

**YOU & MATHS**

The reciprocal of a negative number is always:

- ☐ **A** negative.      ☐ **C** prime.  
☐ **B** positive.      ☐ **D** 1.

(CAN Mathleague Contest: 8th grade, 1995)

Before starting this exercise, let's recall what **reciprocal** means. One number is the reciprocal of another if their product is 1.

We notice that 1 is a positive number. We know that:

- the product of a negative number and a positive one is a negative number;
- the product of two negative numbers is a positive number.

Therefore, the reciprocal of a negative number has to be negative as well. The correct answer is A.