

Working Out Elapsed Time

3rd Grade

How long something took — counted in friendly jumps, not by subtracting.

Do not subtract 2:45 from 4:20 in a column. Jump along a time line instead.

1

START AT THE FIRST TIME

Write it at the left of a blank line.

2

JUMP TO THE NEXT WHOLE HOUR

From 2:45, jump 15 minutes to 3:00.

3

JUMP WHOLE HOURS

3:00 to 4:00 is one hour.

4

JUMP THE LAST MINUTES

4:00 to 4:20 is 20 minutes.

5

ADD THE JUMPS

$15 \text{ min} + 1 \text{ hr} + 20 \text{ min} = 1 \text{ hour } 35 \text{ minutes.}$

Time is base 60, not base 10. That is exactly why column subtraction goes wrong.