

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 27, and got 5.
What was my number?

32

−27
→

5

My number = 32

2) I thought of a number, then added 28, and got 72.
What was my number?

44

+28
→

72

My number = 44

3) I thought of a number, then subtracted 2, and got 3.
What was my number?

5

−2
→

3

My number = 5

4) I thought of a number, then added 4, and got 37.
What was my number?

33

+4
→

37

My number = 33

5) I thought of a number, then subtracted 14, and got 1.
What was my number?

15

−14
→

1

My number = 15

6) I thought of a number, then subtracted 15, and got 2.
What was my number?

17

−15
→

2

My number = 17

7) I thought of a number, then added 28, and got 50.
What was my number?

22

+28
→

50

My number = 22

8) I thought of a number, then subtracted 11, and got 0.
What was my number?

11

−11
→

0

My number = 11