Combining Integers

Sometimes when we are adding and subtracting integers, we will have a lot of signs in our problem. There is a way to help us "clean up" our problems by combining integer signs.

Let's look at the following problem:

(+2) + (+4) + (-8) =

Adding a positive could simply be written as +, so (+2) + (+4) could be written as 2 + 4.

Adding on a negative is like owing something. It is not a good thing! We can can write it as - . So...

4 + (-8) could be written as 4- 8.

Getting rid of the "double signs", helps to make the problem much cleaner and easier to solve.

So… (+2) + (+4) + (-8) can simply be written as 2 + 4 - 8

Here's another example:

(-3) + (-5) - (- 6) + (+4) can be written as -3 - 5 +6 +4

To calculate the answer to this question, we just need to tally up all the positive numbers and all the negative numbers and add them together.

+	-
+6 +4	- 3 - 5

+10   +   -8 =

+2

Remember:
+ (+) gives us +
+ (-) gives us -
- (+) gives us -
- (-) gives us +

Try these!

(+3) + (-4) - (-9) =   (-9) - (+5) - (-7) + (+2) =   (-8) - (+3) + (-6) - (- 7) =

(- 2) + (-4) - (- 8) + (+2) =   (+9) + (-5) - (-7) + (-4) =   (-6) + (-2) - (-3) =

Make up some for a classmate to try: