

# Stage 4 – Subtraction

## Standard Decomposition Method

Children can still use concrete apparatus during this stage. Place value counters are available in tenths, hundredths and thousandths and should be used if children require them.

During this stage children will:

- Subtract numbers with different numbers of digits
- Subtract using their knowledge of different measures
- Know that decimal points always line up under each other

$$\begin{array}{r} 28.928 \\ - 21.28 \\ \hline 28.928 \end{array}$$

$$45 - 7.57$$

Steps to Success:

Step 1: Lay out the integers vertically making sure the decimal points are lined up. If you need to use '0' as a place holder, then add these in at this point.

T	O	t	h
4	5	0	0
	7	5	7

Step 2: Begin with the column which has the smallest value. (column furthest to the right)

Remember if you have zero, you can't take anything away from it so you must decompose!

T	O	t	h
4	45	9±0	10
	7	5	7
		4	3

Step 3: Don't forget to decompose when necessary and write this down.

Step 4: Check your answer using the inverse.

T	O	t	h
<del>3</del>	145	9±0	10
	7	5	7
3	7	4	3

## Vocabulary

Number  
 More  
 Numeral  
 Equal to  
 Equivalent to  
 Many  
 Addition  
 Add  
 Altogether  
 Sum  
 Total  
 How many more  
 Same  
 Greater than  
 Less than  
 Place value  
 Partition  
 Decompose  
 Value  
 Digit  
 Ones  
 Tens  
 Hundreds  
 Bridging through ten  
 Tens boundary  
 Thousands  
 Hundreds boundary  
 Integer  
 Inverse  
 Ten thousands  
 Hundred thousands  
 Millions  
 Ones boundary  
 Tenths boundary  
 Hundredths boundary  
 Decimal point  
 Tenths  
 Hundredths  
 Thousandths