

Identifying subtraction methods

In what situations in work or everyday life do you subtract (take away) numbers or values?
Talk about this with others and **note the answers.**

There are many methods for subtracting numbers. The method used may depend on the type of problem and/or on personal preference. **Match the names of the subtraction methods on the left with the examples on the right by pairing a letter (a, b, c, d) with a number (1, 2, 3, 4).**

a. bridging

1. For $438 - 132$.

$$400 - 100 = 300$$

$$30 - 30 = 0$$

$$8 - 2 = 6$$

Answer: 306

b. compensation

2. For $553 - 119$

$$553 - 120 = 433$$

$$433 + 1 = 434$$

Answer: 434

c. partitioning

3. For $675 - 137$

$$675 - 7 = 668$$

$$668 - 30 = 638$$

$$638 - 100 = 538$$

Answer: 538

d. counting back

4. For $233 - 7$

$$233 - 3 = 230, 7 - 3 = 4$$

$$230 - 4 = 226$$

Answer: 226

Write one example of your own for each type of method (see the 'Subtraction' factsheet for more examples). Which method do you prefer to use? Does it depend on the numbers?