

Subtracting Integers on a Number Line

Important point: The result of subtracting an integer is the same as adding the opposite integer!

$$(-7) - (+3) = -10$$

Subtracting +3

IS THE SAME AS

$$(-7) + (-3) = -10$$

Adding -3

Reminder: Start by plotting the first integer on the number line, and then if:

Horizontal:

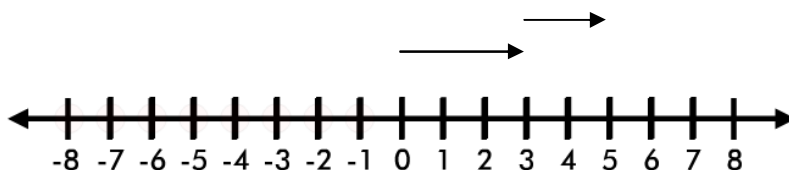
1. Adding a **positive** integer, move **right**
2. Adding a **negative** integer, move **left**

Vertical:

1. Adding a **positive** integer, move **up**
2. Adding a **negative** integer, move **down**

Example: (+3) - (-2)

1. Re-write the question so that it is in the form of addition: $(+3) + (+2)$
2. Plot the first integer on the number line. Add the second integer by drawing one or two arrows.



OR



Example: (+4) - (+7)

1. Re-write the question: $(+4) + (-7)$
2. Use a number line to add the integers:



So, $(+4) - (+7) = -3$