

Max's Subtraction Station: Mastering the Minus!

Subtract like a pro: Align your digits, borrow with care, and find the difference!

- Always line up your digits by their place value: thousands, hundreds, tens, and ones must be in the correct columns.
- Start from the right-hand side (the ones column). If the top digit is smaller than the bottom digit, you must exchange from the column to the left.
- Remember that 'finding the difference' is the same as subtraction. If you have £5,420 and spend £1,250, the difference is what you have left.
- When exchanging, cross out the digit you are borrowing from, reduce it by one, and move the ten to the next column.
- You can check your subtraction answer by adding your result to the subtrahend (the number you took away). If it equals the starting number, you are correct!

Did you know? Did you know? The word 'subtract' comes from the Latin word 'subtrahere', which literally means 'to pull away'. When we find the difference between two large numbers, we are simply pulling away the smaller value to see what remains!

Key vocabulary: Difference · Minuend · Subtrahend · Exchange · Column Method · Place Value · Decreasing