

Work Backwards

Concept — ANSWER KEY

Undo one step to find the start.

Think: To undo, do the opposite: undo + with −, and − with +.

1. Work backwards to find the starting number. Undo each step!

1) I thought of a number, then subtracted 7, and got 27.
What was my number?

$$\boxed{34} \quad \begin{array}{c} -7 \\ \rightarrow \end{array}$$

My number = 34

2) I thought of a number, then added 27, and got 66.
What was my number?

$$\boxed{27} \quad \boxed{39} \quad \begin{array}{c} +27 \\ \rightarrow \end{array}$$

My number = 39

3) I thought of a number, then subtracted 9, and got 0.
What was my number?

$$\boxed{9} \quad \begin{array}{c} -9 \\ \rightarrow \end{array}$$

My number = 9

4) I thought of a number, then added 10, and got 53.
What was my number?

$$\boxed{0} \quad \boxed{43} \quad \begin{array}{c} +10 \\ \rightarrow \end{array}$$

My number = 43

5) I thought of a number, then added 20, and got 51.
What was my number?

$$\boxed{31} \quad \begin{array}{c} +20 \\ \rightarrow \end{array}$$

My number = 31

6) I thought of a number, then subtracted 6, and got 7.
What was my number?

$$\boxed{51} \quad \boxed{13} \quad \begin{array}{c} -6 \\ \rightarrow \end{array}$$

My number = 13

7) I thought of a number, then added 11, and got 20.
What was my number?

$$\boxed{9} \quad \begin{array}{c} +11 \\ \rightarrow \end{array}$$

My number = 9

8) I thought of a number, then subtracted 17, and got 7.
What was my number?

$$\boxed{20} \quad \boxed{24} \quad \begin{array}{c} -17 \\ \rightarrow \end{array}$$

My number = 24