

Getting off the bus

Annotation

Toetu describes his use of a standard place value partitioning strategy to solve this double-digit subtraction problem. He uses the same place value strategy for most addition and subtraction problems. Toetu identifies that subtracting multiples of 10 makes subtraction easier.

Problem: Getting off the bus

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

53 people are on the bus and 26 people get off. How many people are left on the bus?

Student response

Toetu: It's 27.

Teacher: Tell me how you did that.

Toetu: I took 20 away from 53 and got 33. Then I took away 3 and took away 3 again which got me to 27.

Teacher: What do you know that helped you?

Toetu: I know how to take lots of 10 away and that taking away a tidy number like that makes it easy.

Teacher: Tell me why you did it that way.

Toetu: Because I could see the 20 and the 6 in 26.

Teacher: How would you record that?

Toetu: Well the bus question was really 53 takeaway 26 so like this.

$$53 - 26 = 27$$