i – the "imaginary" unit

for "real" numbers (i.e. numbers that you find on a number line), multiplying two negatives cancels both of them out

$$-2 \times -3 = 6$$

a square root of *x* is a number you can multiply by itself ("square") to get *x*, i.e. $\sqrt{4} = 2$ because $2 \times 2 = 4$

but also $\sqrt{4} = -2$ since the negatives cancel out in $-2 \times -2 = 4$!

since squaring a real number always cancels out its negative, what the heck is $\sqrt{-1}$?

it can't be any real number so people call it "imaginary" and use i to represent it

Literally Mathematicians