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A numeral is a figure, a symbol, a word (or their combinations) representing a number. It denotes the number of objects, their number, and also the order when counting objects. There are cardinal and ordinal numbers.

- I have two apples.
- There are twenty-five pencils in the box.
- I've already asked him three times.


## Cardinal numerals

We use cardinal numbers to count or to say how many of something there are.

- Five plums.
- Forty cars.
- One million dollars.
- I ate ten apples.

Cardinal Numerals

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| One | Two | Three | Four |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Five | Six | Seven | Eight |
| 9 |  |  |  |
| Nine | Ten | Eleven | Twelve |
|  |  |  |  |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| Thirteen | Fourteen | Fifteen | Sixteen |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| Seventeen | Eighteen | Nineteen | Twenty |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| Twenty-one | Twenty-two | Twenty-three | Twenty-four |


| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Twenty-five | Twenty-six | Twenty-seven Twenty-eight |  |
| 29 | 30 | 40 | 50 |
| Twenty-nine | Thirty | Forty | Fifty |
| 60 | 70 | $\mathbf{8 0}$ | 90 |
|  |  | Eighty | Ninety |
| Sixty | Seventy |  |  |
| 100 | 1,000 | $1,000,000$ | $1,000,000,000$ |
|  |  |  |  |
| One hundred | One thousand One million | One billion |  |

Compound numerals, (numbers consisting of two words), from 21-99 should be hyphenated.

- We invited twenty-five people to the dinner.

For higher numerals, we can add 'and' between the second last word and the final word.

- He requested nine hundred and ten plates.
- Where did you get all four hundred and fifty-five of these?

When saying large cardinal numerals we don't add '-s' to the words 'hundred', 'thousand' and 'million':

- There are two hundred eight (208) pupils in our school.
- There are five thousand eight hundred thirty $(5,830)$ kilometers between New-York and Paris.

To avoid misunderstandings with certain similar-sounding cardinal numerals, always stress the correct syllable when pronouncing them.

- Thirteen (13) $\rightarrow$ Thirty (30)
- Fourteen (14) $\rightarrow$ Forty (40)
- Fifteen (15) $\rightarrow$ Fifty (50)
- Sixteen (16) $\rightarrow$ Sixty (60)
- Seventeen (17) $\rightarrow$ Seventy (70)
- Eighteen (18) $\rightarrow$ Eighty (80)
- Nineteen (19) $\rightarrow$ Ninety (90)

Watch this video and find out about small and big numbers:

## Ordinal numbers

We use ordinal numerals to express position or rank of something in a sequential order of size, chronology, importance, etc.

- The first song was beautiful, but the second was rather dull.
- The thousandth passenger received a reward.
- Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president of the United States.
- He came in fourth (4th) in the race.


## Spelling of ordinal numbers

We can write ordinal numbers in two ways - a numerical form or in written, word form.
In the numerical form, we add the suffix '-th' to most ordinal numbers. However, 1, 2, and 3, have special suffixes: '-st' (first), '-nd' (second), and '-rd' (third).

- 1 st
- 2nd
- 3rd
- 4th
- 5th
- 6th
- 10th
- 15th
- 20th
- 21st

The written form follows the same rules except we add the suffixes to the word.

- First
- Second
- Third
- Fourth
- Fifth
- Sixth
- Tenth
- Fifteenth
- Twentieth (note the change in spelling from ' y ' to ' ie ')
- Twenty-first (note the hyphen is still necessary)

In some cases, the spelling of the numeral is modified to accommodate the suffix:

- one - first
- two - second
- three - third
- five - fifth
- eight - eighth
- nine - ninth
- twelve - twelfth

Additionally, for cardinal numbers ending in '- $\mathbf{y}$ ' we change it to '-ie' in ordinal numbers:

- twenty-twentieth
- forty-fortieth
- sixty-sixtieth

In compound numerals '-th' is added to the last word.

- one million - one-millionth
- two hundred - two-hundredth


## Ordinal Numerals

| 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| First | Second | Third | Fourth |
| 5th | 6th | 7th | 8th |
| Fifth | Sixth | Seventh | Eighth |
| 9th | 10th | 11th | 12th |
| Ninth | Tenth | Eleventh | Twelfth |
| 13th | 14th | 15th | 16th |
| Thirteenth | Fourteenth | Fifteenth | Sixteenth |
| 17th | 18th | 19th | 20th |
| Seventeenth | Eighteenth | Nineteenth | Twentieth |
| 21st | 22nd | 23rd | 24th |
| Twenty-first | Twenty-second | Twenty- third | Twenty-fourth |


| 25th | 26th | 27th | 28th |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Twenty-fifth | Twenty- sixth | Twenty- seventh Twenty-eighth |  |
| 29th | 30th | 40th | 50th |
| Twenty-ninth | Thirtieth | Fortieth | Fiftieth |
| 60th | 70th | 80th | 90th |
| Sixtieth | Seventieth | Eightieth | Ninetieth |
| 100th | 1,000th | 1,000,000th | 1,000,000,000th |
| One-hundredth | One-thousandth One-millionth | One-billionth |  |

In this video, you'll learn how to use ordinal and cardinal numbers:

See also:

Numerals: Dates and Time

