

3rd Grade Subtraction Strategies

Subtracting with regrouping (opening- up the number): Split the number into the value that each digit represents and then subtract.

Examples:

$$87 - 21 = \underline{66}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 80 \quad 7 \\ - 20 \quad 1 \\ \hline 60 + 6 = 66 \end{array}$$

$$133 - 55 = \underline{78}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 100 \quad 20 \quad 13 \\ - 50 \quad 5 \\ \hline 0 + 70 + 8 = 78 \end{array}$$

Subtracting by parts: One of the numbers stays the same and you break-up the other number into smaller numbers that you feel safe with. Subtract one part at a time, starting in the ones place. Show your work at each step.

Examples:

$$87 - 21 = \underline{66}$$

$$87 - 1 = 86$$

$$86 - 10 = 76$$

$$76 - 10 = 66$$

$$133 - 55 = \underline{78}$$

$$133 - 10 = 123$$

$$123 - 10 = 113$$

$$113 - 10 = 103$$

$$103 - 10 = 93$$

$$93 - 10 = 83$$

$$83 - 5 = 78$$

Subtracting by place: Subtract the ONES first. Then, subtract the TENS. Then the HUNDREDS... Then add them altogether. (This strategy cannot be used if you need to borrow)

Examples:

$$87 - 21 = \underline{66}$$

$$133 - 31 = \underline{102}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 7 - 1 = 6 \\ 80 - 20 = 60 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 3 - 1 = 2 \\ 30 - 30 = 0 \\ 100 - 0 = 100 \end{array}$$

$$60 + 6 = 66$$

$$100 + 0 + 2 = 102$$

Number line: Start at one of the numbers. Break-up the other number into numbers you feel safe with and "jump".

Examples:

$$87 - 21 = \underline{66}$$

$$133 - 55 = \underline{78}$$

