Head Cases

Activity

Here are some ways to work out subtraction problems in your head.
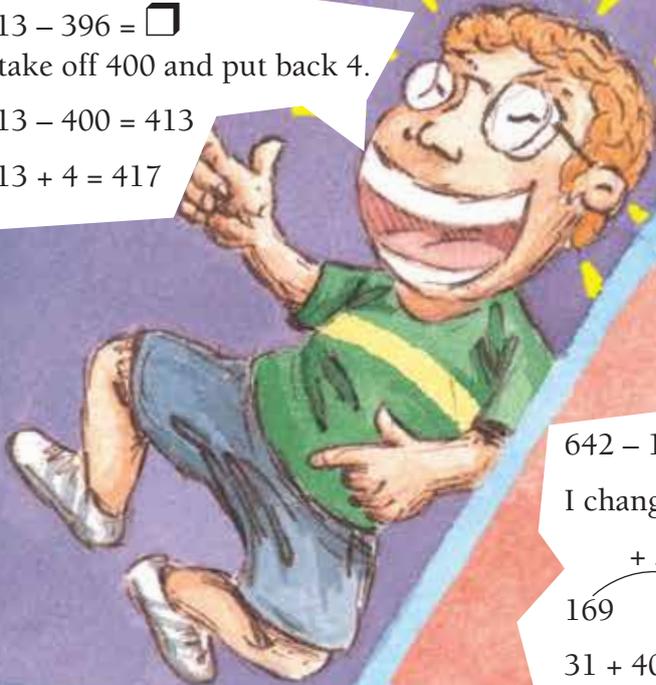
Scott

$813 - 396 = \square$

I take off 400 and put back 4.
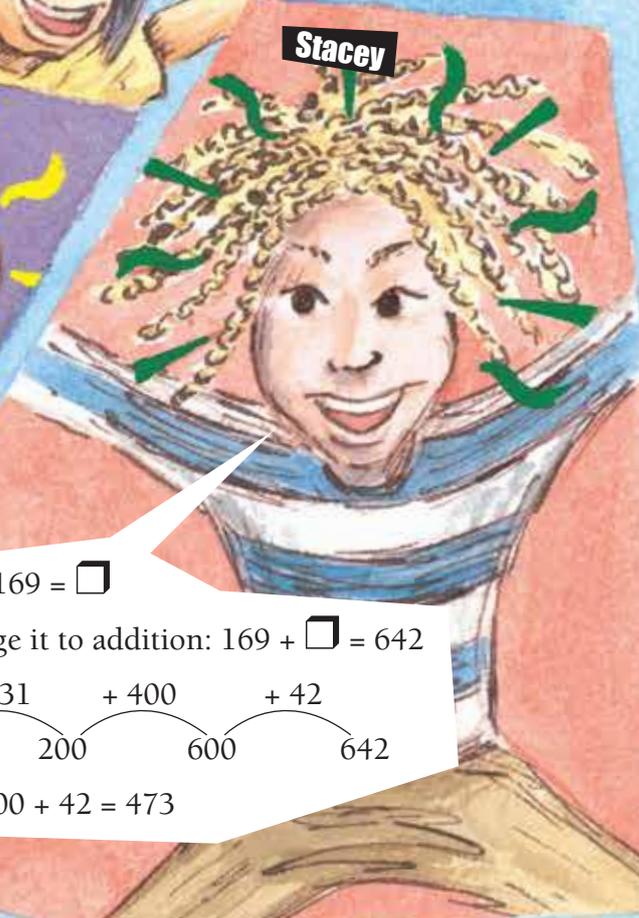
$813 - 400 = 413$

$413 + 4 = 417$

Stacey

$642 - 169 = \square$

I change it to addition: $169 + \square = 642$

$$169 \xrightarrow{+31} 200 \xrightarrow{+400} 600 \xrightarrow{+42} 642$$

$31 + 400 + 42 = 473$

Kingi

$763 - 459 = \square$

I subtract the hundreds, tens, and ones separately.

$763 - 400 = 363$

$363 - 50 = 313$

$313 - 9 = 304$

1. a. How would each of these people solve $923 - 598 = \square$?

    b. Discuss with a classmate which way you think is best. Why?

2. Use any strategy you like to solve these problems in your head. Share your method with a classmate.

    a. $785 - 234 = \square$ b. $571 - 298 = \square$
    c. $502 - 286 = \square$ d. $807 - 348 = \square$
    e. $899 - 463 = \square$ f. $1\ 004 - 385 = \square$
    g. $625 - 374 = \square$ h. $1\ 333 - 555 = \square$