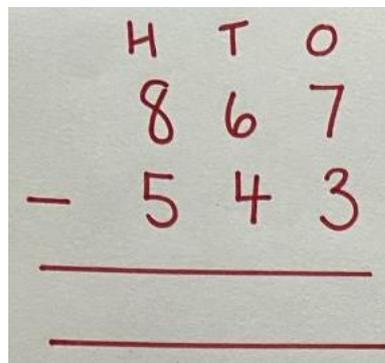**Steps to Success for**
Column Subtraction

1. Look carefully at the question. Can you solve it in your head? Always try to use a mental strategy before using column subtraction, for example counting on using a number line.

2. If you decide to use column subtraction, write out your numbers carefully, lining each number up in the correct column.
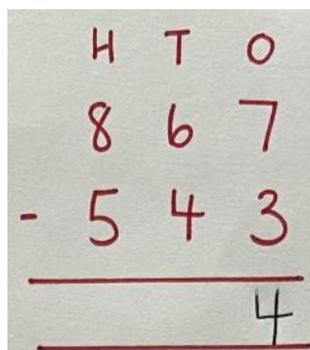

3. Before you start, remind yourself of our rhyme:

> **More on the top? Don't need to stop!**
> **More on the floor? Go next door!**
> **Numbers the same? Zero's the game!**

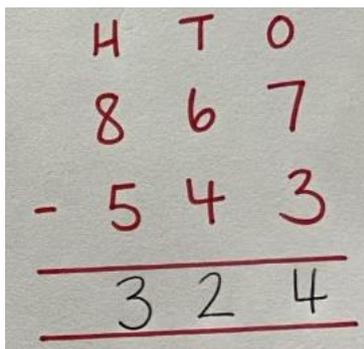**Column Subtraction with no moving digits**

1. Always start with the ones column. Read the sum from top to bottom. For example, this question starts with 7 take away 3. Think carefully about your answer and write it in the ones column.

2. Move onto the tens column. Carefully read the sum from top to bottom. This question says 60 – 40 OR 6 tens take away 4 tens. Do we have enough to begin with (60) to take away 40? Yes! Carefully take away and write down how many tens you have left.

```
H  T  O
8  6  7
-  5  4  3
_____
      2  4
```
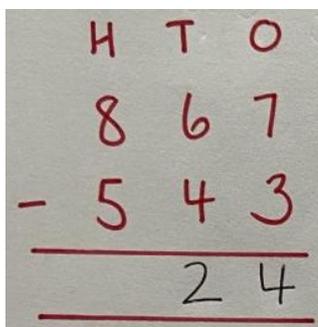
3. Move to the hundreds column. Read the sum from top to bottom. We have 800. Do we have enough to subtract 500? Yes! There is more on the top, so we don't need to stop. Calculate 800 – 500 and write the answer in the hundreds column.

```
H  T  O
8  6  7
-  5  4  3
_____
3  2  4
```

4. Check that you haven't made any silly mistakes in each column.

5. Look at your answer. Is it smaller than the number you started with?

You're finished! Well done ☺

Column Subtraction with moving digits

Sometimes we need to exchange digits from the next column to be able to find the answer to a question.

In class, we've played 'Exchange Up!' with our Base 10 materials. If we didn't have enough ones cubes, we'd have to exchange a tens rod for ten 1s to be able to play the game. This is exactly what we do with these column subtraction questions.

1. Always start with the ones column. Read the sum from top to bottom. For example, this question starts with 4 take away 5. If we start with 4, do we have enough to take away 5? No! There's more on the floor, so we need to go next door and exchange a 10 from the tens column. This leaves us with 1 ten in the tens column and 14 in the ones column.
   Don't forget to change the number in the tens column to show that you've moved one ten next door!

2. Now it says 14 take away 5. There's now more on the top, so we don't need to stop! Work out the answer and write it in the ones column.

3. Move onto the tens column. Carefully read the sum from top to bottom. This question says 10 – 90 OR 1 ten take away 9 tens. Do we have enough to begin with (10) to take away 90? No! We need to go next door and move a hundred from the hundreds column. Don't forget to change the number in the hundreds column to show that you've moved one hundred next door!

4. Now we have 11 tens take away 9 tens OR 110 – 90. We've got more on the top now, so we can carefully find the answer and write it in the tens column.

5. Move to the hundreds column. Read the sum from top to bottom. We have 500. Do we have enough to subtract 300? Yes! Calculate 500 – 300 and write the answer in the hundreds column.

6. Check that you haven't made any silly mistakes in each column.

7. Look at your answer. Is it smaller than the number you started with?

You've finished! Well done ☺

Here are some WAGOLL questions:

```
  H  T  O              H  T  O
     7                    7
  4  5  12 6          9  8  11 1
  4  5  2  6          9  8  1  1
-    2  5  3         -  4  3  2
 _____          _____
     2  7  3             5  4  9


  H  T  O              H  T  O
  3     10
  4  4  10 7          8  3  5
-    1  1  3         -  5  2  5
 _____          _____
     2  9  4             3  1  0
```