

Subtraction of 3-Digit Numbers

Chapter 2: Toy Joy · Topic 2

Key Concept

To subtract 3-digit numbers, we subtract ones first, then tens, then hundreds. For $458 - 213$: ones are $8-3=5$, tens are $5-1=4$, hundreds are $4-2=2$, giving 245.

Sometimes we need to borrow, like when the ones digit we're subtracting is bigger than the ones digit we start with, borrowing from the tens place.

For example, $342 - 156$: ones need borrowing ($12-6=6$, tens become 3), tens need borrowing too ($13-5=8$, hundreds become 2), hundreds are $2-1=1$, giving 186.

Practising 3-digit subtraction, especially with borrowing, prepares us for solving real problems, like finding the difference between prices or distances.

Quick Revision Notes

- Subtract ones first, then tens, then hundreds.
- $458 - 213 = 245$ (no borrowing needed).
- Borrowing happens when we need more from the next place.
- $342 - 156 = 186$, with borrowing in multiple places.
- Borrowing can happen from tens and hundreds too.
- Practice builds confidence with bigger subtraction.
- 3-digit subtraction is used for real problems like price differences.
- Checking work helps catch subtraction mistakes.

Practice Questions

- 1 Solve: $567 - 234 = ?$
- 2 Solve: $425 - 178 = ?$ (needs borrowing)
- 3 Create your own 3-digit subtraction problem.
- 4 Use place value blocks to subtract two 3-digit numbers.
- 5 Check your subtraction by adding the answer back.
- 6 Practice five 3-digit subtraction sums.