



Subtracting Rational Numbers

Rule 4: When subtracting numbers with different signs, change the sign of the subtrahend (second number) and add using Rule 1, 2, or 3.

Example:

Simplify $(-2) - (+15)$

$$\begin{aligned}(-2) - (+15) &= (-2) + (-15) \\ &= -17\end{aligned}$$

Simplify $\frac{3}{8} - \frac{5}{8}$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{3}{8} - \frac{5}{8} &= \frac{3}{8} + \frac{-5}{8} \\ &= \frac{-2}{8} = \frac{-1}{4}\end{aligned}$$

Simplify $(0.5) - (-0.3)$

$$\begin{aligned}0.5 - (-0.3) &= 0.5 + 0.3 \\ &= 0.8\end{aligned}$$

Simplify the following.

1. $(+4) - (-9)$

2. $(-3) - (+6)$

3. $+5 - (4)$

4. $(-7) - (+5)$

5. $(-8) - (-6) - (+1)$

6. $(-12) - (+7)$

7. $\frac{4}{5} - \frac{2}{5}$

8. $\frac{-2}{9} - \frac{4}{9}$

9. $\frac{-5}{12} - \frac{-7}{12}$

10. $1.3 - 2.3$

11. $(0.7) - (-1.3)$

12. $(-3.6) - (-2.5)$

13. $\frac{1}{5} - \frac{3}{4}$

14. $\frac{-5}{8} - \left(\frac{-3}{4}\right)$

15. $\frac{-4}{15} - \frac{1}{3}$