Subtraction Strategies

Subtraction as Think Addition

Use known addition facts to produce the unknown quantity or part.
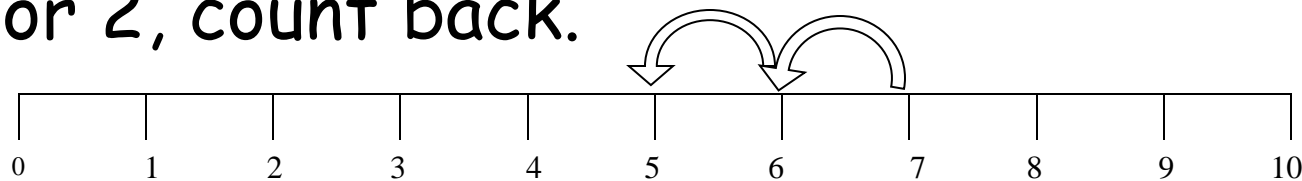
For 9-4 think:
4 + ? is 9.

Inverse Operation

Facts with Zero

This set includes those involving subtracting zero (7-0) and those with a difference of zero (7-7).

Identity Property of Addition

Count Back
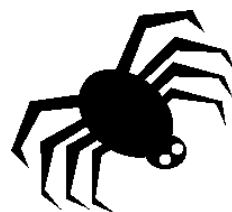
When the number being subtracted is a 1 or 2, count back.

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    0   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10
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Example: 7 – 2 = 5 Start at 7 and count back 6, 5.

Doubles

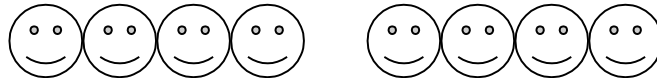This group refers to the addition facts of the same name.
For 8 - 4 think: 4 + 4 =8.

Near Doubles

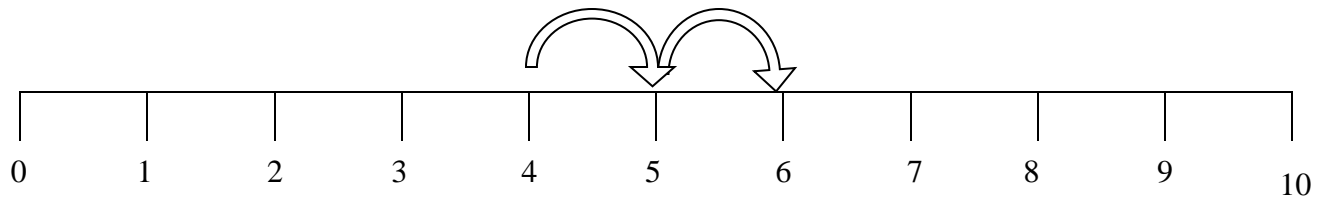For 9-4 think:

4+4 = 8 and 4+5 =9 so 9-4+5.

4 + 4 = 8

4 + 5 = 9

9 - 4 = 5

Count Up

When the number being subtracted has a difference of 1 or 2, count up.

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  0     1     2     3     4     5     6     7     8     9
                                                        10
```
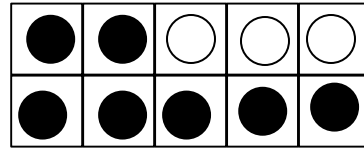
Example: 6-4 = 2 Start at 4 and count 5, 6. Use a number line, fingers, or counters to keep track.
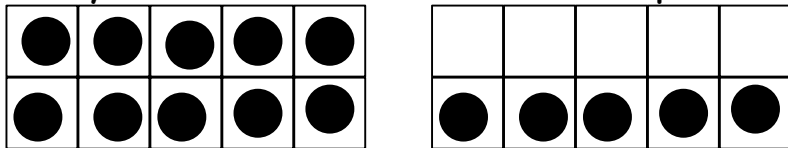
Make Ten

This group includes all facts with a minuend of 10. Picture the Ten Frame when solving.
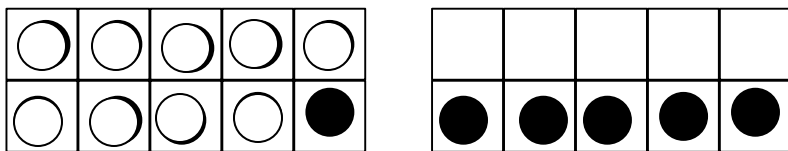
Examples: 10 - 3 = 7

Use the Ten Frame

Picture a Ten Frame. Take one away and add on the extras. For 15-9 think: 15 equals one ten frame and 5 more. Take nine off the Ten Frame and you have 1 in the Ten Frame plus the 5 left over = 6.

15 – 9 = 6

Do the same for 8, except you have 2 open in the Tens Frame.