

the sake of brevity represented by $2a$, the figure prefixed to the symbol expressing the number of times the number denoted by a is repeated.

Similarly $a + a + a$ is represented by $3a$.

Hence it follows that

$2a + a$ will be represented by $3a$,

$3a + a$ by $4a$.

10. The symbol $-$, read *minus*, is used to denote the operation of Subtraction.

Thus the operation of subtracting 15 from 26 and its connection with the result may be briefly expressed thus ;

$$26 - 15 = 11.$$

11. The result of subtracting the number b from the number a is represented by

$$a - b.$$

Again $a - b - c$ stands for the number obtained by taking c from $a - b$.

Also $a - b - c - d$ stands for the number obtained by taking d from $a - b - c$.

Since we cannot take away a greater number from a smaller, the expression $a - b$, where a and b represent numbers, can denote a possible result only when a is not less than b .

So also the expression $a - b - c$ can denote a possible result only when the number obtained by taking b from a is not less than c .

12. A combination of symbols is termed an algebraical expression.

The parts of an expression which are connected by the symbols of operation $+$ and $-$ are called TERMS.

Compound expressions are those which have more than one term.

Thus $a - b + c - d$ is a compound expression made up of four terms.

When a compound expression contains

- two terms it is called a *Binomial*,
- three *Trinomial*,
- four or more *Multinomial*.