Adding/Subtracting Positive and Negative Rational Numbers

**STEP 1**

Are the numbers being added or subtracted?

**ADDED**

Same signs or Different?

**SUBTRACTED**

**ADD the OPPOSITE**

1. Turn the subtraction sign into an addition sign.
2. Change the second number to the opposite.

Ex: **-9.5 – 8.6** becomes

**-9.5 + (-8.6)**

**THEN, RETURN TO STEP 1**

**SAME** SIGNS

1. **ADD THE NUMBERS**
2. **KEEP THE COMMON SIGN** OF THE NUMBERS

**DIFFERENT** SIGNS

1. Find the DIFFERENCE

(**SUBTRACT the numbers**)

1. The **answer takes the sign of the number FARTHEST from zero**!

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