Using Mental Math to Subtract

You can change numbers to make subtraction problems easier.

There are two ways to subtract $42 - 28$.

One way is to add 2 to 28.

\[
\begin{align*}
42 & \rightarrow 42 \\
-28 + 2 & \rightarrow 30 \\
12 & \\
\end{align*}
\]

Because you added 2 to 28, add 2 to the difference.

\[
12 + 2 = 14
\]

So, $42 - 28 = 14$.

Another way is to add 2 to both 42 and 28.

\[
\begin{align*}
42 + 2 & \rightarrow 44 \\
-28 + 2 & \rightarrow 30 \\
14 & \\
\end{align*}
\]

What you do to the bottom number, also do to the top number.

So, $42 - 28 = 14$.

Find each difference using mental math.

1. $32 - 17 = \underline{15}$
2. $51 - 46 = \underline{5}$
3. $42 - 18 = \underline{24}$
4. $36 - 19 = \underline{17}$
5. $63 - 56 = \underline{7}$
6. $78 - 16 = \underline{62}$
7. $94 - 18 = \underline{76}$
8. $55 - 33 = \underline{22}$
9. $81 - 13 = \underline{68}$

10. **Model** Rob had $60 when he went to the mall. He bought a DVD for $15. How much money does he have left? Write the number sentence you used to solve the problem.

    \[
    60 - 15 = 45
    \]