Properties of Subtraction

Subtraction is used when we want to take away, or compare amounts. Subtraction can be shown in two ways:

9	minuend	9	–	1	=	8
– 1	subtrahend	(minuend)		(subtrahend)		(difference)
8	difference					

Vertical Form ***Horizontal Form***

Subtraction properties help us find differences.

ZERO PROPERTY OF SUBTRACTION

The difference between any number and zero is that number.

$6 - 0 = 6$

The difference between any number and itself is zero.

$8 - 8 = 0$

THE OPPOSITES PROPERTY

Subtraction "undoes" addition, and addition "undoes" subtraction.

$8 + 9 = 17$, so $17 - 9 = 8$

and

$11 + 5 = 16$, so $16 - 5 = 11$

1 Find each difference. Label the first problem with the following terms: minuend, subtrahend, or difference.

14 _____	16	8	13	12
– 7 _____	– 7	– 2	– 9	– 9
7 _____				
15	17	9	8	10	7
– 9	– 6	– 8	– 8	– 9	– 4
12	7	9	19	4	7
– 7	– 3	– 8	– 8	– 2	– 6

16 – 6 = _____ 13 – 5 = _____ 4 – 2 = _____