

Max's Subtraction Challenge

Learning objective: To improve fluency and accuracy in formal written subtraction methods with multi-digit numbers and decimals.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of subtraction methods. You can work with a partner or practise on your own. Remember to line up your decimal points carefully!

What is the mathematical term for the result of a subtraction calculation?

The difference.

If you are subtracting 34.5 from 100, what is the first step when setting it out in columns?

Align the decimal points and add a .0 to the 100 to make it 100.0.

Max has £50.00 and spends £12.75 on books. How much change does he have left?

£37.25.

What is the inverse operation of subtraction?

Addition.

If you cannot subtract a digit because the top number is smaller, what must you do?

Exchange (or 'borrow') from the column to the left.

Calculate $5,672 - 2,439$.

3,233.

How do you check if your subtraction answer is correct?

Add your answer to the number you subtracted to see if it equals the original starting number.

Subtract 0.8 from 2.5.

1.7.

If you have 4,000 and subtract 1,999, what is the quickest mental way to find the difference?

Subtract 2,000 to get 2,000, then add 1 back because you subtracted one too many.

Why is it vital to keep your digits in the correct columns?

To ensure the place value (thousands, hundreds, tens, ones, tenths) remains accurate.

Max has 850 beads. He gives 375 to his friends. How many beads does he have left?

475.

True or False: Subtraction is commutative (the order of the numbers does not matter).

False. You must always subtract the smaller number from the larger number (unless working with negative numbers).