



Meet the "Villains"

The last mental math strategies that we will learn are subtraction strategies. We call them the **villains** because they *take away* from society. Learning how to subtract is often more difficult. We have been learning various strategies to find the difference between two numbers (up to 20) quickly and accurately. This "Parent Tip" illustrates some ways your child may "think" about subtraction. It is up to your child to use whatever strategy they feel works best for them. It may be here, or it may be one your child has thought of (as long as they get to the correct answer quickly).

<p>Think "Count Back":</p> <p>*This is a good strategy to use when subtracting 1, 2, 3 or 4.</p> <p>Example: $15 - 2 = \underline{\quad}$</p> <p>"I can put the 15 in my head and count back two...14, 13 for an answer of 13." So... $15 - 2 = \underline{13}$</p>	<p>Think "Count Up":</p> <p>*This is a good strategy to use when the numbers are close.</p> <p>Example: $15 - 13 = \underline{\quad}$</p> <p>"I can put 13 in my head and count up to 15...13 to 14 is 1 and 14 to 15 is 2." So... $15 - 13 = \underline{2}$</p>
<p>Think "Addition for Subtraction":</p> <p>*This is a good strategy to use when other strategies are not efficient or if you feel that you are better at addition.</p> <p>Example: $10 - 6 = \underline{\quad}$</p> <p>"I can make it an adding number sentence by thinking how many more I need to add to 6 to make 10, so $6 + 4 = 10$." So... $10 - 6 = \underline{4}$</p>	<p>Think "Doubles":</p> <p>*This is a good strategy to use when the number you are subtracting is about half of the first number.</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 <u>8</u> 9 10 11 12 13 14 <u>15</u></p> <p>Example: $15 - 8 = \underline{\quad}$</p> <p>"I can double the 8 to make 16, but that is one more than 15, so then I take away 1 from the 8 for 7." So... $15 - 8 = \underline{7}$</p>
<p>Think "Make a Friendly Number":</p> <p>*This is a good strategy to use when the number you are subtracting is a 9, 8 or 7 (close to the friendly number 10).</p> <p>Example: $15 - 8 = \underline{\quad}$</p> <p>"I can make the 8 a 10 and do $15 - 10$ which is 5. Then add 2 back on to the 5 for 7, because the 10 was 2 more than the 8." So... $15 - 8 = \underline{7}$</p> <p><u>Another way to think:</u> I can make the 8 a friendly number 10 by adding 2. Then because I added 2 to one number, I add 2 to the other number.</p>	<p>Think "Subtract the Ones":</p> <p>*This is a good strategy to use when the number you are subtracting is greater than the number of ones in the first number.</p> <p>Example: $15 - 8 = \underline{\quad}$</p> <p>10 (8-5=3)</p> <p>"8 is greater than 5 so I can start by taking away the 5 ones away from the 15 which is 10 and then take away the other 3 (to make 8 in total) which leaves 7." So... $15 - 8 = \underline{7}$</p>

Think $17 - 10 = 7$, so... $15 - 8 = 7$