3.3 Subtraction of Integers

Recall the scenarios from section 3.1:

A. I have \$5 in my pocket, but I owe \$10 to my brother. If I give my brother \$5, how much will I still owe him?

We can illustrate this by the sum

$$5 + (-10)$$

$$= -5$$

I still owe \$5, thus my net worth is -5 dollars.

B. If I owe \$5 to my cousin and \$10 to another cousin, how much do I owe altogether?

We can illustrate this debt by the sum

I owe 15 dollars, thus my net worth is -15 dollars.

C. I have \$20, but owe \$10 to my friend. If I give \$10 to my friend, how much money do I have left?

We can illustrate this by the sum

I have 10 dollars left.

Suppose the scenarios changed as follows:

A. My brother has forgiven my debt to him and tells me I no longer owe him the \$10. How much money do I have now?

We can illustrate this by the following

$$5 + (-10) - (-10)$$

$$debt forgiven$$

$$= 5$$

Notice that

$$5 + (-10) - (-10)$$

$$= -5 - (-10) = 5$$

$$= -5 + 10 = 5$$

I had a net worth of -5 dollars, but when my brother forgave my debt to him, my net worth increased to \$5.

B. One of my cousins has forgiven my debt of \$10. How much do I owe now?

We can illustrate this debt by the following

$$-5 + (-10) - (-10)$$

$$\frac{\text{debt for given}}{\text{debt}}$$

$$= -5$$

Notice that

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
-5 & + (-10) - (-10) \\
= & -15 & - (-10) = -5 \\
= & -15 & + & 10 & = -5
\end{array}$$

I owed 15 dollars, but now I only owe 5 dollars. Thus my net worth is -\$5.

C. My friend has forgiven my debt of \$10. How much money do I have now?

We can illustrate this by the following

Notice that

$$20 + (-10) - (-10)$$

$$= 10 - (-10) = 20$$

$$= 10 + 10 = 20$$

I had 10 dollars left, but now I have **\$20**.

Problem	Integer counters	Number line model
6-2=4	Take away 2	_2
Alternative method	Remove "0" pairs	-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
6 + (-2) = 4		
6 - (-2) = 8	Take away –2	+2
Alternative method		-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
6+2=8		
-2 - 4 = -6	Take away 4	-4
Alternative method		-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
-2 + (-4) = -6		
-5 - (-2) = -3	Take away −2	+2
Alternative method	Remove "0" pairs	-8-7-6-5-4- 3 -2-1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
-5 + 2 = -3		

Demonstration Problems	Practice Problems
1. (a) $5 - (-3) =$	1. (b) 12 – (–5) =
2. (a) -3 - (-5) =	2. (b) -6 - (-8) =
	Answers: 1.(b) 17; 2.(b) 2

Demonstration Problems	Practice Problems
3. (a) $-18-12=$	3. (b) −25 − 13 =
4. (a) -42 - (-35) =	4. (b) −53 − (−24) =
5. (a) $-15 - (-2) =$	5. (b) $-12 - (-3) =$
6. (a) -53 - 25 =	6. (b) −37 − 32 =
7. (a) -245 - 299 =	7. (b) -108 - 172 =
8. (a) 52 – (-35) =	8. (b) 42 – (–35) =
Answers: 3 (b)	-38; 4. (b) -29; 5. (b) -9; 6. (b) -69; 7. (b) -280; 8. (b) 77

Demonstration Problems	Practice Problems
Simplify.	Simplify
9. (a) $(-8-2)-5=$	9. (b) (-5 - 3) - 1 =
10. (a) 14 – 42 – 35 =	10. (b) 15 – 53 – 24 =
Let $x = -3$ and $y = 5$ and evaluate the following: 11. (a) $x - y =$	Let $x = -2$ and $y = 8$ and evaluate the following: 11. (b) $x - y =$
12. (a) $x + y =$	12. (b) $x + y =$
13. (a) $y-x=$	13. (b) $y - x =$
Answ	ers: 9. (b) -9; 10. (b) -62; 11. (b) -10; 12. (b) 6; 13. (b) 10