

Solve these simple subtractions:

$8 - 6 =$

$9 - 5 =$

$5 - 3 =$

$6 - 4 =$

$8 - 4 =$

$6 - 3 =$

$6 - 5 =$

$7 - 4 =$

Sometimes it's not as easy. For example:

$13 - 6 =$

I can still count backwards using my fingers to keep track or I could count on from 6 to 13 to find the difference.

There is, however, another way. It is tricky at first and you need lots of practise, perseverance and resilience to master it but when you do it makes you quicker.

Here's how you do it.

$13 - 6 =$

I don't have enough ones to take away 6.

So first I take away all the ones I can which is 3 as 13 has 3 ones (13-3)

I now have 10 left.

I need to take away 6 but I've only taken away 3. I need to take away 3 more.

$10 - 3 = 7$ (I can use my number bonds to solve that quickly)

$\text{So } 13 - 6 = 7$

If this is too confusing for you at the moment, you can use your fingers.

$15 - 7 =$

$12 - 3 =$

$13 - 5 =$

$14 - 8 =$

$16 - 9 =$

$12 - 4 =$

$16 - 9 =$

$14 - 6 =$

$14 + 7 =$

$14 - 5 =$

$17 - 8 =$

$13 + 5 =$

I can count backwards using my fingers

I can count on from the small number to the big number on my fingers and see how much more it is.

So I take away as many ones as I can, then see how many more I have left to take away.