

Changing To Addition (CTA)

In order to use the commutative property, when you have subtraction involved, it will be necessary to change your terms in to addition problems. This can be done using the following steps:

Ex. $4n + 6 - 2n$

In this example, you will need to change the 'minus 2n' into an addition problem. You can do this by simply placing an addition sign in front of any subtraction terms.

Ex. $4n + 6 + (-2n)$

Then placing that term in parentheses. You can now move them around using the **commutative property**.

Ex. $4n + (-2n) + 6$

Then use the **distributive property** to add.

Ex. $(4 - 2)n + 6$

$2n + 6$

Ex. $5 + 9n - 2n$

$5 + 9n + (-2n)$ CTA (Change to Addition)

$5 + (9 - 2)n$ Distributive Property

$5 + 7n$ Subtraction

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