9.2.21
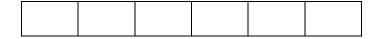
L.O. To subtract two mixed numbers
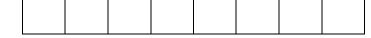
1. Complete the subtractions.

a. $2\frac{5}{6} - 1\frac{2}{3}$
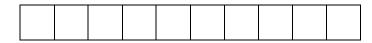
c. $2\frac{4}{5} - 1\frac{3}{10}$

d. $2\frac{4}{6} - 1\frac{7}{12}$

b. $3\frac{5}{8} - 1\frac{1}{4}$

e. $3\frac{2}{3} - 2\frac{5}{9}$
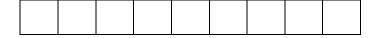
We can subtract by converting the mixed numbers into improper fractions.

Example:

$2^2/_3 - 1^5/_6$

1. First convert the fractions to a common denominator:

$2^4/_6 - 1^5/_6$

 Now both denominators are sixths.

2. Convert the mixed numbers into improper fractions.

 You multiply the whole number by the denominator then add the numerator:

 First fraction: 2 x 6 + 4 = 16

 So 16 is the numerator in the improper fraction: $2^4/_6 = {}^{16}/_6$

 Second fraction: 1 x 6 + 5 = 11

 So 11 is the numerator in the improper fraction: $1^5/_6 = {}^{11}/_6$

3. Now we can do the subtraction:

 REMEMBER you just subtract the numerators.

 ${}^{16}/_6 - {}^{11}/_6 = {}^5/_6$

 Therefore, $2^2/_3 - 1^5/_6 = {}^5/_6$

Now have a go at subtracting fractions using this method:

a. $2^4/_5 - 1^1/_5$

b. $2^3/_4 - 1^7/_8$

c. $3^2/_3 - 2^5/_6$

d. $2^3/_5 - 1^7/_{10}$

e. $3^1/_2 - 2^3/_4$