FAMILY MATH

Strategies for Decomposing Tens and Hundreds Within 1,000

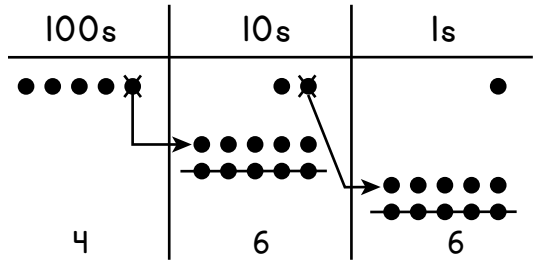
Dear Family,

Key Term

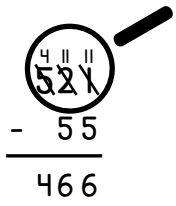
rename

Your student is learning to rename the total before subtracting. They find that when using vertical form, sometimes there are not enough ones, tens, or hundreds to subtract. When that happens, they must rename the total. A common mistake is to switch the top and bottom digits instead of renaming the total.

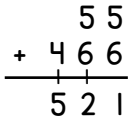
Making place value drawings and using addition to check the answer helps your student recognize the importance of renaming. Your student applies their toolbox of strategies to solve various problems and explains why their strategies work. They recognize that even though vertical form always works for subtraction, it is often not the most efficient strategy.



Decompose 1 of a larger unit for 10 of the next smaller unit to rename the total before subtracting.



Draw a magnifying glass around the total to determine if each digit is big enough to subtract the digit below it.



Use the relationship between addition and subtraction to check the answer.

At-Home Activities

Subtracting for Hugs or High-Fives

Each of you start with 999 points. Write the numbers 78, 95, 184, 206, 327, and 388 on separate pieces of paper and place the numbers face down. Take turns selecting a number and subtracting it from your total points. Use addition to check the answer after each turn. After you have each selected and subtracted three numbers, whoever has the greater total gets a hug or a high five!

Search and Subtract

Help your student search for examples of two- and three-digit numbers around your home, such as the number of crayons in a box, grams or ounces in a package of food, or the oven temperatures for a recipe. Have your student use the numbers to create subtraction problems. For example, if they find the numbers 32 and 450, they write the expression 450 – 32 and find the difference. Invite your student to use addition to check their answers.