

Subtract One Strategy: Subtracting with Zeros

Name: _____

Date: _____

Subtracting from a number like 10,000 usually means that you will be doing a lot of borrowing across the zeros, all the way down to the one. Try this strategy to see if it seems like a better way to subtract from large numbers ending in multiple zeros.

Subtract one from
both numbers

$$\begin{array}{r} 5000 \\ - 2384 \\ \hline 2616 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 4999 \\ - 2383 \\ \hline 2616 \end{array}$$

No regrouping!

Using the example $5,000 - 2,384$ subtract one from the top number making it 4,999 and the one from the bottom number making it 2,383. Since you are finding the difference, as long as you subtract the same thing from both numbers the difference won't be affected—the answer will still be correct. After subtracting one from both numbers, subtract as usual with no need to borrow. Now you try it.

$$\begin{array}{r} 200 \\ - 36 \\ \hline 164 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 800 \\ - 81 \\ \hline 719 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 600 \\ - 57 \\ \hline 543 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 100 \\ - 34 \\ \hline 66 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 300 \\ - 74 \\ \hline 226 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 200 \\ - 32 \\ \hline 168 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 900 \\ - 84 \\ \hline 816 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 300 \\ - 77 \\ \hline 223 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 200 \\ - 53 \\ \hline 147 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 500 \\ - 53 \\ \hline 457 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 100 \\ - 46 \\ \hline 54 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 600 \\ - 84 \\ \hline 516 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 600 \\ - 92 \\ \hline 508 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 100 \\ - 80 \\ \hline 20 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 600 \\ - 10 \\ \hline 590 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 600 \\ - 46 \\ \hline 554 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 200 \\ - 86 \\ \hline 114 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 800 \\ - 55 \\ \hline 745 \end{array}$$