

Subtraction

All children should be able to use a pencil and paper method to solve simple subtraction.

Before completing any calculation, your child should be encouraged to estimate a rough value for what they expect the answer to be. This should be done by rounding the numbers and mentally calculating the approximate answer.

After completing the calculation they should be asked to consider whether or not their answer is reasonable in the context of the question.

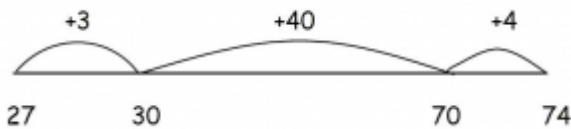
Subtraction by 'counting on'

Work out $74 - 27$

Estimate

$$70 - 30 = 40$$

Counting on:



Conventional method for subtraction:

Work out $8003 - 2569$

Estimate

$$8000 - 3000 = 5000$$

Calculation

$$\begin{array}{r} 7991 \\ \cancel{8003} \\ 2569 - \\ \hline 5434 \end{array}$$

An example of subtraction can be found on the 'vle.mathswatch.co.uk' website. The clips provide a demonstration of the method and examples to practise.

Here is information on how to find the clip on the mathswatch website.

Clip	Title
N14a	Subtraction - Integers (Harder Questions)
N14b	Subtraction - Decimals

Ensure the Topic tab is set to Number and search on subtraction.

There are two clips, N14a and N14b.