

# Grade 3

## Subtraction Strategies Study Guide

- 1) Change the subtrahend (small number) to the nearest ten (closest number ending in 0), and compensate (adjust your answer).

Ex: 78-39

Change the smallest number (39) to the closest ten—39 is closer to 40 than it is to 30.

$$78-40=38$$

What did we do to 39 to get 40? Added 1. So, now we add 1 to our answer.

$$38+1=39$$

- 2) Break the subtrahend (smaller number) apart, and subtract in steps.

Ex: 78-39

$$39= 30+9$$

$$78-30 = 48$$

$$48-9= 39$$

### 3) Think Addition

Start with the subtrahend (smaller number). Add friendly numbers until you reach the top number.

$$78-39=?$$

$$39+\underline{1}=40$$

$$40+\underline{30}=70$$

$$70+\underline{8} = 78$$

Then add up all the numbers you added  $1+30+8=39$

### 4) Count Back (only helpful when subtracting a single digit number)

Ex:  $94-7$

93,92,91,90,89,88,87

We counted back by 7 ones, and arrived at our answer of 87. You can see why this wouldn't be fun to do if we were subtracting  $453-157!!!$