

Long Division

Alternate Method

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ 2 \overline{) 389,422} \\ \underline{-2} \\ 18 \end{array}$$

Students often get confused in long division after they have completed the first steps of dividing, multiplying, subtracting, and bringing down. They get “stuck” on what to divide after they have brought down a number.

“I have an 18, but what do I do with it?”

“What do I divide it by? 1? 2?”

“Is 18 the remainder?”

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ 2 \overline{) 389,422} \\ \underline{-2} \\ 2 \overline{) 18} \end{array}$$

An alternate method is to have the students put a division bar around the new dividend and then bring down the divisor. It can help clear up the confusion about what to do next.

$$\begin{array}{r} 19 \\ 2 \overline{) 389,422} \\ \underline{-2} \\ 2 \overline{) 18} \\ \underline{-18} \\ 2 \overline{) 09} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 194 \\ 2 \overline{) 389,422} \\ \underline{-2} \\ 2 \overline{) 18} \\ \underline{-18} \\ 2 \overline{) 09} \\ \underline{-8} \\ 2 \overline{) 1} \end{array}$$

Thank you to **Rick Wilcox** from Martone for sharing this alternate method that he developed for use with his students.