

Subtraction Trick

When subtracting big numbers,
And you want to be quick,
If the top is mostly zeros,
Try this trick:

Rewrite the problem.
Take one from the top,
Take one from the bottom.
Now subtract, don't stop!

You'll get the right answer —
Taking one from both is fair.
They're both the same **difference**
So the teacher won't care!



$$\begin{array}{r} 400 \\ - 162 \\ \hline 238 \end{array}$$



$$\begin{array}{r} 400 - 1 = 399 \\ 162 - 1 = -161 \\ \hline 238 \end{array}$$

Try the trick on these problems. Find the difference both ways. Are they the same?

$$\begin{array}{r} 800 \\ - 267 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 1000 \\ - 748 \\ \hline \end{array}$$