

$$x + 7 = 23$$

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

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

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).

$$\longrightarrow x = 23 - 7$$