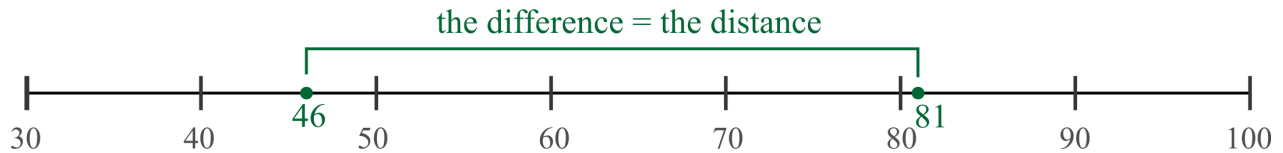# The Concept of Difference

The *difference* between two numbers means how far apart they are from each other.

Example 1. What is the difference between 81 and 46?

the difference = the distance

The answer to the missing-number addition 46 + _____ = 81 will tell us the difference between 46 and 81.

From the number line, we can see that from 46 to 50 is 4 units, from 50 to 80 is 30 units, and from 80 to 81 is one unit. In total, the distance is 35 units.

This is also the answer to the **subtraction** 81 − 46.

The difference between two numbers can be found by subtraction.

Example 2. 558 − 556 = ??

The answer to any subtraction problem is the difference between the numbers.

How far apart are 556 and 558 from each other? Only two units apart.

In other words, think how much to add to 556 to get to 558: 556 + _____ = 558 .

1. Find the **differences**. Think how far apart the numbers are.

a. 78 − 75 = _____	**b.** 112 − 108 = _____	**c.** 505 − 499 = _____
61 − 58 = _____	692 − 688 = _____	1000 − 994 = _____

2. Below each addition, write a matching subtraction problem so that the numbers in the boxes are the same.

a. 199 + [ ] = 214

_____ − _____ = [ ]

b. 67 + [ ] = 100

_____ − _____ = [ ]

Even if the two numbers are not close to each other, you can still "add backwards" to find their difference. Simply start at the smaller number, and **add up** until you get to the bigger number.

Example 3. 84 – 37 = ?

We start at 37, and add until we reach 84.
See the sums on the right.

We add 3, 40, and 4, or a total of 47.
So, 84 – 37 = 47.

$$37 + 3 = 40$$
$$40 + 40 = 80$$
$$80 + 4 = 84$$

3. Add up to find the difference between two numbers.

a. 92 – 35 = _____	**b. 805 – 299 = _____**
35 + ____ = 40 40 + _____ = 90 90 + ____ = 92	299 + ____ = 300 300 + _____ = 800 800 + ____ = 805

4. Add up to find the differences, or use some other strategy.

a. 65 – 26 = _____

$$+\ \boxed{} \qquad +\ \boxed{} \qquad +\ \boxed{}$$

26   30   60   65
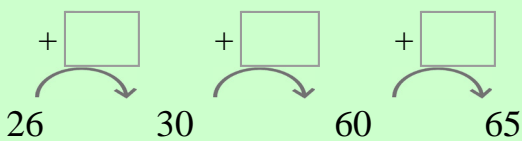
b. 83 – 35 = _____

$$+\ \boxed{} \qquad +\ \boxed{} \qquad +\ \boxed{}$$

35   40   80   83

c.	**d.**	**e.**	**f.**
56 – 28 = _____ 55 – 24 = _____	72 – 18 = _____ 82 – 46 = _____	54 – 37 = _____ 91 – 57 =_____	74 – 55 = _____ 63 – 34 =_____
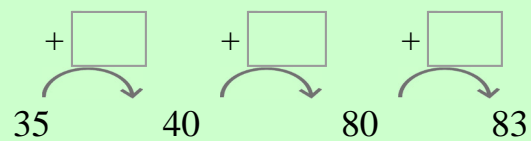
5. Solve.

a. The temperature outside is 25 degrees Fahrenheit, and inside it is 74 degrees. What is the difference in temperature?	**b.** Ellie has $91. She wants to buy a printer that costs $129. How much more does she need to buy it?

6. What numbers do the animals represent in the problems? Write the answers in the table below, and then use the key to uncover the message.

Key: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
O E I U D H N P R S T

362 – = 358

389 – = 384

203 – = 193

120 – = 113

361 – = 353

541 – = 539

700 – = 699

501 – = 501

603 – = 594

642 – = 639

203 – = 197

How do you put a into a refrigerator?

Animal											
Number											
Letter												,

Animal									
Number									
Letter										,

Animal										
Number										
Letter										

Add & Subtract 3 (Blue Series)