

Numeracy Gr 3 Dec 7

Activity 2: Subtracting using an open number line

Task Instructions:

Vocabulary: in a subtraction question, the quantities are named as follows:

MINUEND – SUBTRAHEND = DIFFERENCE

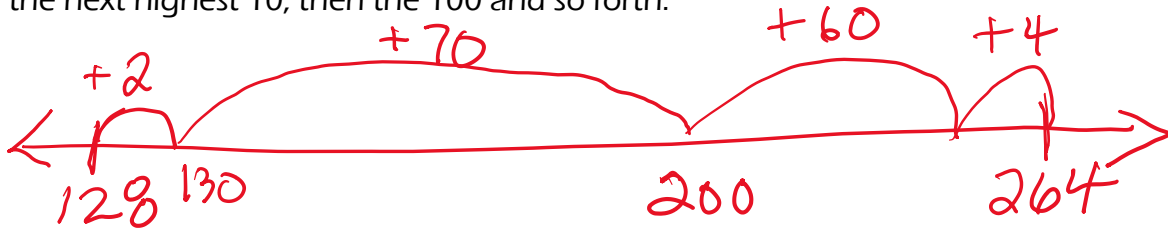
Show your child how to subtract using number lines. There are two possible ways to do it highlighted in this [video](#).

EXAMPLE QUESTION: $264 - 128 =$

Step 1: Place minuend on the right side of the number line and the subtrahend on the left side. Numberlines always go from lowest on left to highest on right.

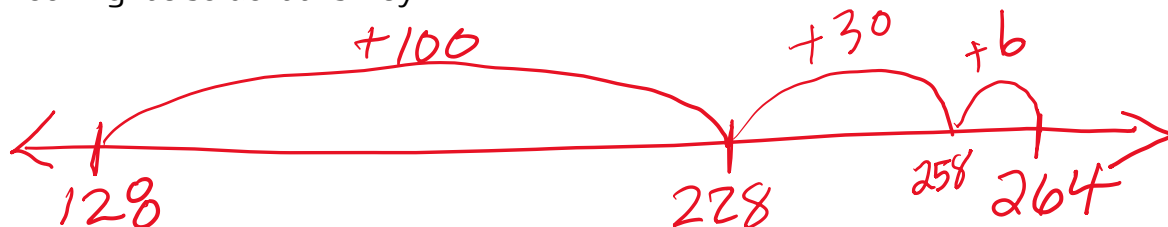


Step 2: Take steps up in convenient increments. In the example below, I've gone first to the next highest 10, then the 100 and so forth.



Step 3: Add all those steps up to get your difference: $2 + 70 + 60 + 4 = 136$,
so $264 - 128 = 136$

You might also do it this way:



The important thing is to use the numberline to visualize the difference between the two numbers.

Practice Questions

1. $272 - 131 =$



2. $589 - 256 =$



3. $863 - 719 =$



4. $540 - 257 =$



5. $691 - 538 =$



Parent Tip: This may seem overly complicated if you are already adept at using the usual subtraction method or algorithm. However, number lines are very important tools for children learning math as they bridge the concrete forms (like the base 10 blocks in Activity 1) and the purely abstract numbers (as we will have in next week's lesson). Also, becoming familiar and adept at using the number line as a tool is a skill we will ask them to use all the way up to Grade 12 math and beyond, so introducing it now as a representation is good. If your child is completely unfamiliar with the number line, go [here](#) for an introduction. If your child finds these two digit questions too difficult, start with the Gr 3 lesson for this week (2 digit subtraction). If your child needs a challenge, use some 4 digit numbers.