

**Decimal Subtraction**

The normal rules for the “-” operator apply. The main thing to remember is to subtract like from like; i.e., subtract hundreds from hundreds. The easiest way to do this is to align each term of the calculation using the decimal point.

**Example 2 – Subtraction**

What is  $167.2 - 13.876$ ?

Answer:

1000's	100's	10's	1's	.	$\frac{1}{10}$ 's	$\frac{1}{100}$ 's	$\frac{1}{1000}$ 's	
↓	↓	↓	↓		↓	↓	↓	
	1	6	7	.	2	7	6	-
=	1	5	3	.	3	2	4	

And here's how it's done. Always start from the right

Step 1:                    **0 - 6 = ?**            cannot, so borrow from the left, the  $\frac{1}{100}$ 's column

Step 2:                    **borrow**            cannot, so borrow from the left,  $\frac{1}{10}$ 's column to leave "1"

Answer:

	1	6	7	.	<sup>1</sup> 2	10	-
=		1	3	.	8	7	6

Step 3:                    **0 - 6 = ?**            (trying step 1 again)  
cannot, so borrow from the left, the  $\frac{1}{100}$ 's column to leave "9"

Answer:

	1	6	7	.	<sup>1</sup> 2	<sup>9</sup> 10	10	-
=		1	3	.	8	7	6	

Step 4:                    **10 - 6 = 4**

Answer:

	1	6	7	.	<sup>1</sup> 2	<sup>9</sup> 10	10	-
=		1	3	.	8	7	6	

Step 5:                    **9 - 7 = 2**

Answer:

	1	6	7	.	<sup>1</sup> 2	<sup>9</sup> 10	10	-
=		1	3	.	8	7	6	

Step 6:  $1 - 8 = ?$  cannot, so borrow from the left, the 1's column to leave "6"

Answer:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 1 \quad 6 \quad \overset{6}{\cancel{7}} \quad . \quad \overset{11}{\cancel{2}} \quad \overset{9}{\cancel{10}} \quad 10 \quad - \\
 \hline
 \phantom{1} \quad \phantom{6} \quad 3 \quad . \quad 8 \quad 7 \quad 6 \\
 = \phantom{1} \quad \phantom{6} \quad \phantom{3} \quad . \quad \phantom{8} \quad 2 \quad 4
 \end{array}$$

Step 7:  $11 - 8 = 3$

Answer:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 1 \quad 6 \quad \overset{6}{\cancel{7}} \quad . \quad \overset{11}{\cancel{2}} \quad \overset{9}{\cancel{10}} \quad 10 \quad - \\
 \hline
 \phantom{1} \quad \phantom{6} \quad 3 \quad . \quad \overset{11}{\cancel{2}} \quad 8 \quad 7 \quad 6 \\
 = \phantom{1} \quad \phantom{6} \quad \phantom{3} \quad . \quad 3 \quad 2 \quad 4
 \end{array}$$

Step 8:  $6 - 3 = 3$

Answer:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 1 \quad 6 \quad \overset{6}{\cancel{7}} \quad . \quad \overset{11}{\cancel{2}} \quad \overset{9}{\cancel{10}} \quad 10 \quad - \\
 \hline
 \phantom{1} \quad \phantom{6} \quad 3 \quad . \quad 8 \quad 7 \quad 6 \\
 = \phantom{1} \quad \phantom{6} \quad \overset{6}{\cancel{3}} \quad . \quad 3 \quad 2 \quad 4
 \end{array}$$

Step 9:  $6 - 1 = 5$

Answer:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 1 \quad \overset{6}{\cancel{6}} \quad \overset{6}{\cancel{7}} \quad . \quad \overset{11}{\cancel{2}} \quad \overset{9}{\cancel{10}} \quad 10 \quad - \\
 \hline
 \phantom{1} \quad 1 \quad 3 \quad . \quad 8 \quad 7 \quad 6 \\
 = \phantom{1} \quad \overset{6}{\cancel{5}} \quad 3 \quad . \quad 3 \quad 2 \quad 4
 \end{array}$$

Step 10:  $1 - 0 = 1$

Answer:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \overset{6}{\cancel{1}} \quad 6 \quad \overset{6}{\cancel{7}} \quad . \quad \overset{11}{\cancel{2}} \quad \overset{9}{\cancel{10}} \quad 10 \quad - \\
 \hline
 \overset{6}{\cancel{1}} \quad 1 \quad 3 \quad . \quad 8 \quad 7 \quad 6 \\
 = \overset{6}{\cancel{1}} \quad 5 \quad 3 \quad . \quad 3 \quad 2 \quad 4
 \end{array}$$