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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 neither positive nor negative and is considered an integer.

Adding Integers

When adding integers with the same sign, add their absolute values and keep the sign.

Subtracting Integers

To subtract an integer, add its opposite; for example, a - b is the same as a + (-b).

EXAMPLES

→ 5 + (-3) = 2

→ -4 - 2 = -6

→ 0 + 7 = 7

MEMORY TIPS

★ Remember: Positive numbers are to the right, negative numbers to the left on a number line.

★ Use 'Keep-Change-Change' for subtraction: Keep the first number, change the operation to addition, and change the sign of the second number.

★ Think of integers as a balanced scale: positives on one side, negatives on the other.

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ Confusing the signs when adding or subtracting negative numbers.

✗ Forgetting that zero is an integer.

✗ Mixing up addition and subtraction rules for integers.

QUICK RECAP

Integers include positive and negative whole numbers, along with zero. Remember the rules for adding and subtracting integers to avoid common mistakes. Practice with number lines to visualize their relationships.