# Eleven Plus Maths How To Do – Number – Subtraction

There are two different methods used for subtraction.

One is called Equal Addition.
The other is called Decomposition or Borrowing.

In both systems it is important that place value is understood, i.e. that 10 units = 1 bundle of ten, and that 10 tens equal one hundred etc.

Equal Addition

e.g. 426 - 78

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  H T U              Step 1
   4 2 6             8 cannot be taken from 6.
 - 1 7 8             Give the units (6) ten units and the 7 in the subtrahend a bundle of ten
   3 4 8             Place the figures so that they now read 16 and 7 + 1 or  6  7
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Subtract 8 from 16.  Answer 8.

Step 2   Subtract 8 from 2.  It cannot be done.  Give the 2 tens a ten tens and the subtrahend a bundle of a hundred.  Subtract 8 from 12.  Answer 4.

Step 3   Subtract 1 from 4.  Answer 3.

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