



Finding the difference

addition (+) and subtraction (-)

Finding the difference may be seen as a:

- subtraction problem

$$\text{eg } 82 - 67 = ?$$

or

- addition problem with a missing term

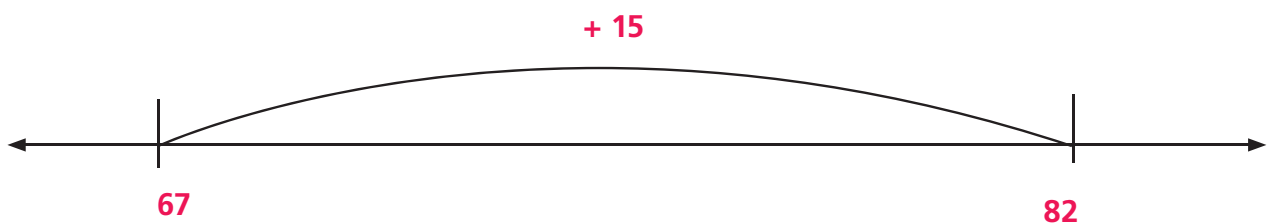
$$\text{eg } 67 + ? = 82$$

We can use addition or subtraction to solve difference problems.

Using addition $82 - 67$

This can be thought of as *67 plus how much more is 82?*

These numbers are close together so we could count up from the first number to the second number to find the difference.



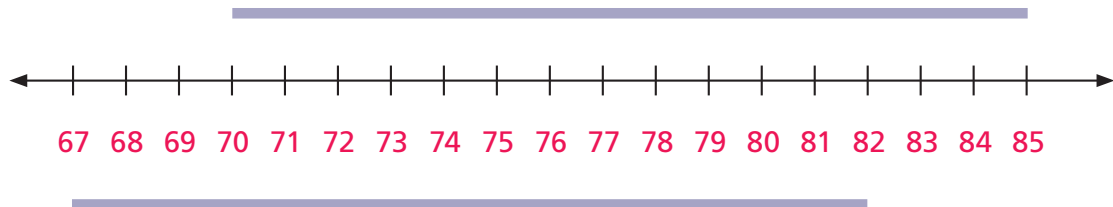
Using subtraction (useful when numbers are far apart) $82 - 6$

In this case it is easier to count back (subtract) 6 from 82 to find the difference.

Using easier numbers

The difference between 82 and 67 is 15. It is the same as the difference between 70 and 85, which is easier to work out.

We can show these differences using a number line:



A helpful reference for understanding difference can be in relation to a child's height compared to your own.

You can measure the *difference* in your heights by standing back to back and looking in a mirror at the distance from the top of their head to the top of yours.