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# Integers

Mastering Integers: The Foundation of Number Operations

## DEFINITION

Integers are whole numbers that can be positive, negative, or zero. They do not include fractions or decimals.

## KEY CONCEPTS

### Positive Integers

These are whole numbers greater than zero, like 1, 2, and 3.

### Negative Integers

These are whole numbers less than zero, such as -1, -2, and -3.

### Zero

Zero is an integer that is neither positive nor negative, acting as a neutral element.

### Addition of Integers

When adding integers, combine positive and negative values; two negatives make a positive.

### Subtraction of Integers

Subtracting an integer is the same as adding its opposite; for example, a - b = a + (-b).

## EXAMPLES

→ 5 + (-3) = 2

→ -4 + 7 = 3

→ 0 - 6 = -6

## MEMORY TIPS

★ Remember: 'Negative + Negative = Positive' (only when they are added together).

★ Think of integers as a number line where left is negative and right is positive.

★ Use the phrase 'Zero is a hero' to remember its unique neutral role.

## COMMON MISTAKES

✗ Confusing the signs when adding or subtracting negative numbers.

✗ Forgetting that zero is an integer.

✗ Assuming that two negatives always result in a negative.

## QUICK RECAP

Integers include positive numbers, negative numbers, and zero. Mastering their addition and subtraction is crucial for solving problems effectively. Remember the rules about signs to avoid common mistakes.