Commutative Property – Summary

The commutative property describes how the order of numbers does not affect the result of an operation.

1. Addition

For any two numbers a and b:
$a + b = b + a$
Example: $3 + 5 = 5 + 3 = 8$
The sum remains the same when the order of the addends is reversed.

2. Multiplication

For any two numbers a and b:
$a \times b = b \times a$
Example: $4 \times 6 = 6 \times 4 = 24$
The product remains the same when the order of the factors is reversed.

3. Not valid for subtraction or division

$a - b \neq b - a$
$a \div b \neq b \div a$
Subtraction and division are not commutative.

In short: Changing the order of addition or multiplication does not change the result.