

Signed Numbers

A. Parentheses Rules

1. If there are no parentheses, do NOT change any signs and disregard the next two rules.
2. If there are parentheses AND they follow a subtraction sign, one MUST change signs.
3. The subtraction sign MUST be changed to an ADDITION sign and the sign in the parentheses MUST be changed to its opposite (+ to - OR - to +).

B. Rules to Add or Subtract

1. If the numbers have the SAME sign, add the numbers and keep the sign.
2. If the numbers have DIFFERENT signs, subtract the numbers and keep the sign of the larger number.

C. Rules to Multiply or Divide

1. If the numbers have the SAME sign, the answer is POSITIVE.
2. If the numbers have DIFFERENT signs, the answer is NEGATIVE.
3. Odd/Even Rule
 - a. Count the number of negative signs.
 - b. If you have an ODD number of negative signs, the answer is NEGATIVE.
 - c. If you have an EVEN number of negative signs, the answer is POSITIVE.

D. Order of Operations - use P E M D A S

1. Do whatever's in parentheses first. Simplify to a single number using P E M D A S.
2. Evaluate exponents.
3. Change signs only after simplifying the parentheses to a single number. You may not always have to change signs. See Parentheses Rules above.
4. Do multiplication and/or division from the left to the right.
5. Do addition and/or subtraction from the left to the right.

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