

# The Numeral



In linguistics, *numerals* (number names) are specific words in a natural language that represent numbers.

In writing, numerals are symbols also representing numbers. In mathematics (including computing) there are other meanings and definitions of numbers, over the different stages of the history of science.



# The terms representing numbers can be classified according to their use:

- Cardinal numerals: describe quantity - one, two, three, etc.
- Ordinal numerals: describe position in a sequential order - first, second, third, etc.; the terms next and last may also be considered a kind of ordinals.
- Partitive numerals: describe division into fractions - half, third, quarter, etc.
- Multiplicative numerals: describe repetition - once, twice, thrice, etc.
- Collective numerals: describe groups or entities composed of several parts - single, double, triple, etc.
- Distributive numerals: describe dividing and assigning in portions - in pairs, by the dozen.



# Cardinal numerals

Cardinal numerals indicate exact number, they are used in counting.

They can be simple (1-12; 100; 1000), derivatives with the suffix **–teen** (thirteen, fourteen) or **–ty** (twenty, thirty), and composite 21-29, 31-39 etc. (twenty-two, thirty-five).



For numbers above a million, there are two different systems for naming numbers in English (for the use of suffixes such as kilo- for a thousand, mega- for a million, milli- for a thousandth, etc.):

- **the long scale** (decreasingly used in British English) designates a system of numeric names in which a thousand million is called a “billion” (but the latter usage is now rare), and “million” is used for a million million.
- **the short scale** (always used in American English and increasingly in British English) designates a system of numeric names in which a thousand million is called a “billion”, and the word “million” is not used.



**Ordinal numbers** are the words representing the rank of a number with respect to some order, in particular order or position (i.e. first, second, third, etc.). Its use may refer to size, importance, chronology, etc. They are *adjectives*.

Ordinal numbers are alternatively written in English with numerals and letter suffixes: 1st, 2nd or 2d, 3rd or 3d, 4th, 11th, 21st, 477th, etc. In some countries, written dates omit the suffix, although it is nevertheless pronounced. For example: 4 July 1776 (pronounced "the fourth of July... "); July 4, 1776, ("July fourth...").





Ordinal numbers refer to a position in a series.  
Common ordinals include:

|     |                                  |      |                      |      |            |
|-----|----------------------------------|------|----------------------|------|------------|
| 0th | zeroth or noughth<br>(see below) | 10th | tenth                |      |            |
| 1st | first                            | 11th | eleventh             |      |            |
| 2nd | second                           | 12th | twelfth ("v" -> "f") | 20th | twentieth  |
| 3rd | third                            | 13th | thirteenth           | 30th | thirtieth  |
| 4th | fourth                           | 14th | fourteenth           | 40th | fortieth   |
| 5th | fifth                            | 15th | fifteenth            | 50th | fiftieth   |
| 6th | sixth                            | 16th | sixteenth            | 60th | sixtieth   |
| 7th | seventh                          | 17th | seventeenth          | 70th | seventieth |
| 8th | eighth (only one "t")            | 18th | eighteenth           | 80th | eightieth  |
| 9th | ninth (no "e")                   | 19th | nineteenth           | 90th | ninetieth  |

Zeroth only has a meaning when counts start with zero, which happens in a mathematical or computer science context.

Ordinal numbers such as 21st, 33rd, etc., are formed by combining a cardinal ten with an ordinal unit.

|      |               |      |               |
|------|---------------|------|---------------|
| 21st | twenty-first  | 64th | sixty-fourth  |
| 25th | twenty-fifth  | 79th | seventy-ninth |
| 32nd | thirty-second | 83rd | eighty-third  |
| 58th | fifty-eighth  | 99th | ninety-ninth  |

Higher ordinals are not often written in words, unless they are round numbers (thousandth, millionth, billionth). They are written using digits and letters as described below. Here are some rules that should be borne in mind.

- The suffixes -th, -st, -nd and -rd are occasionally written superscript above the number itself.
- If the tens digit of a number is 1, then write "th" after the number. For example: 13th, 19th, 112th, 9,311th.
- If the tens digit is not equal to 1, then use the following table:

