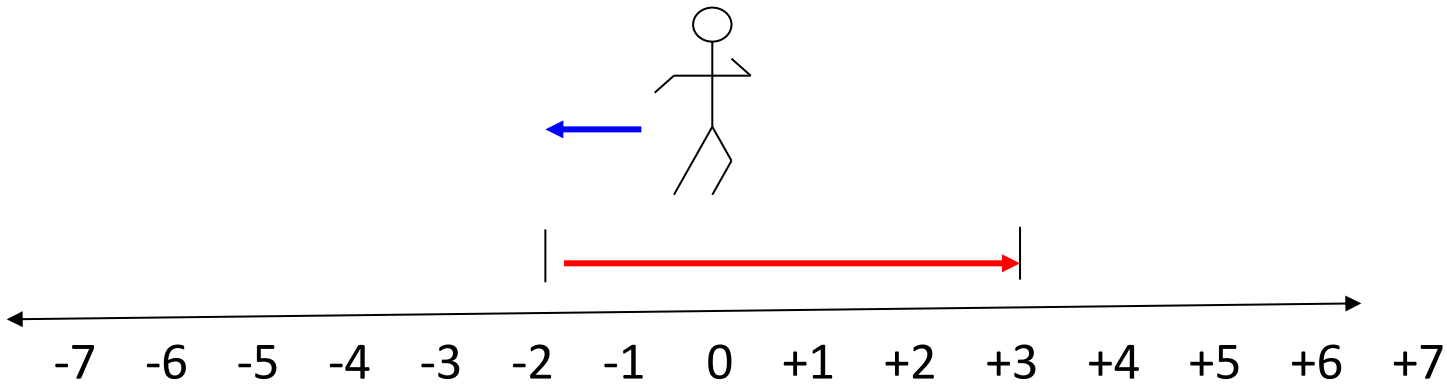
Changing Directions – Walking Left and Right

Example Again, starting from zero, let's walk two steps to the left, then 5 steps to the right. Where will I end up?



Hopefully, by using the number line, you see that we'll end up 3 spaces to the right.

Mathematically, changing 2L + 5R = 3R

(–2) + (+5) =+3

Could you tell which side of zero we would end up on BEFORE doing the walking?

Example This time starting out walking 4 to the right, then going 9 to the left.

Again, using the number line, where should we end up? If you said 5 to the left, you are making my life too easy.

$$4R + 9L = 5L$$

$$(+4) + (-9) = -5$$