The take-away rule: answers and notes

What your child practised: a smaller symbol before a bigger one is taken away (IV, IX, XL, XC), and no symbol is written more than three times in a row (Year 4).

Page 1 · Warm up

VI = **6** · IV = **4** · XI = **11** · IX = **9**

Page 2 · Try it together

IV **4**, VI **6** · IX **9**, XI **11**
XL **40**, LX **60** · XC **90**, CX **110**
Puzzle: **XIV (14)** and **XVI (16)** are the only two.

Page 2 · A. Write the number

IX = **9** · XI = **11** · IV = **4**
XL = **40** · LX = **60** · XC = **90**

Page 3 · B. Split and write

XXIX: XX + IX = 20 + 9 = **29**
XLI: XL + I = 40 + 1 = **41**
LXIV: LX + IV = 60 + 4 = **64**
XCV: XC + V = 90 + 5 = **95**
XCIX: XC + IX = 90 + 9 = **99**

Page 3 · C. The Roman way

IIII → **IV** · VIIII → **IX** · XXXX → **XL** · XIIII → **XIV**

Page 3 · D. True or false

IV = 6 **false** (4) · IX = 9 **true** · XL = 60 **false** (40) · XC = 90 **true**

Challenge: The I comes **before** the bigger V, so it is taken away: 5 − 1 = **4**. Six is written **VI**, with the I after the V.

Watch out for

- **Adding a symbol that comes first** (IV as 6, IX as 11, XL as 60). Ask "Is the small one before or after the big one?"
- **Clock faces with IIII.** Some clocks show 4 as IIII. That's a clockmakers' tradition; the usual way, and the one used at school, is IV.
- **Inventing new pairs** like VX or IC. Only I and X are taken away, and only from the next two symbols up.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Before or after?** Say a pair like "X before C" and your child says the number (90). Then "X after C" (110).
- **Countdown:** count down from 10 to 1 in Roman numerals together: X, IX, VIII, VII, VI, V, IV, III, II, I.
- **In the game:** Chapter 3, The Gate Builder, builds gate numbers to 100: tens first, then ones.