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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 One	2 Two	3 Three	4 Four
5 Five	6 Six	7 Seven	8 Eight
9 Nine	10 Ten	11 Eleven	12 Twelve
13 Thirteen	14 Fourteen	15 Fifteen	16 Sixteen
17 Seventeen	18 Eighteen	19 Nineteen	20 Twenty
21 Twenty-one	22 Twenty-two	23 Twenty-three	24 Twenty-four

25 Twenty-five	26 Twenty-six	27 Twenty-seven	28 Twenty-eight
29 Twenty-nine	30 Thirty	40 Forty	50 Fifty
60 Sixty	70 Seventy	80 Eighty	90 Ninety
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) → **Thirty** (30)
- **Fourteen** (14) → **Forty** (40)
- **Fifteen** (15) → **Fifty** (50)
- **Sixteen** (16) → **Sixty** (60)
- **Seventeen** (17) → **Seventy** (70)
- **Eighteen** (18) → **Eighty** (80)
- **Nineteen** (19) → **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).

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

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

See also:

[Numerals: Dates and Time](#)