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**Subtraction of Numbers with Decimals**

 

The rules for subtraction are:

* The smaller number is written under the bigger number.
* The numbers are written in such a way that the decimals are in the same vertical line.
* Subtraction is started from the right hand side.
* Example: What is 7.368 − 1.15 ?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Line the decimals up: |   |   | 7.368 |
|   |   | − | 1.15 |
|   |   |   |   |
| "Pad" with zeros: |   |   | 7.368 |
|   |   | − | 1.150 |
|   |   |   |   |
| Subtract: |   |   | 7.368 |
|   |   | − | 1.150 |
|   |   |   | 6.218 |

* **To check** we can add the answer to the number subtracted:
* Example: Check that 7.368 minus 1.15 equals 6.218
* Let us try adding 6.218 to 1.15

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Line the decimals up: |   |   | 6.218 |
|   |   | + | 1.15 |
|   |   |   |   |
| "Pad" with zeros: |   |   | 6.218 |
|   |   | + | 1.150 |
|   |   |   |   |
| Add: |   |   | 6.218 |
|   |   | + | 1.150 |
|   |   |   | 7.368 |

* It matches the number we started with, so it checks out.