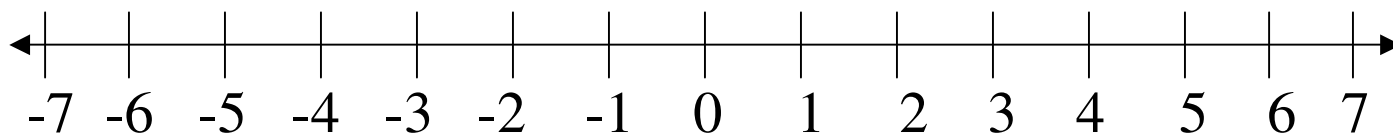


Positive and Negative Numbers

A number line runs like a thermometer, only horizontally instead of vertically.



Notice that both 1 and -1 are one unit away from 0, just in opposite directions. The same is true for all positives and negatives on the number line: both 2 and -2 are two units away from 0, etc.

Based on this idea, let's start out with some basic definitions.

Addition – Push together and count.

Subtraction – 1) “Take Away”

2) “Opposite of”

We're going to first look at subtraction as “opposite of” since negative numbers are in the opposite direction on positive numbers.

Examine the following: $-(2)$

This just means “the opposite of positive 2”, which is “negative 2”, or -2 .

Now look at this example: $-(-3)$

This means “the opposite of negative 3”, which is “positive 2”, or 2. Sometimes, we write it as “+2”.

Let's try a few. Simplify the following.

1. $-(5)$ 2. $-(-11.2)$ 3. $-(-9)$ 4. $-(-(-2))$

Notice that negatives and positives are like a light switch, which is either on or off. The only number that is neither positive nor negative is "0". Everything else is either positive or negative.

Also notice:

An odd number of negatives in front of a number gives us a _____ number.

An even number of negatives in front of a number gives us a _____ number.

So, let's branch out to addition.