

$$x + 7 = 23$$

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

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

$$\begin{array}{r} x + 7 = 23 \\ - 7 \longrightarrow -7 \end{array}$$

Now that the "7" has left "x's" 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).

$$\longrightarrow x = 23 - 7$$