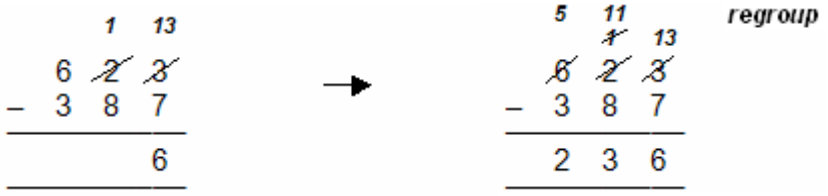
SUBTRACTING BY COLUMNS
(Traditional)

FACT 1: Arrange the digits in columns by their place values. Subtract the columns from right to left using regrouping.

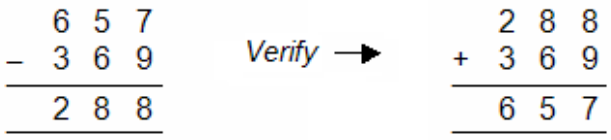
Subtract 387 from 623:



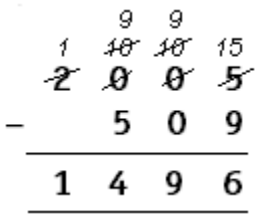
(a) For 1's: 7 is more than 3; regroup 1 from 10's column to have 13 ones; 13 minus 7 equal 6, put down 6.
(b) For 10's: 1 is left in 10's column; regroup 1 from 100's column to have 11 tens; 11 minus 8 equal 3, put down 3.
(c) For 100's: 5 is left in 100's column; 5 minus 3 equal 2; put down 2.
(d) The difference is 236.

FACT 2: Verify the difference by reverse addition.

Subtract 369 from 657.



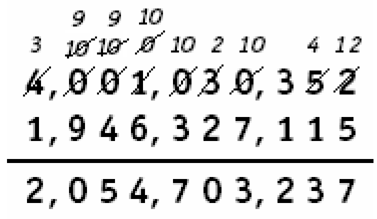
FACT 3: If there is 0 in a column we may have to regroup from farther left.



(a) For 1's: 9 is more than 5; regroup 1 from 10's column. Since there are zeroes in 10's and 100's columns, Regroup starting from 1000's columns as shown above. 15 minus 9 equal 6; put down 6.
(b) For 10's: 9 is left in 10's column; 9 minus 0 equal 9, put down 9.
(c) For 100's: 9 is left in 100's column; 9 minus 5 equal 4; put down 4.
(d) For 1000's: 1 is left in 100's column; put down 1.
(e) The difference is 1496.

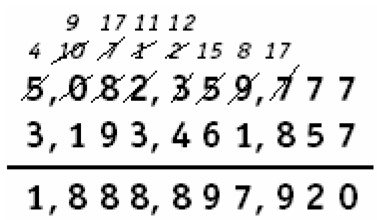
FACT 4: We may subtract large numbers the same way.

(a) Subtract: 4,001,030,352 – 1,946,327,115.



Note that when there are several zeroes following each other in the larger number, regrouping takes place far from the left.

(b) Subtract: 5,082,359,777 – 3,193,461,857.



1. Subtract the following by columns. *(Check your answers using a calculator)*

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
9 3	7 5	9 4	8 7	8 6	3 6
– 8 9	– 6 6	– 5 9	– 4 7	– 4 8	– 2 3

(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
2 6 4	2 9 6	1 0 0 0	8 0 3 1
– 5 9	– 1 9 8	– 8 7 5	– 5 6 7 3

End of Lesson