**Subtracting Rational Numbers**

**Subtracting Positive Rational Numbers:**

Ex (1): The temperature on an outdoor thermometer on Monday was **5.5** °C. The temperature on Thursday was **7.25** degrees less than the temperature on Monday. What was the temperature on Thursday?

Step(1): Write the equation (Monday temp was 5.5 but Thursday temp 7.25 less)

5.5 + (-7.25) or 5.5 – 7.25

Step(2): Solve the equation

-7.25 or 5.5 – 7.25 = **-1.75**

5.50 (using a calculator to get the answer)

**-1.75** (manually)

Ex (2): Find the sum of 1/2 + (-1 2/3). Leave answer as a fraction.

Answer:

**Subtracting Negative Rational Numbers:**

Ex (3): During the hottest week of the summer, the water level of the Muskrat River was **5/6** foot below normal. The following week, the level was **1/3** foot below normal. What is the overall change in the water level?

Step(1): Write the equation ( 5/6 ft below normal then 1/3 ft below normal again)

Step (2): Solve the equation