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

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<td>Two</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Five</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Six</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Nine</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Thirteen</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Fourteen</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Sixteen</td>
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### 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

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

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

See also:
Numerals: Dates and Time