

LESSON 30

Subtraction: -1

As with addition, we'll begin with the simpler facts, such as subtracting by one. See Example 1.

Before teaching subtraction by one, you may want to review counting backward by one with the blocks arranged from one to nine, as we did in lesson 13.

Example 1
Solve $4 - 1$ or $\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ - 1 \\ \hline \end{array}$

Step 1 Rephrase as an addition problem.

“Four minus one” is the same as
“What plus one is the same as four?”

Step 2 Rewrite as solving for an unknown.

$$\underline{\quad} + 1 = 4$$

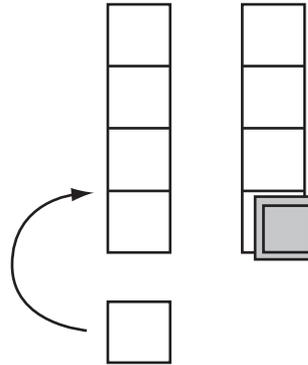
Step 3

Build as an addition problem.



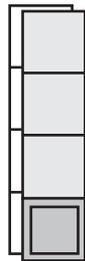
Step 4

Invert and reposition.



Step 5

Solve and write.



We see that $3 + 1 = 4$;
thus $4 - 1 = 3$.

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ - 1 \\ \hline 3 \end{array}$$