

# Grade 4 Subtraction Strategies



## Front-End Subtraction:

Using front-end subtraction requires that you break down a number by **hundreds**, **tens** and **ones** and then subtract. This strategy is appropriate only when numbers do not need to be regrouped.

- Subtract the hundreds
- Subtract the tens
- Subtract the ones
- Add the numbers together

For Example:

$$684 - 321 = \underline{\quad}$$

- Subtract **hundreds**  $600 - 300 = 300$
- Subtract the **tens**  $80 - 20 = 60$
- Subtract the **ones**  $4 - 1 = 3$
- Now add the numbers together:  $300 + 60 + 3 = 363$

## Compensation:

Subtract a Nice Number and then add the difference.

For Example:

$$785 - 197 = \underline{\quad}$$

- Add **3** to 197 to make **200**, an easy number to subtract!
- Subtract  $785 - 200 = 585$
- Now, you took away 3 too many, so add them back  $585 + 3 = 588$

$$9 - 4 = 5$$

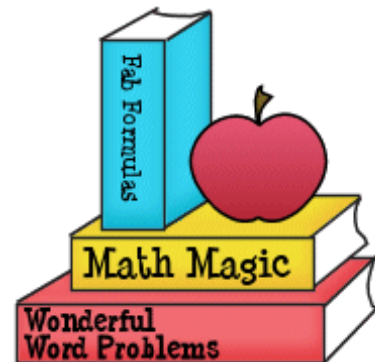
### Counting On/Counting Back:

Count on from a number, like giving change back.

For Example:

$$500 - 197 = \underline{\quad}$$

- Start at 197 and **add 3** to make 200
- Add **300** to reach 500 (the number you are taking away from)
- Add the numbers you counted on by to get your answer  $300 + 3 = 303$
- $500 - 197 = 303$



### Partner Numbers or Compatible Numbers:

Look for numbers that go together to make multiples of *ten*.

For Example:

$$100 - 60 = \underline{\quad}$$

- Think, what do I add to 60 to make 100?
- $60 + 40 = 100$
- Therefore,  $100 - 60 = 40$

Example 2:

$$200 - 135 = \underline{\quad}$$

- Think, what do I add to 135 to make 200?
- $135 + 65 = 200$
- Therefore,  $200 - 135 = 65$

