

Topic 1

Example 1

Solve an Absolute Value Equation

Solve $|x - 3| = 7$

Method 1: Use Algebra

Remember that an Absolute Value has Two Cases:

$$|x - 3| = \begin{cases} x - 3 & \leftarrow \text{positive case} \\ -(x - 3) & \leftarrow \text{negative case} \end{cases}$$

Positive Case

$$x - 3 = 7$$

$$x = 10$$

Negative Case

$$-(x - 3) = 7$$

$$x - 3 = -7$$

$$x = -4$$

Verify the solutions by substitution

<i>Left Side</i>	<i>Right Side</i>
$= 10 - 3 $	7
$= 7 $	
$= 7$	✓

<i>Left Side</i>	<i>Right Side</i>
$= -4 - 3 $	7
$= -7 $	
$= 7$	✓

