

NUMBERS

SAYING NUMBERS

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1. CARDINAL AND ORDINAL NUMBERS

- Cardinal numbers:

1 - one

2 - two

3 - three

4 - four

- Ordinal numbers:

1 - first

2 - second

3 - third

4 - fourth

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2. OH, ZERO, LOVE, NOUGHT, NIL!

0

- OH - after a decimal number 5.03
 - in telephone numbers 67 01 38
 - in bus numbers No.701
 - in hotel room numbers Room 206
 - in years 1905

0

- NOUGHT - before the decimal point 0.02

0

- ZERO - for the number 0
 - for temperature -5°C

0

- NIL - in football scores 5-0
- LOVE - in tennis 15-0

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3. THE DECIMAL POINT

- Use a point (.) and not a comma (,) for decimals.
E.g.: 5.2
- All the numbers after a decimal point are read separately
E.g.: 10.66 - ten point six six
- If the number after the decimal point is a unit of money, it is read like a normal number
E.g.: £12.50 - twelve point fifty

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4. PER CENT

- The stress is on the cent of per cent
E.g.: 10% - ten perCENT
- Notice:
E.g.: 0.5% - a half of one per cent
0.25% - a quarter of a percentage point

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5. HUNDREDS, THOUSANDS, AND MILLIONS

- In British English - 123 - a hundred and twenty three
- In American English - 123 - a hundred twenty three
- The number 1,999 - one thousand nine hundred and ninety nine. Use a comma (,) for thousands.
- The year 1999 - nineteen ninety nine
- The year 2015 - two thousand and fifteen or twenty fifteen
- 1,000,000 - a million
- 1,000,000,000 - a billion

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6. TELEPHONE AND FAX NUMBERS

- Telephone and fax numbers are usually given as individual digits:

21 798 45 00 – two one seven nine eight four five oh oh

OR

21 798 45 00 – two one seven nine eight four five double oh

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7. FRACTIONS

- Fractions are like ordinal numbers

E.g.: $\frac{1}{3}$ - a third $\frac{1}{5}$ - a fifth $\frac{1}{6}$ – a sixth

- But notice:

E.g.: $\frac{1}{2}$ - a half $\frac{1}{4}$ - a quarter $\frac{3}{4}$ - three quarters

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8. CALCULATING

- $+$ = add $-$ = subtract (or deduct)
- $\times$ = multiply $:$ = divide

- $2 + 2 = 4$ - two plus/and two is/equals four
- $4 - 2 = 2$ - four minus/take away two is/equals two
- $2 \times 2 = 4$ – two times/multiplied by two is/equals four
- $4 : 2 = 2$ – four divided by 2 is/equals two

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9. NUMBERS AS ADJECTIVES

- When a number is used before a noun - like an adjective - it is always singular

E.g.: a fifty-minute lesson not a fifty-minutess lesson

a sixteen-week semester

a twenty-pound reduction

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REVIEW

1. 234,567
2. 1,234,567,890
3. 1.234
4. 0.043
5. 0.5%
6. $3\frac{3}{4}$
7. \$19.50
8. In 1982
9. In 2025
10. My phone number is 91 567 22 88
11. $30 \times 25 = 750$
12. 5* Hotel