

Subtracting Multi-Digit Whole Numbers

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 24

Q Quick Review

To subtract big numbers, line up the **place values** and work from the **ones** on the right. If the top digit is smaller than the bottom digit, you **regroup** (borrow): take 1 from the next place to the left, which is worth 10 in the column you are in. When you must borrow across a 0, keep borrowing one more place to the left. You can always **check** a subtraction by adding your answer to the number you subtracted — it should give the number you started with.

◇ **Example:** Find $6,020 - 3,478$.

⇒ Stack the numbers and start in the ones: $0 - 8$ won't work, so borrow. The tens digit is 2, so we borrow 1 ten: ones become $10 - 8 = 2$, tens become 1. Now tens: $1 - 7$ won't work, and the hundreds digit is 0, so borrow from the thousands. After regrouping carefully we get tens $11 - 7 = 4$, hundreds $9 - 4 = 5$, thousands $5 - 3 = 2$. The answer is 2,542. Check: $2,542 + 3,478 = 6,020$ — it matches!

Answer: 2,542

PRACTICE

Subtract. Line up the place values and regroup when needed.

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|---------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| 1. $518 - 236$ | _____ | 11. $13,250 - 8,675$ | _____ |
| 2. $740 - 385$ | _____ | 12. $24,018 - 15,749$ | _____ |
| 3. $900 - 247$ | _____ | 13. $35,602 - 18,957$ | _____ |
| 4. $1,325 - 648$ | _____ | 14. $46,031 - 27,894$ | _____ |
| 5. $2,050 - 1,374$ | _____ | 15. $54,200 - 28,736$ | _____ |
| 6. $3,461 - 1,875$ | _____ | 16. $207,135 - 148,978$ | _____ |
| 7. $4,208 - 2,659$ | _____ | 17. $310,024 - 176,859$ | _____ |
| 8. $5,103 - 2,847$ | _____ | 18. $425,016 - 287,948$ | _____ |
| 9. $6,020 - 3,478$ | _____ | 19. $530,072 - 261,395$ | _____ |
| 10. $7,415 - 2,986$ | _____ | 20. $642,010 - 358,947$ | _____ |

◆ Word Problems

21. A stadium holds 8,500 people. If 6,275 seats are filled, how many empty seats are there? _____
22. A video game has 24,300 points to earn. Maya has earned 15,840 of them. How many points does she still need? _____
23. A factory had 128,500 bottles. It shipped out 94,760 bottles. How many bottles are left? _____
24. A town's goal is to plant 250,000 trees. So far 173,625 trees have been planted. How many more trees are needed to reach the goal? _____



Answer Keys

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 282 2. 355 3. 653 4. 677 5. 676 6. 1,586 7. 1,549 8. 2,256 9. 2,542 10. 4,429 11. 4,575 12. 8,269 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. 16,645 14. 18,137 15. 25,464 16. 58,157 17. 133,165 18. 137,068 19. 268,677 20. 283,063 21. 2,225 seats 22. 8,460 points 23. 33,740 bottles 24. 76,375 trees |
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Step-by-Step Explanations

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ones $8 - 6 = 2$. Tens: $1 - 3$ needs a borrow, so $11 - 3 = 8$, hundreds $4 - 2 = 2$. That gives 282. 2. Borrowing through the ones and tens gives $740 - 385 = 355$. 3. Borrow across both zeros: $900 - 247 = 653$. 4. Regroup as you go: $1,325 - 648 = 677$. 5. Borrowing carefully gives $2,050 - 1,374 = 676$. 6. Subtract column by column with borrowing: the answer is 1,586. 7. Regroup across the 0 in the tens place: $4,208 - 2,659 = 1,549$. 8. Borrowing through each place gives 2,256. 9. Borrow across the zeros carefully: $6,020 - 3,478 = 2,542$. 10. Subtract each column with regrouping: the answer is 4,429. 11. Line up the places and borrow: $13,250 - 8,675 = 4,575$. 12. Regrouping through each column gives 8,269. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Subtract carefully with borrowing: the answer is 16,645. 14. Borrow across the 0 in the hundreds place: $46,031 - 27,894 = 18,137$. 15. Regroup across both zeros: $54,200 - 28,736 = 25,464$. 16. These are six-digit numbers — keep lining up places. The difference is 58,157. 17. Borrowing through each column gives 133,165. 18. Subtract place by place with regrouping: the answer is 137,068. 19. Careful borrowing gives $530,072 - 261,395 = 268,677$. 20. Regroup across the zeros: $642,010 - 358,947 = 283,063$. 21. Subtract the filled seats: $8,500 - 6,275 = 2,225$ empty seats. 22. Take away the points earned: $24,300 - 15,840 = 8,460$ points. 23. Subtract the shipped bottles: $128,500 - 94,760 = 33,740$ bottles. 24. Subtract what is done from the goal: $250,000 - 173,625 = 76,375$ trees. |
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