Subtracting a decimal from a whole number (1) © Mathsblog

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Subtracting a decimal number from a whole number can be done 'in your head' if it only involves tenths, usually by 'counting on' . A good knowledge of pairs of numbers which make 10 really helps here.

Let's look at:

$$1 - 0.3$$

Probably the easiest way to do this is by 'counting on'.

Step 1: Count on from 0.3, in tenths upto one.

(eg 0.4, 0.5, 0.6 ...etc

which comes to **0.7**

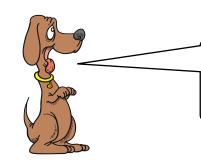
$$1 - 0.3 = 0.7$$

Of course, if you know that 7 + 3 makes 10, then you can transfer this knowledge ie 0.3 + 0.7 = 1In the same way:

$$4 - 3.3 = 0.7$$

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These are all 'take away' from whole units.

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Answers

1. 0.4 2.0.7

3. **0.5** 4.**0.1**

5. **0.6** 6.**0.9**

7. 0.3 8.0.4

9. 0.2 10.0.8