

Subtraction using counting up

Some people call this method subtraction using complimentary addition. It is a bit like 'counting on' in the mental methods modules. To carry out subtraction using this method you count up from the smaller number to the higher number.

Have a look at this calculation: 237 - 158

Before you work it out - get a rough idea of the answer:

- 237 can be rounded up to 240, and 158 can be rounded up to 160
- 237 - 158 is approximately 240 - 160, which gives a rough answer of 80

Start with the smaller number. Using nearest 10s, then 100s as signposts, **count on to the higher number.**

Now **add up the amounts you counted on by.** This gives you the difference between the two numbers.

$158 + 2 = 160$	Counting on 2 to 160
$160 + 40 = 200$	Counting on 40 to 200
$200 + 30 = 230$	Counting on 30 to 230
$230 + 7 = 237$	Counting on 7 to 237

<u>7</u>
<u>9</u>

After – check the answer makes sense:

- **estimate:** 240 - 160 = 80
- **correct answer:** 237 - 158 = **79** (so the answer makes sense!)