

Lesson 18: Subtract with Zeroes in the Top Number

Purpose of Lesson: You will learn how to subtract with **zeroes '0'** in the **top** number.



Zeroes present a different situation.

$$\begin{array}{r} 9,000 \\ - 2,159 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

In a problem such as this you need to **borrow** from the **'9'**. Make it one less, **'8'**, then add ten to each zero. Then continue borrowing from each ten until you are able to subtract.

See below:

$$\begin{array}{r} 9 \quad 9 \\ 8 \quad 40 \quad 40 \quad 10 \\ - 9, \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \\ \hline - \quad 7, \quad 5 \quad 2 \quad 8 \\ 1, \quad 4 \quad 7 \quad 2 \end{array}$$

- 1) You **cannot** subtract the **8** from **0**.
- 2) So, you need to look to the **9** on the left to find a number to borrow from.
- 3) Take **1** away from the **9** and make it **8**.
- 4) Bring the **1** to the **0** on the right of the number **8** making it a **10** in the hundreds column
- 5) Because you still cannot subtract, you need to take **1** from the 10 that you just created making it a **9** in the hundreds column and creating a **10** in the tens column.
- 6) Because you still cannot subtract, you need to borrow **1** from the 10 making it a **9** in the tens column which will make a **10** in the ones column.

- 7) Starting to subtract in the ones column, $10-8=2$.
- 8) In the tens column, $9-2=7$.
- 9) In the hundreds column, $9-5=4$.
- 10) In the thousands column, $8-7=1$, making your answer **1,472**.

Now you try some:

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