Using written methods for subtraction

- *COLUMN* **METHOD:**

Just like with addition, I line up the two numbers, one on top of the other. The most important thing to remember is that the **BIGGEST** number goes at the top.

Remember to put the operation sign so you know what you are doing!

```
H T U
5 7 8
—   9 5
_____
```

I always subtract the numbers on the *RIGHT* first. In this case, it's the units column.
8 – 5 = 3.

```
H T U
5 7 8
—   9 5
_____
      3
```

Next I subtract the tens column. 7 tens – 9 tens. Uh Oh! There's a problem! 7 tens is smaller than 9 tens, so I can't subtract the 9 tens. But…there are plenty of hundreds! So I am going to 'borrow' one of the hundreds.

I now have 4 hundreds left in the hundreds column

H T U

4 5̶17 8
− 9 5
‾‾‾‾‾‾‾
3

If I take one of those hundreds and put it with the 7 tens I already have, I then have 1 hundred and 7 tens (or 17 tens or 170), which is enough to take away 9 tens (or 90). So 17 tens – 9 tens = 8 tens.

H T U

4 5̶17 8
− 9 5
‾‾‾‾‾‾‾
8 3

Now all I need to do is look at the hundreds column: 4 hundreds subtract nothing! Well, that's easy!

There's my answer!

H T U

4 5̶17 8
− 9 5
‾‾‾‾‾‾‾
4 8 3

Now you try these:

1) 599- 125=

2) 327-205=

3) 784-133=

4) 752-633=

5) 609-421=

6) 888-333=

7) 701-420=

8) 500-231=