

FAMILY MATH

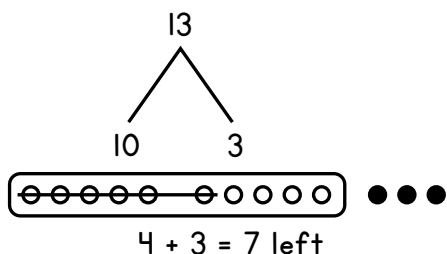
Make Easier Problems to Subtract

Dear Family,

Your student is exploring different strategies for making subtraction problems easier. They can decompose the number being subtracted (subtrahend) or the total (minuend) and use the resulting parts to solve. Your student discusses how to subtract from the ones, from the ten, or from both. They use an understanding of ten to guide their decisions and to select any strategy to subtract.

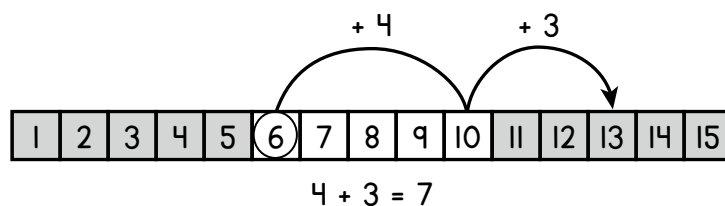
$$13 - 6 = 7$$

Take from Ten



Break apart the total into tens and ones. Then take away the number being subtracted from ten and add the remaining parts.

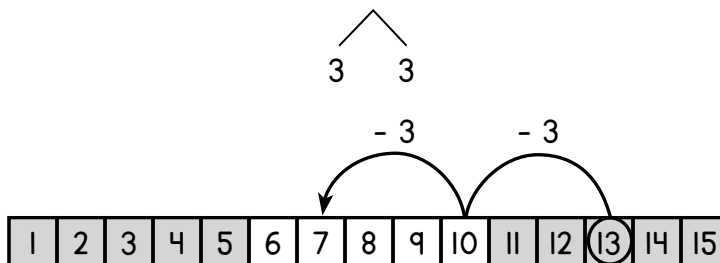
Count On to Get to 10



Start with the known part and count on to 10. Then count on to the total and add the parts that were counted on.

Break Apart and Count Back to Get to 10

$$13 - 6 = 7$$



Break apart the number being subtracted and count back to 10 from the total. Then count back the remaining part.

At-Home Activity

Ten and Tuck

While sitting next to your student, place your hands palm down on a flat surface. Have your student do the same so you both see all 20 fingers in a row. Take turns calling out a number between 11 and 19, for example, 12. Invite your student to subtract the number you called out from 20 by tucking their fingers. Encourage your student to explain their thinking like this example describes.

- “First, I subtract 10, then I subtract 2 more. That makes 8.”

Consider trying it again, but this time starting with 15 fingers as the total and selecting a number to subtract that is between 6 and 14.