



Subtraction



Column subtraction (no decomposition)

This method requires the children to set the calculation out in a column (being careful to ensure correct place value) with the largest number being on the top.

874 – 523 becomes

$$\begin{array}{r} 874 \\ - 523 \\ \hline 351 \end{array}$$

Column subtraction (with decomposition)

This step requires the children to set the calculation out in a column (being careful to ensure correct place value) with the largest number on the top.

352 - 168 =

$$\begin{array}{r} 352 \\ - 168 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 4 \\ 35^12 \\ - 168 \\ \hline 4 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 2^14 \\ 35^12 \\ - 168 \\ \hline 184 \end{array}$$

They should subtract the right hand column first and decompose the left hand side column if needed, taking a ten/hundred over to the next column.

This method can be used for any number of digits, as well as decimals.

Column subtraction with decimal numbers

When using decimal numbers, it is important to fill empty decimal places with zeros to keep the place value of numbers accurate.

7169 – 372.5 =

$$\begin{array}{r} \overset{6}{7} \overset{10}{1} \overset{1}{6} \overset{8}{9} \cdot \overset{1}{0} \\ - \quad \quad 372 \cdot 5 \\ \hline 6796 \cdot 5 \end{array}$$

