

Written subtraction of 3-digit numbers

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

When the top digit in a column is too small to take away from, we rename by taking one from the next column to the left and adding it as ten to the column we are in. Always start at the units and work left.

→ In $452 - 127$ the units are $2 - 7$ so we rename one ten as ten units to make $12 - 7$.

→ In $600 - 245$ the tens column is a zero so we take from the hundreds first.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

RENAMING IN $526 - 248$

- 1 Set out 526 take away 248 in neat hundreds, tens and units columns.
- 2 Units column: 6 is smaller than 8, so take one ten. Tens become 1 and units become 16. Then $16 - 8 = 8$.
- 3 Tens column: 1 is smaller than 4, so take one hundred. Hundreds become 4 and tens become 11. Then $11 - 4 = 7$.
- 4 Hundreds column: $4 - 2 = 2$.
- 5 The difference is written below the line.

ANSWER KEY

a) 356

b) 374

c) 454

Q1: 143 books

Q2: 233 crayons

Q3: 366 glue sticks

a) Always — We always start at the units and work left column by column.

b) Always — Renaming is required whenever the top digit is too small to subtract from.

c) Never — Some subtractions like $275 - 132$ need no renaming at all.

d) Always — An empty tens column forces you to take from the hundreds before you can help the units.