

Division: repeated subtraction

Different methods can be used for division. The **repeated subtraction method** is explained here.

Read through these examples and then try them yourself - this is the best way to find out which method you prefer.

Example 1: what is $42 \div 7$?

Step 1:

Subtract 7	$42 - 7 = 35$
Subtract 7 again	$35 - 7 = 28$
Subtract 7 again	$28 - 7 = 21$
Subtract 7 again	$21 - 7 = 14$
Subtract 7 again	$14 - 7 = 7$
Subtract 7 again	$7 - 7 = 0$

Step 2: **count** the number of times you subtracted 7. In this question it was **6 times**.

Answer: $42 \div 7 = 6$

Example 2: you have a box of 27 chocolates you want to share between 5 people. How many chocolates will each person receive?



Step 1

Subtract 5	$27 - 5 = 22$
Subtract 5 again	$22 - 5 = 17$
Subtract 5 again	$17 - 5 = 12$
Subtract 5 again	$12 - 5 = 7$
Subtract 5 again	$7 - 5 = 2$

You can't subtract 5 from 2 to leave a whole number. So 2 is the **remainder**.

Step 2: **count** the number of times you subtracted 5. In this question it was **5 times, with a remainder 2**.

Answer: $27 \div 5 = 5$ remainder 2

Each person will get 5 chocolates, with 2 left over.

