Year 5 - Subtracting Fractions with the Same Denominator — Lesson Guide

Step 1

$\frac{5}{6} - \frac{4}{6} =$ ☐

First, we circle the minus sign so we know to subtract the fractions and find their difference.

Step 2

$\frac{5}{6} - \frac{4}{6} =$ $\frac{\square}{6}$

Remember: The denominator stays the same because the size of each part stays the same.

Next, we check both denominators. Both are 6, so the parts are the same size. We tick both denominators to show they match. Then, we draw the fraction line and write 6 underneath it in the answer box.

Step 3

$\frac{5}{6} - \frac{4}{6} = \frac{1}{6}$

Remember: The denominator tells us the size of each part. Keep it the same when you add or subtract these parts.

Both fractions use sixths of the same whole. Take 4 sixths away from 5 sixths to leave 1 sixth. Write 1 above the fraction line.

Step 4

$\frac{5}{6} - \frac{4}{6} = \frac{1}{6}$

Now, we check all three denominators. The first denominator is 6. The second denominator is 6. Our answer denominator is 6. All three are the same. We also check that 5 – 4 = 1, our numerator.