

# SPIRAL Activity Guide

## Difference Schema

Let's use the Difference equation to solve our word problem!

First let's write our Difference equation. What is our Difference equation?

Write  $G - L = D$ .

Good. We write the Difference equation: G minus L equals D.

(Writes.)

Good. We write the Difference equation: G minus L equals D. In a Difference problem, two amounts are compared for a difference. The Difference equation, G minus L equals D, helps us remember how to write our number sentence for a Difference problem.

(Writes.)

Now, we need to find the difference. Does the problem give us the difference or ask us to find the difference?

---

<p><i>If D is missing:</i> This problem asks us to find the difference. That's what's missing. We have to find D. What should we write under D?</p> <p>A blank.</p> <p>(Writes.)</p>	<p><i>If D is a number:</i> This problem tells us the difference is __. Where should we write __?</p> <p>Underneath D.</p> <p>(Writes and checks off the number.)</p>
--	---

Next we need to think about the story and figure out the amount that's greater and the amount that's less. What is the amount that's greater?

---

<p><i>If G is a number:</i> <b>This problem tells us the amount that's greater is __. Where do we write __?</b></p> <p>Underneath G.</p> <p>(Writes and checks off the number.)</p>	<p><i>If G is missing:</i> <b>Yes. This problem doesn't tell us the amount that's greater. That's what's missing. We have to find G. What should we write under G?</b></p> <p>A blank.</p> <p>(Writes.)</p>
---	---

**What's the amount that's less?**

---

<p><i>If L is a number:</i> <b>This problem tells us the amount that's less is __. Where do we write __?</b></p> <p>Underneath L.</p> <p>(Writes and checks off the number.)</p>	<p><i>If L is missing:</i> <b>Yes. This problem doesn't tell us the amount that's less. That's what's missing. We have to find L. What should we write under L?</b></p> <p>A blank.</p> <p>(Writes.)</p>
--	--

**What should we do next?**

Write the signs.

**Good. What math signs do we use to complete our number sentence?**

– and =.

(Writes.)

**Does this look like a number sentence we know how to solve?**

Yes!

**Let's read the number sentence together.**

*Read number sentence aloud with student.*

**Let's solve for blank!**

*After you find blank, label the number answer with the word underlined in the problem.*

**The last thing we need to do is check to see if our answer makes sense.  
Does this answer make sense? Why?**

(Student explains.)