

Subtraction is the calculation we use to find the difference between two or more numbers.

That's me!

We use the **minus** symbol for subtraction: -

A lot of subtractions can be calculated mentally, but with bigger numbers it is usually easier to use a written method called column subtraction.

## **Method**

We line up the numbers in columns, by place value.

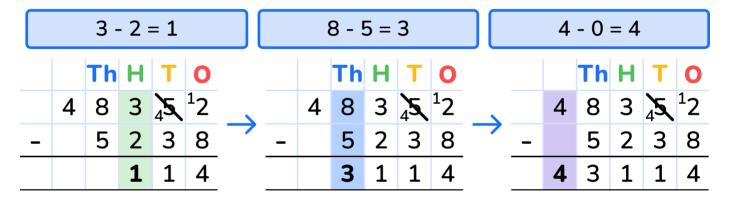
> For example, we line up 48,352 and 5,238 by making sure the ones are in the same column.

		Th	Н	T	0
	4	8	3	5	2
_		5	2	3	8

Then we subtract the numbers, column by column, starting with the rightmost column.

> Ones: 12 - 8 = 4Tens: 4 - 3 = 1We had to 4 4 exchange 1 ten for 10 ones

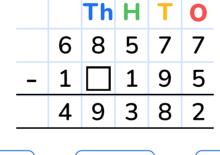
We continue solving each column one by one, going left.



The difference is 43,114!

## Example Question

What is the missing digit in the following subtraction?



A 1

В

C 6

D 8 Ε 9

There are no exchanges in the ones column. Let's move on!

In the **tens column**, we can see that an **exchange** occurs.

We cannot subtract 9 tens from 7 tens, so we need to exchange 1 hundred for 10 tens.

We cross out the 5 in the hundreds column and replace it with a little 4.

We add a little 1 in the **tens column**.

		Th	Н	T	0
	6	8	<b>\</b> \5	<sup>1</sup> 7	7
_	1		1	9	5
	4	9	3	8	2

2

Now we can just solve the calculation in the thousands column, using number 3 facts.

8 - | = 9

This is impossible! There must be an **exchange**.

We need to **exchange** 1 ten thousand for 10 thousands.

We cross out the 6 in the ten thousands column and replace it with a little 5.

4 We add a little 1 in the thousands column.

18 - I | = 9|

18 - **9** = 9 Now we can fill in the gap:

The missing digit is 9!