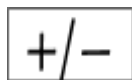# Subtracting Integers Using a Calculator

Calculators can be used to subtract integers if the calculator has an integer button. On many models, the integer button looks like this:

+/−

Depending on the model of calculator, subtraction of integers using a calculator can be accomplished using one of two methods.

Calculator Method #1

Example   **(-12) − (-26)**

1. Enter the value of the first integer, followed by the **+/−** key only if the integer is negative.

1		2		+/−	⟶	-12

2. Press the **−** key.

3. Enter the value of the second integer, followed by the **+/−** key only if the integer is negative.

2		6		+/−	⟶	-26

4. Press the **=** key to display the answer.

 | 14 |
   |---|

   (-12) − (-26) = +14

Calculator Method #2

Example (-10) – (+26)

1. If the integer is negative, press the **+/–** key on the calculator and then enter the value of the first integer.

| +/– | 1 | 0 | ⟶ | -10 |

2. Press the **–** key.

3. If the second integer is negative, press the **+/–** key and then enter the value of the second integer. In this example, the second integer is positive so the **+/–** key is not pushed.

| 1 | 4 | ⟶ | 14 |

4. Press the **=** key to display the answer.

| -24 |
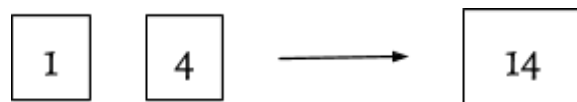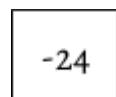
(-10) – (+26) = -24

Example

Check out these examples of subtracting integers using a calculator.

(+16) – (-4)

Method #1 | 1 | 6 | – | 4 | +/- | = | 20 |

Method #2 | 1 | 6 | – | +/- | 4 | = | 20 |

(+16) – (-4) = +20