

Lesson 1-4

Example 1

Add or subtract.

a. $-4.2 - 5.9$

b. $4.5 + (-0.465)$

Solution

a. $-4.2 - 5.9 = -4.2 + (-5.9)$
 $= -10.1$

Add the additive inverse of 5.9

Add the numbers.

b. $4.5 + (-0.465) = 4.5 - 0.465$
 $= 4.035$

Signs are different, so subtract absolute values.

Use the sign of the addend with the larger absolute value.

Example 2

Evaluate each expression when $a = -24$ and $b = 20$.

a. $a + b$

b. $b - a$

c. $a - b$

Solution

a. $a + b$
 $-24 + 20$
 -4

b. $b - a$
 $20 - (-24)$
 $20 + 24$
 44

c. $a - b$
 $-24 - 20$
 $-24 + (-20)$
 -44

Example 3

FINANCE Courtney had \$395.28 in her bank account. She deposited a check for \$104.32 and withdrew \$48.00. How much is in her account now?

Solution

Before solving the problem, estimate the answer. Begin by rounding the amounts.

$\$395.18 \square \400.00

$\$104.32 \square \100.00

$\$48.00 \square \50.00

Then use the numbers to get an estimate of the total. $\$400 + \$100 - \$50 = \450

After completing the transactions, Courtney will have about \$450.00 in her bank account.