

Mental Subtraction Methods

Method 1: Subtract in two parts

When subtracting a single-digit number:

First subtract until the previous whole ten-number, then the rest.

$$\begin{aligned} & 53 - \quad \underline{8} \\ & = 53 - \underline{3} - \underline{5} \\ & = 50 - 5 = 45 \end{aligned}$$

8 is subtracted in two parts: first 3, then 5. This makes it easy because the first subtraction is $53 - 3 = 50$, leaving whole tens.

$$\begin{aligned} & 72 - \quad \underline{6} \\ & = 72 - \underline{2} - \underline{4} \\ & = 70 - 4 = 66 \end{aligned}$$

6 is subtracted in two parts: first 2, then 4. This makes it easy because the first subtraction is $72 - 2 = 70$, leaving whole tens.

1. Write a number on the empty line so that the first subtraction gives you an answer that is some whole tens. Then subtract the other number.

a. $(32 - \underline{\quad}) - 4 =$	b. $(45 - \underline{\quad}) - 3 =$	c. $(83 - \underline{\quad}) - 5 =$
d. $(53 - \underline{\quad}) - 8 =$	e. $(27 - \underline{\quad}) - 2 =$	f. $(94 - \underline{\quad}) - 9 =$
g. $(66 - \underline{\quad}) - 5 =$	h. $(58 - \underline{\quad}) - 1 =$	i. $(72 - \underline{\quad}) - 7 =$

2. The number to be subtracted is shown elevated. Subtract it in two parts: first subtract to the previous whole ten. Then subtract the rest.

a. $(51 - \underline{1}) - \overset{5}{-} =$	b. $(62 - \underline{\quad}) - \overset{7}{-} =$	c. $(33 - \underline{\quad}) - \overset{4}{-} =$
d. $(92 - \underline{\quad}) - \overset{5}{-} =$	e. $(75 - \underline{\quad}) - \overset{6}{-} =$	f. $(63 - \underline{\quad}) - \overset{7}{-} =$
g. $(35 - \underline{\quad}) - \overset{7}{-} =$	h. $(74 - \underline{\quad}) - \overset{6}{-} =$	i. $(52 - \underline{\quad}) - \overset{5}{-} =$