

Square both sides: $(\sqrt{x+5})^2 = (x-7)^2$

Simplify and multiply: $x+5 = x^2 - 14x + 49$

Subtract $x+5$ from both sides: $0 = x^2 - 15x + 44$

Factor and solve: $0 = (x-4)(x-11)$, so $x = 4$ and $x = 11$

Check $x = 4$: $\sqrt{4+5} = 4-7?$ $\sqrt{9} \neq -3$ extraneous solution

Check $x = 11$: $\sqrt{11+5} = 11-7?$ $\sqrt{16} = 4$ TRUE