Never Subtract Signed Numbers: Worked Answers

Each problem solved the way the lesson does it.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. 9 − 14
   - Change: 9 + (−14).
   - Add: you have $9 and owe $14. Pay off $9; you still owe $5.

   Answer: −5

2. −6 − 7
   - Change: −6 + (−7).
   - Add: debt plus debt is more debt.

   Answer: −13

3. 3 − (−8)
   - Change: 3 + 8. The opposite of negative 8 is 8.
   - Add.

   Answer: 11

4. (−5) − (−12)
   - Change: −5 + 12.
   - Add: you owe $5 and have $12. Pay it off; $7 left.

   Answer: 7

5. 6x − 10x
   - Change: 6x + (−10x).
   - Add the x terms: 6 + (−10) = −4.

   Answer: −4x

6 **$-2y - (-9y)$**

- Change: $-2y + 9y$. The opposite of $-9y$ is $9y$.
- Add the y terms.

Answer: $7y$

7 **$12 - (4 - 10)$**

- Inside first: $4 - 10 = 4 + (-10) = -6$.
- Change the minus in front: $12 - (-6) = 12 + 6$.
- Add.

Answer: 18

8 **$5x - 8 - (-3x) - 2$**

- Change every minus: $5x + (-8) + 3x + (-2)$.
- Group: $5x + 3x + (-8) + (-2)$.
- Add each group: $8x + (-10)$, which is $8x - 10$.

Answer: $8x - 10$