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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><br><b>One</b>       | <b>2</b><br><b>Two</b>       | <b>3</b><br><b>Three</b>    | <b>4</b><br><b>Four</b>     |
| <b>5</b><br><b>Five</b>      | <b>6</b><br><b>Six</b>       | <b>7</b><br><b>Seven</b>    | <b>8</b><br><b>Eight</b>    |
| <b>9</b><br><b>Nine</b>      | <b>10</b><br><b>Ten</b>      | <b>11</b><br><b>Eleven</b>  | <b>12</b><br><b>Twelve</b>  |
| <b>13</b><br><b>Thirteen</b> | <b>14</b><br><b>Fourteen</b> | <b>15</b><br><b>Fifteen</b> | <b>16</b><br><b>Sixteen</b> |

|                                  |                                     |  |  |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>17</b><br><b>Seventeen</b>    | <b>18</b><br><b>Eighteen</b>        | <b>19</b><br><b>Nineteen</b>           | <b>20</b><br><b>Twenty</b>                 |
| <b>21</b><br><b>Twenty-one</b>   | <b>22</b><br><b>Twenty-two</b>      | <b>23</b><br><b>Twenty-three</b>       | <b>24</b><br><b>Twenty-four</b>            |
| <b>25</b><br><b>Twenty-five</b>  | <b>26</b><br><b>Twenty-six</b>      | <b>27</b><br><b>Twenty-seven</b>       | <b>28</b><br><b>Twenty-eight</b>           |
| <b>29</b><br><b>Twenty-nine</b>  | <b>30</b><br><b>Thirty</b>          | <b>40</b><br><b>Forty</b>              | <b>50</b><br><b>Fifty</b>                  |
| <b>60</b><br><b>Sixty</b>        | <b>70</b><br><b>Seventy</b>         | <b>80</b><br><b>Eighty</b>             | <b>90</b><br><b>Ninety</b>                 |
| <b>100</b><br><b>One hundred</b> | <b>1,000</b><br><b>One thousand</b> | <b>1,000,000</b><br><b>One million</b> | <b>1,000,000,000</b><br><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**

- **6<sup>th</sup>**
- **10<sup>th</sup>**
- **15<sup>th</sup>**
- **20<sup>th</sup>**
- **21<sup>st</sup>**

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**

| <b>Ordinal Numerals</b>              |   |  |  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <b>1st</b><br><b>First</b>           | <b>2nd</b><br><b>Second</b>             | <b>3rd</b><br><b>Third</b>                 | <b>4th</b><br><b>Fourth</b>                    |
| <b>5th</b><br><b>Fifth</b>           | <b>6th</b><br><b>Sixth</b>              | <b>7th</b><br><b>Seventh</b>               | <b>8th</b><br><b>Eighth</b>                    |
| <b>9th</b><br><b>Ninth</b>           | <b>10th</b><br><b>Tenth</b>             | <b>11th</b><br><b>Eleventh</b>             | <b>12th</b><br><b>Twelfth</b>                  |
| <b>13th</b><br><b>Thirteenth</b>     | <b>14th</b><br><b>Fourteenth</b>        | <b>15th</b><br><b>Fifteenth</b>            | <b>16th</b><br><b>Sixteenth</b>                |
| <b>17th</b><br><b>Seventeenth</b>    | <b>18th</b><br><b>Eighteenth</b>        | <b>19th</b><br><b>Nineteenth</b>           | <b>20th</b><br><b>Twentieth</b>                |
| <b>21st</b><br><b>Twenty-first</b>   | <b>22nd</b><br><b>Twenty-second</b>     | <b>23rd</b><br><b>Twenty- third</b>        | <b>24th</b><br><b>Twenty-fourth</b>            |
| <b>25th</b><br><b>Twenty-fifth</b>   | <b>26th</b><br><b>Twenty- sixth</b>     | <b>27th</b><br><b>Twenty- seventh</b>      | <b>28th</b><br><b>Twenty-eighth</b>            |
| <b>29th</b><br><b>Twenty-ninth</b>   | <b>30th</b><br><b>Thirtieth</b>         | <b>40th</b><br><b>Fortieth</b>             | <b>50th</b><br><b>Fiftieth</b>                 |
| <b>60th</b><br><b>Sixtieth</b>       | <b>70th</b><br><b>Seventieth</b>        | <b>80th</b><br><b>Eightieth</b>            | <b>90th</b><br><b>Ninetieth</b>                |
| <b>100th</b><br><b>One-hundredth</b> | <b>1,000th</b><br><b>One-thousandth</b> | <b>1,000,000th</b><br><b>One-millionth</b> | <b>1,000,000,000th</b><br><b>One-billionth</b> |

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

See also:

## Numerals: Dates and Time