Strategies for Solving Subtraction Problems

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Subtraction problems can be solved in different ways.
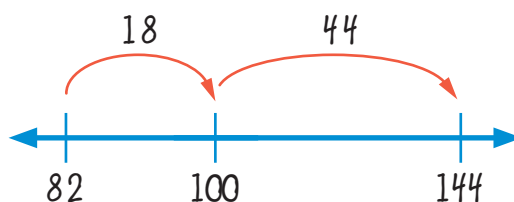
$$144 - 82 = \underline{\quad\quad}$$

Adding Up

Bridget solved this problem by adding up. She started at 82 and added up to get to 144. She used 100 as a landmark number.

Bridget's Solution

$82 + \underline{\quad\quad} = 144$

$82 + \underline{\ 18\ } = 100$

$100 + \underline{\ 44\ } = 144$

Bridget: *The answer is the total of the two jumps from 82 to 144.*
18 + 44 = **62**

Subtracting Back

Keith solved the problem by subtracting back. He started at 144 and subtracted back to get to 82.
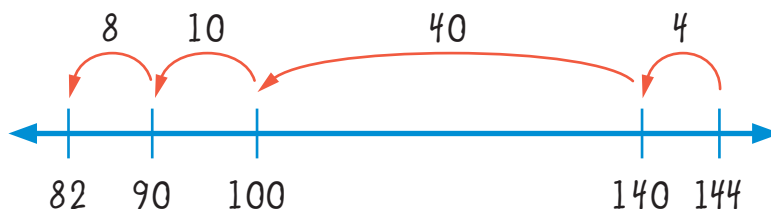
Keith's Solution

$144 - \underline{\quad\quad} = 82$

$144 - \underline{\ 4\ } = 140$

$140 - \underline{\ 40\ } = 100$

$100 - \underline{\ 10\ } = 90$

$90 - \underline{\ 8\ } = 82$

Keith: *The answer is the total of all the jumps from 144 back to 82.*
4 + 40 + 10 + 8 = **62**

Strategies for Solving Subtraction Problems

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This problem can be solved in different ways.

$$924 - 672$$

Adding Up

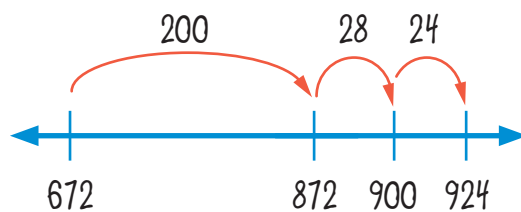Jung solved this problem by starting at 672 and adding up to 924.

Jung's Solution

$672 + \underline{} = 924$

$672 + \underline{200} = 872$

$872 + \underline{28} = 900$

$900 + \underline{24} = 924$

Jung: *The answer is the total of all the jumps from 672 up to 924.*
200 + 28 + 24 = **252**

Subtracting Back

Gil solved the problem by starting at 924 and subtracting back to 672.
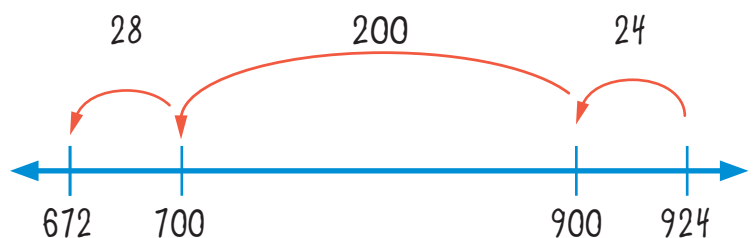
Gil's Solution

$924 - \underline{} = 672$

$924 - \underline{24} = 900$

$900 - \underline{200} = 700$

$700 - \underline{28} = 672$

Gil: *The answer is the total of all the jumps from 924 back to 672.*
24 + 200 + 28 = **252**

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Subtracting One Number in Parts
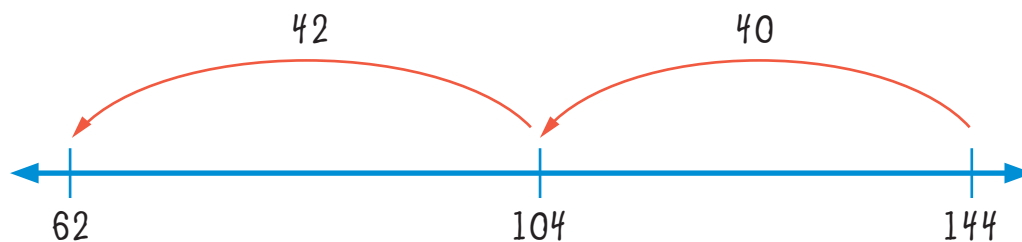
$$144 - 82 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Kim solved this problem by starting with 144 and subtracting 82 in parts.

Kim's Solution

I started at 144 on the number line.

I subtracted 40 and landed on 104. $144 - 40 = 104$

I subtracted 42 and landed on 62. $102 - 42 = 62$

The answer is the number where I ended. $144 - 82 = \mathbf{62}$

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$$924$$
$$- 672$$

Arthur solved this problem by starting with 924 and subtracting 672 in parts.

Arthur's Solution

I started at 924.

I subtracted 600 and landed on 324.   924 − 600 = 324
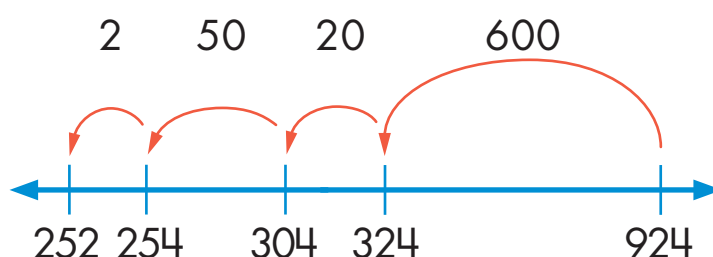
I subtracted 20 and landed on 304.   324 − 20 = 304

I subtracted 50 and landed on 254.   304 − 50 = 254

Arthur: Then I subtracted 2 and landed on 252.   254 − 2 = 252

The answer is the number where I landed.   924 − 672 = **252**

How would you solve these problems?