

Compatible Numbers for Subtraction

Mental Math Strategy

When to use this strategy: Use this strategy when you subtracting and there are numbers that are compatible.

How to use this strategy: Look for an “added” number (or positive number) and a “subtracted” number that end with the same number or numbers. Combine these first. Then add or subtract the remaining numbers.

Examples: $87 - 9 - 7 = 87 - 7 - 9 = 80 - 9 = 71$

$836 + 17 - 36 = (836 - 36) + 17 = 800 + 17 = 817$

Use this (new) strategy on the following:	
1.) Simplify: $38x - 19x - 8x$	2.) The checking account balance starts at \$17.28. Kevin writes checks for \$4.90 and \$2.28. What's the ending balance?
3.) Solve for a , $67 + 28 = a + 7$	4.) Simplify: $\frac{84}{120} - \frac{7}{120} - \frac{14}{120}$

Use any strategy you know on the following:	
5.) Evaluate $654 + a + 303$, if $a = 21$.	6.) In the 4 x 400 meter relay the runner's times are 52 sec, 49 sec, 58 sec, and 51 sec. What's their total time?
7.) The year 2919 is how far in the future from the year 1902?	8.) Phil has a board that is 121 inches long. He cuts off pieces that are 19 and 21 inches long. How much is left?