

Understanding Pre-Algebra Rules

1. Write the TWO rules for adding positive and negative numbers and give an example for each.

① IF THE SIGNS ARE THE SAME, ADD AND KEEP THE SIGN.

$$-3 + -4 = -7$$

② IF THE SIGNS ARE DIFFERENT, SUBTRACT AND KEEP THE SIGN FARTHEST FROM ZERO.

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

2. Write the rule for subtracting positive and negative numbers and give two different examples, one that uses subtracting a positive and subtracting a negative.

CHANGE THE SUBTRACTION SIGN TO ADDITION BY CHANGING THE SECOND SIGN.

$$-3 - 7 = -3 + -7 = -10$$

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

3. Write the TWO rules for multiplying and dividing positive and negative numbers. Give examples.

① IF THE SIGNS ARE THE SAME, THE ANSWER IS POSITIVE.

$$(-3) \times (-4) = +12$$

$$\frac{-56}{-8} = +7$$

② IF THE SIGNS ARE DIFFERENT, THE ANSWER IS (-).

$$(-3) \times 5 = (-15)$$

$$\frac{64}{-8} = -8$$

4. For which operations does the **associative** rule apply? If you check yes, show an example.

Operation	Yes	No	Example
Addition	✓		$A + (B + C) = (A + B) + C$
Subtraction		✓	
Multiplication	✓		$3(2 \times 4) = \cancel{3 \times 2} \times 4$
Division		✓	

5. For which operations does the **commutative** rule apply? If you check yes, show an example.

Operation	Yes	No	Example
Addition	✓		$3 + 2 = 2 + 3$
Subtraction		✓	
Multiplication	✓		$4 \cdot 3 = 3 \cdot 4$
Division		✓	

6. Write the formula for converting from Fahrenheit to Celsius.

$$(\text{---}^{\circ}\text{F} - 32) \frac{5}{9} = \text{---}^{\circ}\text{C}$$

7. Write the formula for converting from Celsius to Fahrenheit.

$$(\text{---}^{\circ}\text{C} \times \frac{9}{5}) + 32 = \text{---}^{\circ}\text{F}$$