Subtract Integers

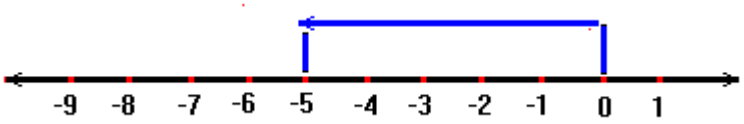
To find the difference of two integers we add the first integer to the opposite of the second integer

Find the difference $^{-}5 - {}^{+}4$.

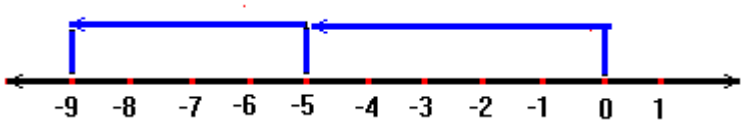
Opposite of 4 is $^{-}4$.
$^{-}5 - {}^{+}4$ becomes $^{-}5 + {}^{-}4$.

Draw a number line.

Start at 0. Move 5 spaces to the left to show −5.



From −5 move 4 spaces to the left to add −4.



So, −5 − 4 = −9.

Examples:

A- Find the difference.

1) $9 - {}^{-}6$
$^{+}15$

2) $^{-}21 - 4$
$^{-}25$

3) $^{-}16 - {}^{-}5$
$^{-}11$

4) $82 - {}^{-}43$
$^{+}125$

5) $-|^{-}8| - 4$
$^{-}12$

6) $^{-}32 - |^{-}9|$
$^{-}41$

7) $48 - |^{-}11|$
$^{+}37$

8) $^{-}14 - 9$
$^{-}23$

B- Rewrite the subtraction problem as an addition problem.

9) $^{-}12 - {}^{-}8$
$^{-}12 + {}^{-}8$
$^{-}20$

10) $^{-}34 - 9$
$^{-}34 + {}^{-}9$
$^{-}43$

11) $^{-}1 - {}^{-}10$
$^{-}1 + {}^{-}10$
$^{-}11$

12) $^{-}6 - {}^{-}17$
$^{-}6 + {}^{-}17$
$^{-}23$

C- Find the difference.

13) $4 - {}^{-}9$
$\underline{{}^{-}5}$

14) ${}^{-}1 - 7$
$\underline{{}^{-}8}$

15) ${}^{-}18 - {}^{-}7$
$\underline{{}^{-}11}$

16) $34 - {}^{-}51$
$\underline{{}^{+}85}$