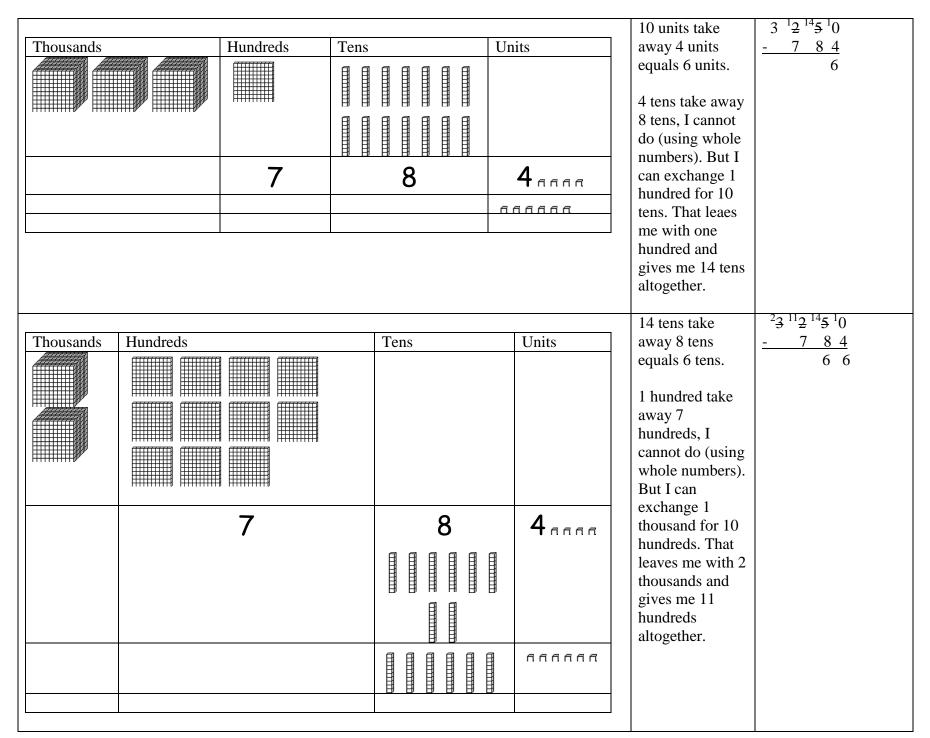
Subtracting a 3-digit number from a 4-digit number

Modelling Subtraction (Decomposition/Renaming/regrouping):

There were 3 250 people at a match. If 784 left at half time, how many watched the second half?

	Words	Symbols			
Thousands	Hundreds 7	Tens 8	Units 4	There were 3250 people in the stadium and 784 left at half time.	3 2 5 0 - 7 8 4
Thousands	Hundreds	Tens	Units	0 (zero) take away* 4 I	3 2 ⁴ 5 ¹ 0
	7	8	4	cannot do using whole numbers. But I can exchange 1 of my tens for 10 units. (That leaves me with	- 7 8 4
				four tens and gives me 10 units altogether.)	



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Thousands	Hundreds	Tens	Units	11 hundreds take away 7 hundreds	² 3 ¹¹ 2 ¹⁴ 5 ¹ 0 - 7 8 4
	7	8	4 aaaa	equals 4 hundreds. 2 thousands take away 0 thousands equals 2. Therefore I know that there were 2,466 people present for the second half of the	- 7 8 4 2 4 6 6
2	4	6	6	match.	

^{*}Remember that subtraction can mean both "take away" and "difference." In the context of this problem I have chosen to use the language of "take away." However, it would also be fine to use the term "minus" instead of "take away." Using "minus" has the advantage that it can be used for both meanings of subtraction.

Seán Delaney CMM, Mata