

Rules for Subtracting Integers

Integer subtraction uses the same rules as integer addition. Just change the subtraction sign into a negative sign that goes with the number on the right.

$$3 - 5 \longrightarrow 3 + -5 \longrightarrow -2$$

Let's practice a few examples together:

- $4 - 6$

- $-4 - 6$

- $6 - 4$

If the number on the right is already negative, removing the subtraction sign changes it into a positive number.

$$6 - (-4) \longrightarrow 6 + 4 \longrightarrow 10$$

You should always change the subtraction sign into an addition sign before attempting to evaluate an expression. Let's practice some more together:

- $-4 - -6$

- $-6 - (-4)$

- $4 - (-6)$

- $-8 - 7$

- $-8 - (-7)$

- $8 + -7$

Now it's your turn. Evaluate each of the following expressions.

1. $-4 + -9$

2. $-4 + 9$

3. $-4 - 9$

4. $12 - 20$

5. $12 - -20$

6. $-14 - (-7)$

7. $-5 + 10$

8. $-5 - 10$

9. $-5 - -10$

10. $-4 - -12$

11. $25 - (-13)$

12. $-4 - 12$

13. $-2 + 5 - -7$

14. $3 - (-2) + 8$

15. $-6 + -2 - 4$

16. $|-2| - 4 + 7$

17. $9 - (-2) + 6$

18. $-5 - |-3| + 1$

19. $-|-6| - |3| + |-2|$

20. $-3 + |4| - (-8)$

21. $-8 - (-2) + |-3|$