Guide to:
Negative numbers

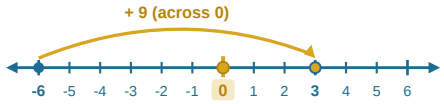
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Explanation:

When adding or subtracting negative numbers, picture a vertical thermometer or number line: adding a positive number moves **up (right)**, while subtracting a positive number moves **down (left)**. If two signs sit right next to each other, combine them first: **same signs make a plus** (+ + or − − → +) and **different signs make a minus** (+ − or − + → −).

When multiplying or dividing two numbers, calculate the size first, then apply the sign rule: **same signs give a positive answer**, and **different signs give a negative answer**.

Example 1: Work out: (a) **−6 + 9** (b) **4 − (−7)** (c) **−3 + (−8)**



(a) Start at −6 and move right 9 across zero → **3**
(b) Two minuses make a plus: 4 − (−7) = 4 + 7 = **11**
(c) Plus & minus make a minus: −3 − 8 = **−11**

Example 2: Work out:
(a) **(−6) × 4** (b) **(−35) ÷ (−7)** (c) **$(-5)^2$**

Solution:

(a) Different signs (− and +) give negative: 6 × 4 = **−24**
(b) Same signs (− and −) give positive: 35 ÷ 7 = **5**
(c) Squaring multiplies a number by itself:
• $(-5)^2 = (-5) \times (-5) =$ **25**

Answers: (a) −24 (b) 5 (c) 25

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