

Answer Key — Lesson 4: Subtraction Strategies

Teacher answer key for all three versions of the Lesson 4 worksheet (subtraction strategies to four digits). ULO2.

Main — "Subtraction strategies to four digits"

1. a) 440 b) 750
2. $4\,000 - 1\,640 = 2\,360$ (count on: +60 to 1 700, +300 to 2 000, +2 000 to 4 000).
3. $3\,250 - 1\,480 = 1\,770$. Check: $1\,770 + 1\,480 = 3\,250$. ✓
4. $2\,100 - 1\,350 = 750$ gumnuts given away.
5. $600 - 199 = 401$. Take 200 (→400), then add 1 back (→401), because 199 is one less than 200, so we subtracted one too many and return it. Look for: the compensation explanation, not just the answer.

Support — "Subtraction by counting on"

1. a) 20 b) 30
2. a) 65 b) 60
3. $80 - 30 = 50$
4. $50 + 20 = 70$ (confirms $70 - 20 = 50$).

Extension — "Harder subtraction and strategies"

1. a) $5\,003 - 1\,678 = 3\,325$ b) $8\,200 - 3\,645 = 4\,555$. Look for: (a) needs regrouping across zeros.
2. $\square - 1\,250 = 2\,750$, so $\square = 4\,000$.
3. $4\,200 - 1\,850 = 2\,350$; $2\,350 - 980 = 1\,370$ left. (Two steps shown.)
4. $700 - 397 = 303$. Take 400 (→300), add 3 back (→303), since 397 is three less than 400.
5. Largest difference with 8,5,2,1 in $\square\square - \square\square$: $85 - 12 = 73$. Look for: biggest number minus smallest.

Common errors: "subtract smaller digit from larger in each column" regardless of position (e.g. $53 - 27 \rightarrow 34$); difficulty regrouping across zeros in 5 003. Counting-on and the add-back check keep meaning central.