Counting Back Strategy
Use this strategy if one of the numbers is 1, 2, or 3.
Beginning with the larger number and count back
For example, in the equation “8 – 3 =?” begin with 8, and count back three numbers 7, 6, 5 to reach the difference.
8 – 3 = 5

Doubles Strategy
Use your knowledge of doubles.
For example, I know 8 + 8 = 16 so 16 – 8 = 8
10 – 5 = 5

Near Doubles Strategy
Use your knowledge of doubles and near doubles
For example, 15 – 7 , think (7 + 7 = 14 + 1 = 15), say “I know 14 - 7 = 7 so the difference is one more, 8”
15 – 7 = 8

Using 10 to subtract 7, 8, 9
Use this strategy when one of the numbers is 7, 8, or 9.
After making the 10, add the extra numbers to the difference.
For example, in the equation “ 12 - 9”, think Making ten, 9 + 1 = 10 so 12 – 10 = 2, add one more to 2 so 12 – 9 = 3.