

Skill 14

How do we use a written method to subtract numbers?

To be able to subtract decimal numbers using the column method.

Steps to success

- Place the numbers you are subtracting on top of each other.
- Make sure each digit is in the correct column according to its place value.
- Subtract the bottom digit from the top digit starting with the smallest unit.
- If the top unit is smaller than the bottom unit you will need to steal 10 from the next digit along.

Line up the decimal points...

$$\begin{array}{r} 8.97 \\ - 2.82 \\ \hline 6.15 \end{array}$$

and just drag that decimal point straight down!

Subtract as usual!