N5 Maths: Subtracting Fractions

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Study this example

$9\frac{3}{10} - 7\frac{4}{5}$

$= 9\frac{3}{10} - 7\frac{8}{10}$ ← Make a common denominator. Here, it's 10 because 5 is a factor of 10.

$= 8\frac{13}{10} - 7\frac{8}{10}$ ← 3 - 8 is negative, so we split the 9 into $8\frac{10}{10}$, which combines with the $\frac{3}{10}$.

$= 1\frac{5}{10}$ ← Subtract the whole numbers: 8 - 7. Then subtract the numerators: 13 - 8.

$= 1\frac{1}{2}$ ← Finally, make sure that your answer is fully simplified.

Q1 Simple questions with no whole numbers or negative numerators. Show all your working.

a) $\frac{4}{5} - \frac{1}{5}$ **b)** $\frac{4}{5} - \frac{1}{10}$ **c)** $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3}$

d) $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{6}$ **e)** $\frac{4}{7} - \frac{3}{8}$ **f)** $\frac{5}{6} - \frac{2}{9}$

Q2 These questions won't have a negative numerator. Show all your working.

a) $5\frac{7}{10} - 1\frac{2}{5}$ **b)** $6\frac{5}{8} - 3\frac{1}{3}$ **c)** $9\frac{13}{16} - 1\frac{3}{4}$

d) $10\frac{5}{6} - 4\frac{1}{8}$ **e)** $7\frac{4}{5} - 5\frac{2}{15}$ **f)** $3\frac{5}{6} - \frac{3}{4}$

Q3 In these questions, the numerators will subtract to a negative number, so you will have to split the first whole number, as shown in the example at the top.

a) $5\frac{3}{10} - 2\frac{2}{5}$ **b)** $6\frac{1}{8} - 3\frac{2}{3}$ **c)** $9\frac{1}{5} - 8\frac{3}{4}$

d) $4\frac{3}{8} - 2\frac{4}{5}$ **e)** $7\frac{1}{2} - 6\frac{4}{7}$ **f)** $4\frac{1}{3} - \frac{5}{12}$

Q4 Mixed question types. Always give your answer in its lowest terms.

a) $3\frac{3}{4} - 1\frac{7}{8}$ **b)** $6\frac{5}{8} - \frac{7}{12}$ **c)** $7\frac{2}{15} - 2\frac{13}{20}$

d) $8\frac{5}{6} - \frac{4}{9}$ **e)** $6\frac{2}{7} - 5\frac{13}{21}$ **f)** $4\frac{1}{9} - \frac{5}{18}$

g) $9\frac{1}{4} - 1\frac{5}{6}$ **h)** $4\frac{2}{5} - 3\frac{5}{8}$ **i)** $5\frac{5}{12} - \frac{7}{9}$

j) $7\frac{1}{2} - 6\frac{23}{40}$ **k)** $7\frac{8}{9} - 5\frac{5}{8}$ **l)** $4\frac{2}{7} - 1\frac{3}{4}$

m) $6\frac{5}{6} - 4\frac{9}{10}$ **n)** $7\frac{1}{3} - 2\frac{4}{5}$ **o)** $8\frac{5}{6} - 3\frac{5}{7}$