Twisted subtractions

Subtract a number which is the reverse of another, e.g. 62 – 26.

Skill practised:

- Subtracting pairs of two-digit numbers

***Conjecture**: There is something special about the answers to subtractions when you reverse one of the numbers.*

What to do:

Children work individually or in pairs.

1. Think of a two-digit number, e.g. 75.
   Write the digits in the opposite order to create a new number, e.g. 57.

2. Subtract the smaller number from the larger number, e.g. 75 – 57.

3. Repeat with a new two-digit number.

4. Do you notice anything about the answers?

5. Try some other two–digit numbers and see if you can see anything special about all of the answers to these special subtractions.

   What happens if you use numbers with consecutive digits, e.g. 43 – 34 and 65 – 56?

HINT: Add the digits together in each answer. What do you notice?

Aims:

– To subtract any pair of two-digit numbers
– To look for a general rule

Minimum number of calculations expected

10

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   Write the digits in the opposite order to create a new number.

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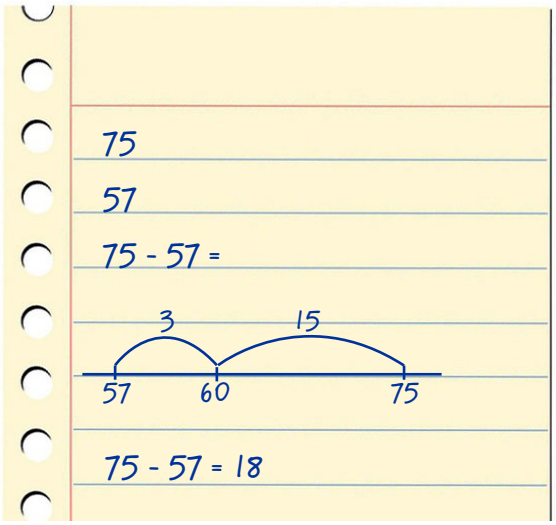

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