Comparing scores

Annotation

Peter uses subtraction to solve this change unknown problem, easily applying the inverse operation to find the difference. His use of equal additions, adding 12 to both numbers, shows Peter's ability to select and apply an efficient strategy. In class, Peter demonstrates that he can use a range of strategies, appropriately choosing one for each problem.

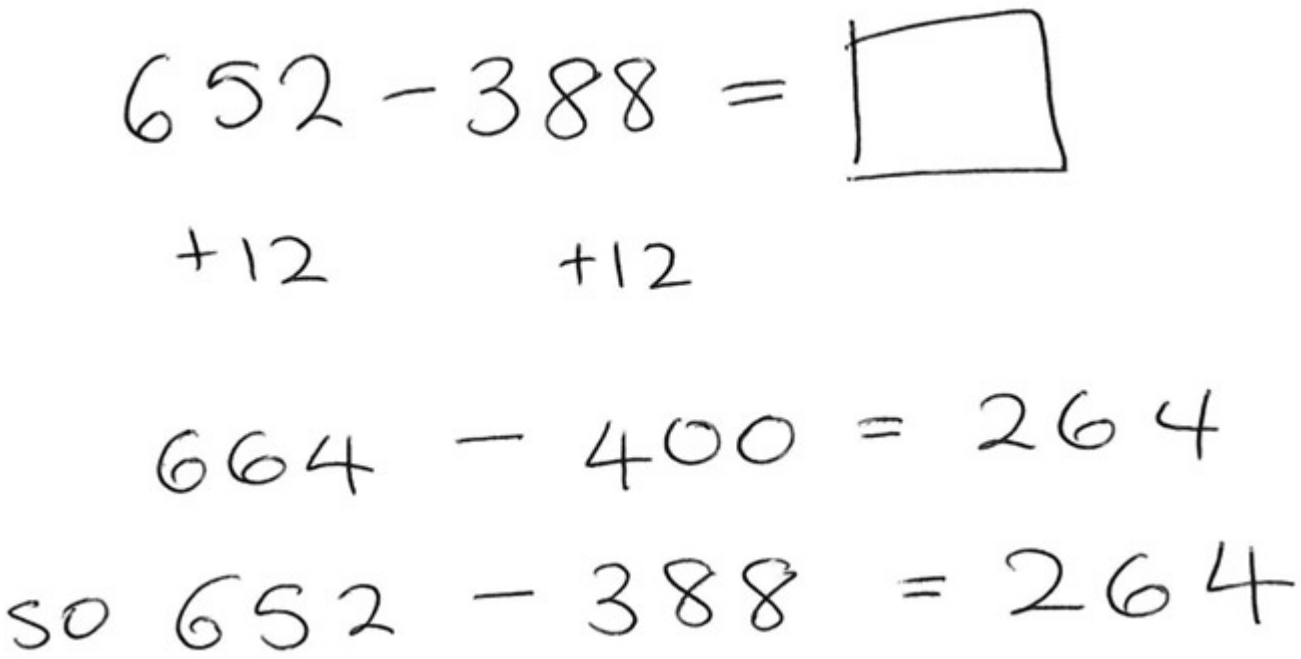
Problem: Comparing scores

The teacher shows this problem to the student and reads it with him as required:

Two netball teams had totalled their scores for the season. Team A's total was 388. The total of Team B's scores was 652. What's the difference between their total scores?

Student response

Peter:	It's 264 because it's the same as the difference between 400 and 664.
Teacher:	What did you know that helped you?
Peter:	I know that with some subtraction problems like this one it's easier to add the same number to both numbers and the difference stays the same. So here I added 12 to 388 to make 400, which is easy to work with. So I had to add 12 to 652.
Teacher:	Tell me why you did it that way.
Peter:	Because I could just see that 88 and 12 makes 100. It kind of jumped out at me. So the rest was easy.
Teacher:	How would you record that?
Peter:	Like this:



Peter: Actually I could also have done 652 – 388 like this but I reckon my first way was quicker.