

Subtraction – breaking apart (2)

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1. a) $9 - 4 = 5$. There are 5 small hedgehogs.
b) $9 - 6 = 3$. There are 3 small cats.
2. $9 - 4 = 5$. There are 5 white cubes.

3. a) $4 - 3 = 1$ (or $4 - 1 = 3$)
b) $10 - 5 = 5$
c) $6, 8 - 2 = 6$ (or $8 - 6 = 2$)
d) $5, 6 - 5 = 1$ (or $6 - 1 = 5$)
4. $8 - 5 = 3$. There are 3 bananas.
5. a) 1, 1
b) 7, 7

Reflect

Children could have explained the mistakes in different ways, e.g.

The numbers have been put in the wrong places in the number sentence.

To find the missing part in a part-whole model, the number sentence is written (whole) – (one part) = (remaining part). These subtraction number sentences did not start with the whole.

Try to avoid language such as 'You cannot subtract a greater number from a smaller number' since it is possible to subtract a greater number from a smaller number (although the answer will be a negative number).