Check Your Answers on Multiplying Integers!

As in Adding (and Subtracting) Integers, a black chip or circle will represent +1 and a red chip or circle will represent -1. Manipulatives such as checkers can easily be used to mirror the processes presented. Using this visual approach, it is possible to determine the product without memorizing rules.

- 1. -6 Multiplication is a short-cut for repeated addition. In other words, (-2) times 3 means that (-2) is added 3 times: (-2) + (-2) + (-2) as shown.
- 2. +4 If multiplying by a *positive* number indicates the number of times that number is added, then multiplying by a *negative* number would indicate the number of times that number is subtracted. (-4) times (-1) means that (-4) or 4 red chips are taken away (from 0) once, shown to the right.
- 3. -4 (4) times (-1) means that (+4) is taken away (from 0) once or you could recall the Commutative Property of Multiplication which states that (4)(-1) = (-1)(4) so you could picture (-1) or one red chip 4 times.

Did you notice that multiplication can also be indicated by parentheses: (4)(-1)?

- 4. -12 Because multiplication is a short-cut for repeated addition, (-3)(4) means (-3) four times as shown to the right with red chips (circles).
- 5. +10 Can you mentally picture those positives and negatives without actually seeing those "chips"?
 Additional Note: You may want to generalize based on the patterns emerging: when integers with the same sign are multiplied, the answer is positive. When integers with different signs are multiplied, the answer is negative.
- 6. -24 The dot or parentheses are typically used to represent multiplication rather than × which could be misinterpreted as the variable "x". Also if there is no sign before a number, it is understood to be positive.

-3 once

- 7. -28 Negative numbers are often placed in parentheses to eliminate confusion.
- 8. 60 When the sign of the number is positive, it is not necessary to include the + before the number. Even though the numbers are larger, no problem for you!
- 9. -120 Did you first determine the sign of the answer? Yes!!
- 10. 0 You should not need a calculator here!! That Commutative Property of Multiplication will make short work of this one!

Perfect score? Yes! You've got this!! You're ready to move on to the next section!!!

Multiplying Integers

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-2 third time

-3 fourth time

-2 twice

1 + (-1) = 0

-2 once

1 + (-1) = 0

1 + (-1) = 0

-3 twice

4

1 + (-1) = 0

1 + (-1) = 0

-3 third time