$$x + 7 = 23$$

In order to solve $x + 7 = 23$ we can do the following:

$$x + 7 = 23$$

Use the inverse of addition $\longrightarrow$ $-7 \longrightarrow -7$
to move our number friend
across the street

Now that the "7" has left "x's" $\longrightarrow$ $x = 23 - 7$
house he is gone or been "cancelled"
because $7 - 7 = 0$. We are left
with x on the left side of the equation
(or "street") and $23 - 7$ on the
right side of the equation (because
he went home).