + 1 = 209$

Way B
Stop at the Hundred

count up to the next hundred
 $589 + 11 = 600$

count up to the big number
 $600 + 198 = 798$

add your two jumps
 $11 + 198 = 209$

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

4) $393 - 97 = \underline{296}$

Way A
Keep the Difference the Same

add 3 to make it friendly
 $97 + 3 = 100$

add 3 to the other number too
 $393 + 3 = 396$

now take away the easy way
 $396 - 100 = 296$

Way B
Take Away to Ten First

take away the tens first
 $393 - 90 = 303$

now drop down to the ten
 $303 - 3 = 300$

take away the ones that are left
 $300 - 4 = 296$

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

