Examine the following examples of student procedures for solving the same subtraction problem.

Answer these questions about each strategy:

1. What did the student do?
2. Why does it work?
3. What do you know about this student’s understanding of number? Of subtraction?
4. Try the strategy with these numbers: 726 – 374
5. Would it work for all whole numbers?
6. When might it be a good strategy to use? A limiting strategy to use?

**Student 2**

**Student 1**

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**Student 3**

**Student 4**

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Student 5

Student 6



Student 7



Student 8



Compare and contrast the different strategies. Can you find students who have similar strategies? How are they similar?

Compare these strategies to the traditional algorithm.