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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

<b>1</b> <b>One</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Two</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Three</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Four</b>
<b>5</b> <b>Five</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Six</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Seven</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Eight</b>
<b>9</b> <b>Nine</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Ten</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Eleven</b>	<b>12</b> <b>Twelve</b>
<b>13</b> <b>Thirteen</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Fourteen</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Fifteen</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Sixteen</b>
<b>17</b> <b>Seventeen</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Eighteen</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Nineteen</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Twenty</b>
<b>21</b> <b>Twenty-one</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Twenty-two</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Twenty-three</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Twenty-four</b>

<b>25</b> <b>Twenty-five</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Twenty-six</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Twenty-seven</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Twenty-eight</b>
<b>29</b> <b>Twenty-nine</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Thirty</b>	<b>40</b> <b>Forty</b>	<b>50</b> <b>Fifty</b>
<b>60</b> <b>Sixty</b>	<b>70</b> <b>Seventy</b>	<b>80</b> <b>Eighty</b>	<b>90</b> <b>Ninety</b>
<b>100</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>1,000,000,000</b>
<b>One hundred</b>	<b>One thousand</b>	<b>One million</b>	<b>One billion</b>

**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

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

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

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

See also:

[Numerals: Dates and Time](#)