Reteaching Page
2.5 Solving Subtraction Equations

When an equation contains a **variable**, you make alterations with the purpose of getting the variable to be alone.

Since subtraction is not commutative, you will want to consider using **fact families**, **write the problem backwards**, or **inverse operations** to help isolate the variable. (Writing the problem "backwards" is the same thing as using the addition side of the fact family).

Fact Family	**Backwards**	**Inverse Operation**
19 - a = 7	**19 - a** = 7	**19 - a** = 7
19 - 7 = **a**	7 + **a** = 19	19 + **(a - a)** = 7 + **a**
		19 = 7 + **a**

Write each of the following "backwards" to get rid of the subtraction.

$38 - a = 27$ $a - 16 = 36$ $24 - a = 12$ $37 - a = 22$

_____   _____   _____   _____

Rewrite each problem to remove the subtraction, then solve for n in the following equations.

_____ 1) $n - 7 = 12$

_____ (hint – write it backwards)

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_____ 2) $n - 38 = 52$

_____ (hint – write it backwards)

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_____ 3) $18 - n = 4$

_____ (hint – use the fact family)

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_____ 4) $41 - n = 16$

_____ (hint – use the fact family)

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