

## COMMUTATIVITY IN NORMAL SUBGROUPS – ANSWER

Theorem: Let  $G$  be a group, let  $M$  and  $N$  be normal subgroups of  $G$  such that  $M \cap N = e$  (the identity), and let  $m \in M$  and  $n \in N$ . Then  $m$  and  $n$  commute with one another, or in other words,  $mn = nm$ .

Proof: Let  $G$  be a group, let  $M$  and  $N$  be normal subgroups of  $G$  such that  $M \cap N = e$  (the identity), and let  $m \in M$  and  $n \in N$ . Then by our previous proof, the commutator  $m^{-1}n^{-1}mn$  is in the intersection of  $M$  and  $N$ , But this means that  $m^{-1}n^{-1}mn = M \cap N = e$ . However,  $m^{-1}n^{-1}mn = e \Rightarrow n^{-1}mn = m \Rightarrow mn = nm$ . Therefore,  $m$  and  $n$  commute with one another.

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