

Column Subtraction Worked Examples

Please find below a few worked examples of the method for Column Subtraction.

For all of these calculations, you must begin by writing out the calculation so that the columns are lined up according to their place value:

Hundreds, Tens, Ones HTO

Hundreds, Tens, Ones HTO

Don't forget the '-' and the giant '='!

$$\begin{array}{r}
 548 \\
 - 125 \\
 \hline
 423 \\
 \hline
 \end{array}$$

1. Start by subtracting (taking away) the ONES first.
2. Next, subtract the TENS.
3. Then, subtract the HUNDREDS.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 6\overset{8}{\cancel{9}}2 \\
 - 437 \\
 \hline
 255 \\
 \hline
 \end{array}$$

1. Start by subtracting the ONES first. If there are not enough Ones in the top number, then exchange 1 Ten for 10 Ones (mark this as shown).
2. Next, subtract the TENS. Don't forget that you exchanged 1 Ten for 10 Ones, so your Tens number will be 1 less now!
3. Then, subtract the HUNDREDS.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 6\overset{7}{\cancel{7}}59 \\
 - 364 \\
 \hline
 395 \\
 \hline
 \end{array}$$

1. Start by subtracting (taking away) the ONES first.
2. Next, subtract the TENS. If there are not enough Tens in the top number, then exchange 1 Hundred for 10 Tens (mark this as shown).
3. Then, subtract the HUNDREDS. Don't forget that you exchanged 1 Hundred for 10 Tens, so your Hundreds number will be 1 less now!

$$\begin{array}{r}
 2\overset{3}{\cancel{3}}\overset{4}{\cancel{4}}0 \\
 - 173 \\
 \hline
 167 \\
 \hline
 \end{array}$$

1. Start by subtracting the ONES first. If there are not enough Ones in the top number, then exchange 1 Ten for 10 Ones (mark this as shown).
2. Next, subtract the TENS. Don't forget that you exchanged 1 Ten for 10 Ones, so your Tens number will be 1 less now! If there are not enough Tens in the top number, then exchange 1 Hundred for 10 Tens (mark this as shown).
3. Then, subtract the HUNDREDS. Don't forget that you exchanged 1 Hundred for 10 Tens, so your Hundreds number will be 1 less now!