

Dear Family,

This week your child is learning to use subtraction to solve comparison word problems.



When a problem asks *how many more* or *how many fewer*, a subtraction sentence can be used to find the difference between the two amounts. Understanding this will provide your child with a useful strategy for comparing two amounts in word problems and in real-life situations.

Example: 5 forks and 2 spoons.
How many more forks are there?

5 forks →	● ● ● ● ●	
2 spoons →	● ●	?

← how many more or how many fewer

$$5 - 2 = \underline{3}$$

3 more forks

Example: 6 cups and 4 bowls.
How many fewer bowls are there?

$6 - 4 = \underline{2}$	● ● ● ● ● ●
<u>2</u> fewer bowls	● ● ● ●

Invite your child to share what he or she knows about using subtraction to compare by doing the following activity together.



Subtracting to Compare Activity

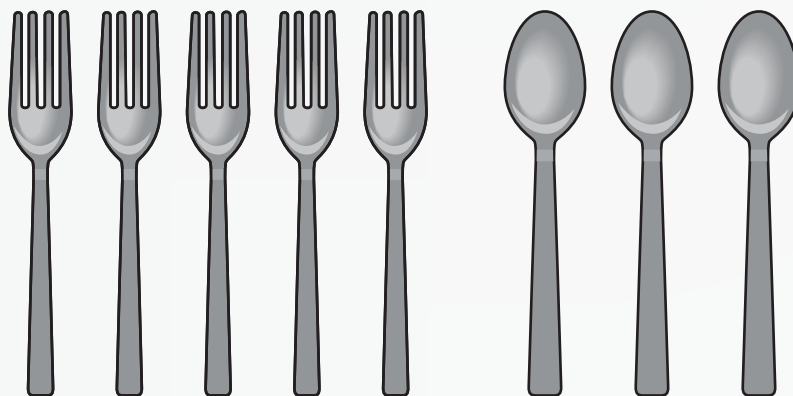
Materials: 2 sets of 9 objects (such as 9 forks and 9 spoons, 9 paper clips and 9 buttons, or 9 red blocks and 9 blue blocks)

Show your child two groups of objects, with a different amount in each group. Ask how many more or how many fewer objects one group has than the other. Encourage your child to use subtraction to compare.

Example:

- Make a group of 5 forks and a group of 3 spoons.
- Say: *There are 5 forks and 3 spoons. How many fewer spoons are there?*
- Your child should answer: $5 - 3 = 2$. *There are 2 fewer spoons than forks.* He or she might pair the forks with the spoons to solve the problem.

Repeat the activity several times, using different numbers of objects each time. Remember to ask about both more and fewer.



Make up and solve 10 different problems.

