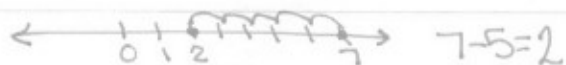


1.6

## Subtracting Real Numbers

ex)  $7-5$



## Subtracting Real Numbers

If  $a$  and  $b$  are reals then

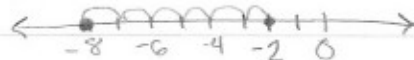
$$a-b = a+(-b)$$

(say subtracting is the same as adding the opposite)

ex)  $8-3 = 8+(-3) = 5$

ex)  $-2-6 = -2+(-6) = -8$

ex)  $7-5 = 7+5 = 12$



remember a negative negative is a positive

ex)  $-10-5 = -15$

ex)  $-10--5 = -10+5 = -5$

When stuck use the number line (or calculator)

ex)  $-\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{2} = -\frac{3}{4} - \frac{2}{4} = -\frac{3+2}{4} = -\frac{5}{4}$

BE CAREFUL of negative fractions! You can put the negative with the numerator or with the denominator but NEVER WITH BOTH!!