

# Subtracting Mixed Numbers

example:  $5\frac{1}{2} - 2\frac{2}{3}$

1. Find a common denominator for the fractions

$$\begin{array}{r} 5\frac{1}{2} \quad \boxed{\begin{array}{l} \times 3 \\ \times 3 \end{array}} \quad \frac{3}{6} \\ - 2\frac{2}{3} \quad \boxed{\begin{array}{l} \times 2 \\ \times 2 \end{array}} \quad \frac{4}{6} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

2. If necessary, borrow from the whole  $\rightarrow$  add the whole to the fraction

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ \cancel{5} \frac{3}{6} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{whole} \\ \downarrow \\ \boxed{+ \frac{6}{6}} \end{array} = \frac{9}{6} \\ - 2\frac{4}{6} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

3. Subtract the fractions  $\rightarrow$  subtract the whole numbers

$$\begin{array}{r} 4\frac{9}{6} \\ - 2\frac{4}{6} \\ \hline 2\frac{5}{6} \end{array}$$