

# Negative Numbers For Smart Kids And Math Challenged Parents

## Negative Numbers

Negative numbers are numbers less than zero:

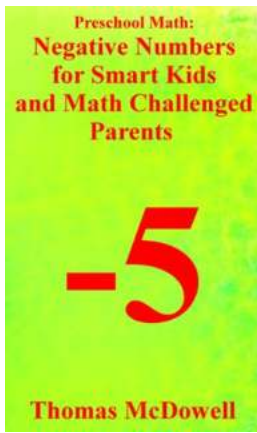
$-5, -4, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \dots$   
negative positive

The temperature during the day is  $5^{\circ}\text{C}$ . During the night, it drops by  $8^{\circ}\text{C}$ .  
What is the new temperature ?  
Answer:  $5 - 8 = -3$  (say: minus 3 degrees)

Understanding negative numbers is crucial in mathematics. While some kids grasp the concept easily, others, along with their parents, find it challenging. This article aims to simplify negative numbers and provide practical examples and tips to make the learning process enjoyable and effective.

### What Are Negative Numbers?

In mathematics, negative numbers represent quantities less than zero. They are used to describe values that are opposite in sign to positive numbers. For example, if we have 5 apples and remove 7, we end up with -2 apples.



## Preschool Math: Negative Numbers for Smart Kids and Math Challenged Parents

by Thomas McDowell (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 389 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 43 pages

Lending : Enabled



It might be difficult for young children to understand the concept of negative numbers because they are used to dealing with tangible objects, like counting marbles or cookies. However, negative numbers have several real-life applications, such as temperature, sea levels, and debts, making them an essential part of understanding the world around us.

### Examples and Visualization

Visual aids play a vital role in comprehending negative numbers. Using a number line can make the concept more accessible. Displaying a line horizontally, with zero in the center, allows children to visualize both positive and negative numbers.

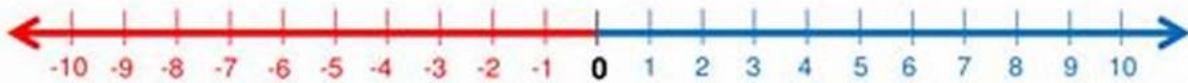
For instance, if we want to represent  $-3$  on the number line, we start from zero and move three units to the left.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Number Line: Positive & Negative Integers



goalbook

Find more resources at <https://goalbookapp.com>

## Adding and Subtracting Negative Numbers

When adding and subtracting negative numbers, we follow specific rules to ensure the correct calculations. If both numbers have the same sign, we add them and keep the sign. If the signs are different, we subtract the smaller value from the larger one and use the sign of the number with the greater absolute value.

Let's take a simple example:  $-5 + (-3)$ . We add the numbers ( $5 + 3 = 8$ ) and apply the negative sign from one of the numbers with the greater absolute value, giving us  $-8$ .

## Multiplying and Dividing Negative Numbers

Multiplying and dividing negative numbers require a slightly different approach. When multiplying two negative numbers, the result is always positive. Conversely, when dividing a positive number by a negative number, the result will be negative.

For example,  $-4 * -2$  equals 8, and  $12 \div -3$  equals -4.

## Practical Applications

Understanding negative numbers has many real-world applications beyond mathematical concepts. Here are a few examples:

- Temperature: Negative temperatures are used to represent cold temperatures below freezing. For instance,  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
- Bank accounts: If someone withdraws more money from a bank account than they have, it results in a negative balance.
- Sea levels: When measuring sea levels, a negative value might indicate a location below sea level.

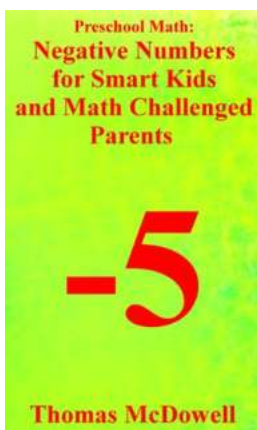
## Tips for Parents

Explaining negative numbers to children is vital for their overall mathematical understanding. Here are some tips for parents who struggle with the concept themselves:

- Use real-life examples to demonstrate negative numbers' significance, such as temperature or financial situations.
- Encourage hands-on activities, like using colored counters and a number line, to make it more visual and interactive.
- Play educational games that incorporate negative numbers.

- Break down complex problems into simpler steps to avoid overwhelming confusion.
- Encourage questions and provide simple explanations.
- Seek additional resources like books or online tutorials for further assistance.

Negative numbers might seem intimidating at first, but with the right approach and resources, they can become more accessible and enjoyable to both children and math-challenged parents. Understanding negative numbers leads to a deeper comprehension of the world around us and lays a solid foundation for future mathematical learning.



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Prerequisites: Have some understanding of addition and subtraction.

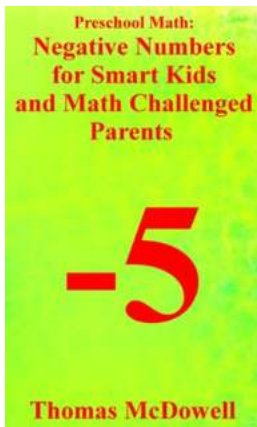
Primary audience: 3, 4, and 5-year old children. Secondary audience: third grade and below.

This is a children’s book with instructions for adults. It is part of a nontraditional math series published in the expectation that if math is taught as a series of patterns, very young children can grasp math concepts that they wouldn’t normally encounter for several years.

Two future preschool eBooks in this series will require the preschool child to know how negative numbers relate to zero and to positive numbers.

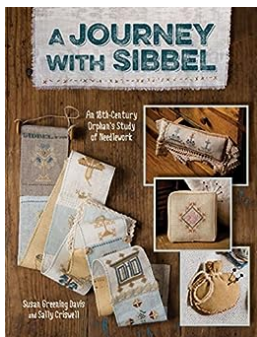
The requirement to know about addition and subtraction does not imply that the purpose of this eBook is to teach the addition and subtraction of negative numbers.

The first book in this series is “Counting past 10 for a Future Gifted Child.”



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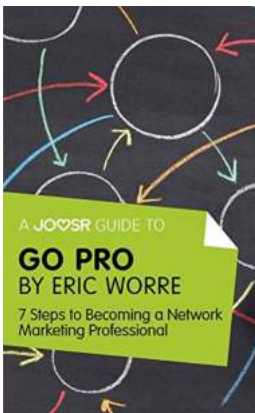
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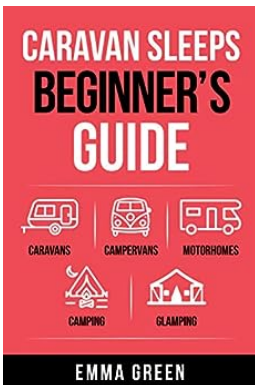
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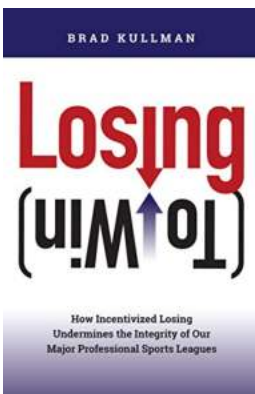
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