Subtraction Using the Correct Maths Language

Tens	Ones
5	0
3	3

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Tens	Ones
4	10
~~5~~	~~0~~
3	3
	7

-

Tens	Ones
4	10
~~5~~	~~0~~
3	3
1	7

-

  50

  -33

50 take away 33

50 minus 33

Step 1

We always start in the ones column when subtracting.

We say:

- Zero takeaway 3 ones. We don't have enough ones. We now need to move 1 ten from the tens column and regroup (trade) for 10 ones (remember to record how many tens you now have in the tens column).
- Now that we have 10 ones we can now takeaway 3 ones. So 10 ones takeaway 3 ones leaves 7 ones.
- We write the answer 7 in the ones column.

Step 2

Now we move to the next column, the tens column.

We say:

- 4 tens takeaway 3 tens leaves 1 ten.
- We write the answer 1 in the tens column.

The answer is 17.

We follow the same process when we have bigger numbers

Thousands	Hundreds	Tens	Ones
	6	14	15
1	~~7~~	~~5~~	~~5~~
	2	7	6
1	4	7	9

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