

Section 2.3 Subtraction of Real Numbers

To subtract real numbers, simply remember that subtracting is like adding the opposite. so change the subtraction problem to an addition problem and then add.

Examples:

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{a.} \quad 5 - 7 \quad = 5 + (-7) \quad = -2 \\ \text{b.} \quad -2 - 7 \quad = -2 + (-7) \quad = -9 \\ \text{c.} \quad -6 - (-8) \quad = -6 + 8 \quad = 2 \end{array}$$

In each example above, we changed the subtraction to addition by adding the opposite.