Subtraction Strategies
(-0) Zero Facts

Any # - 0 = that #

7 - 0 = 7  18 - 0 = 18
324 - 0 = 324
Counting Back

No matter how big the #, counting back 1, 2, or 3 is fast!

38 - 2 = 36  
391 - 3 = 388

Count back by starting with the largest number.
Doubles

Any number minus itself is always 0!

If you take away all the dots, how many would be left?

8 - 8 = 0

14 - 14 = 0
Neighbors

Neighbors live close to you. In subtraction, neighbors are always 1 or 2 away from each other.

9 - 8 = 1

15 - 13 = 2
Half Facts

When the smaller number is half the larger number, it’s a half fact!

12 - 6 = 6

18 - 9 = 9
Take Away Tens

When we subtract 10 from a double digit number, the group of ones is left.

12 - 10 = 2

18 - 10 = 8

Take away tens helps with bigger #’s too! 247-10 = 237
Run Away Ones

When you take all the ones away from a teen number, all you have left is 10.

This works with larger numbers too!

13 - 3 = 10

16 - 6 = 10

869 - 9 = 860
Leftovers

There are many leftover subtraction facts. They can be solved using a variety of strategies. For example, to solve 18-12 some people may think “10-10=0, and 8-2=6, so 18-12=6.” Other people may think, “12 plus what would make 18?”

How would you solve 18-12?
Up to Ten

If the fact is 17 - 9, you can think about making a ten (9 + 1 = 10) and then adding 7 more to get 17 (10 + 7 = 17).

The total amount you added up is the difference!

When you go up to ten, you use addition to find the difference between two numbers.