

Absolute Value

The absolute value of a number or expression is its distance from zero on the number line.

① Simplify every expression inside the bars before taking the absolute value of the simplified expression.

② If there are more than one set of bars in the problem take the absolute value of each separate part of the problem before going outside the bars to finish simplifying the expression.

$$|4| = 4 \qquad |2| + |-8| = 2 + 8 = 10$$

$$|-16| = 16 \qquad |2 + (-8)| = |-6| = 6$$

$$-|5| = -5 \qquad |-4| - |7| = 4 - 7 = -3$$

$$-|-11| = -11 \qquad |-4 - 7| = |-11| = 11$$