

Rules for Subtracting Integers

When you are subtracting integers, you can change the subtraction sign to addition, then change the number after the subtraction sign to its opposite. Then simply use your rules for adding integers. The number before the subtraction sign never changes.

Another way of saying the above is to "Add the Opposite"

Examples:

$$\begin{aligned} (+9) - (-2) \\ (+9) + (+2) = +11 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (-15) - (+5) \\ (-15) + (-5) = -20 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (+12) - (+16) \\ (+12) + (-16) = -4 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (+7) - (-5) \\ (+7) + (+5) = +12 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (-2) - (-9) \\ (-2) + (+9) = +7 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (-10) - (-8) \\ (-10) + (+8) = -2 \end{aligned}$$

Whenever you do subtracting integers questions you have to show the second step as done above.

Try some

(a) $(-6) - (+3)$

(b) $(+7) - (-5)$

(c) $(+10) - (+12)$

(d) $(-3) - (-8)$

(e) $(+3) - (+10)$

(f) $(-12) - (-3)$

(g) $(+7) - (-6)$

(h) $(+20) - (+15)$