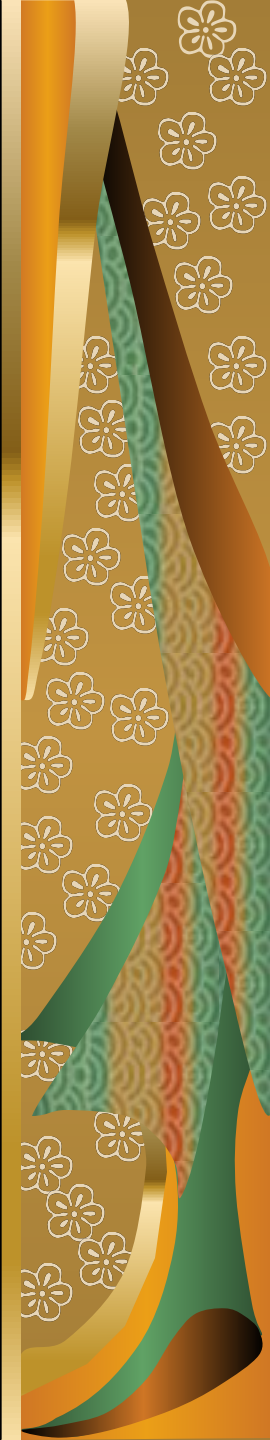
|                             |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| If the units digit is:      | 0  | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| write this after the number | th | st | nd | rd | th | th | th | th | th | th |





# Partitive numerals

In spoken English, ordinal numbers are also used to quantify the denominator of a fraction. Thus 'fifth' can mean the element between fourth and sixth, or the fraction created by dividing the unit into five pieces. In this usage, the ordinal numbers can be pluralized: one seventh, two sevenths. The sole exception to this rule is division by two. The ordinal term 'second' can only refer to location in a series; for fractions English speakers use the term 'half' (plural 'halves'):  $1/16$  - one-sixteenth.



# Dates

There are a number of ways to read years. The following table offers a list of valid pronunciations and alternate pronunciations for any given year of the Gregorian calendar.

| Year | Most common pronunciation method     | Alternative methods                                                                      |
|------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 BC | (The year) One BC                    | 1 Before Christ (BC)<br>1 before the Common era (BCE)                                    |
| 235  | Two thirty-five                      | Two-three-five<br>Two hundred (and) thirty-five                                          |
| 999  | Nine ninety-nine                     | Nine-nine-nine<br>Nine hundred (and) ninety-nine<br>Triple nine                          |
| 1000 | One thousand                         | Ten hundred<br>1K<br>Ten aught<br>Ten oh                                                 |
| 1050 | Ten fifty                            | One thousand (and) fifty                                                                 |
| 1901 | Nineteen oh-one                      | Nineteen hundred (and) one<br>One thousand, nine hundred (and) one<br>Nineteen aught one |
| 2001 | Two thousand (and) one               | Twenty oh-one<br>Twenty hundred (and) one<br>two double oh-one                           |
| 2010 | Two thousand (and) ten<br>Twenty ten | Twenty hundred (and) ten<br>two-oh-one-oh                                                |



# Negative numbers

The name of a negative number is the name of the corresponding positive number preceded by "minus" or (American English) "negative". Thus  $-5.2$  is "minus five point two" or "negative five point two". For temperatures, Americans colloquially say "below" —short for "below zero"— so a temperature of  $-5^{\circ}$  is "five below".



# Check yourself

Read the numeral and name its type

- 9.02.1997
- One by one
- $7 + 5 = 12$
- Twice
- $7 - 25 = -18$
- 22.06.1941
- I live in Tverskaya street 25, flat 69
- 121600 square miles
- Single



# Insert cardinal or ordinal numeral

- There are \_\_\_\_\_ months in a year.
- January is \_\_\_\_\_ month of the year.
- May is \_\_\_\_\_ month of the year.
- There are \_\_\_\_\_ months in winter.
- December is \_\_\_\_\_ month of the year and \_\_\_\_\_ month of winter.
- There are \_\_\_\_\_ days in a week: \_\_\_\_\_ one is Monday, \_\_\_\_\_ one is Tuesday, \_\_\_\_\_ one is Wednesday, \_\_\_\_\_ one is Thursday, \_\_\_\_\_ one is Friday, \_\_\_\_\_ one is Saturday and \_\_\_\_\_ one is Sunday.
- Sunday is \_\_\_\_\_ day of the week in England and \_\_\_\_\_ one in Russia.
- Monday is \_\_\_\_\_ day in Russia and \_\_\_\_\_ in Great Britain.
- There are \_\_\_\_\_ hours in a day, \_\_\_\_\_ minutes in an hour and \_\_\_\_\_ seconds in a minute.
- September, April, June and November have \_\_\_\_\_ days. All the rest have \_\_\_\_\_ except February.
- There are \_\_\_\_\_ days in February except the leap year. It's the time when February has \_\_\_\_\_ days.



The project was prepared by

