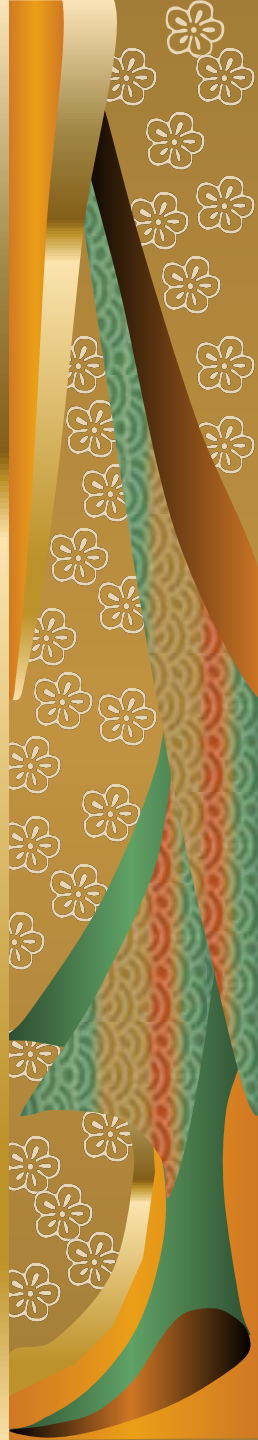
The Numeral 1

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.



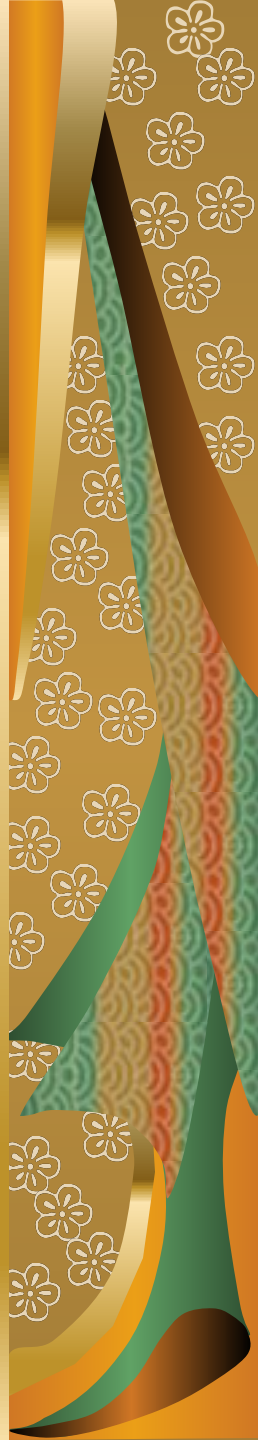
The terms representing numbers can be classified according to their use:

- *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 “milliard” (but the latter usage is now rare), and “billion” 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 “milliard” 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 (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

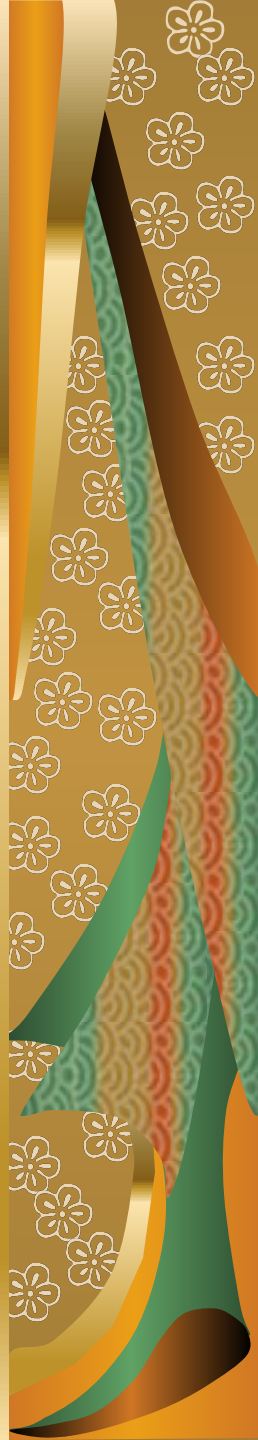
Higher ordinals are not often written in words, unless they are round numbers (thousandth, millionth, billionth). They are written using digits and letters as described below. Here are some rules that should be borne in mind.

- 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) 1 before the Common era (BCE)
235	Two thirty-five	Two-three-five Two hundred (and) thirty-five
999	Nine ninety-nine	Nine-nine-nine Nine hundred (and) ninety-nine Triple nine
1000	One thousand	Ten hundred 1K Ten aught Ten oh
1050	Ten fifty	One thousand (and) fifty
1901	Nineteen oh-one	Nineteen hundred (and) one One thousand, nine hundred (and) one Nineteen aught one
2001	Two thousand (and) one	Twenty oh-one Twenty hundred (and) one two double oh-one
2010	Two thousand (and) ten Twenty ten	Twenty hundred (and) ten two-oh-one-oh

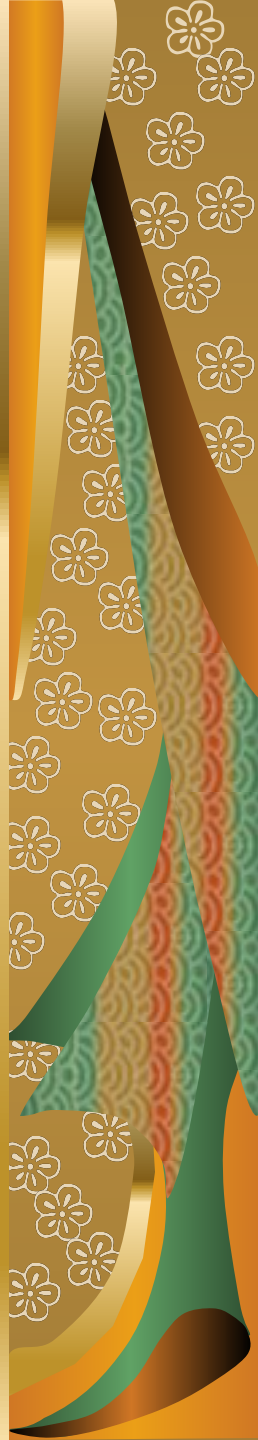
Negative numbers

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° is "five below".

Check yourself

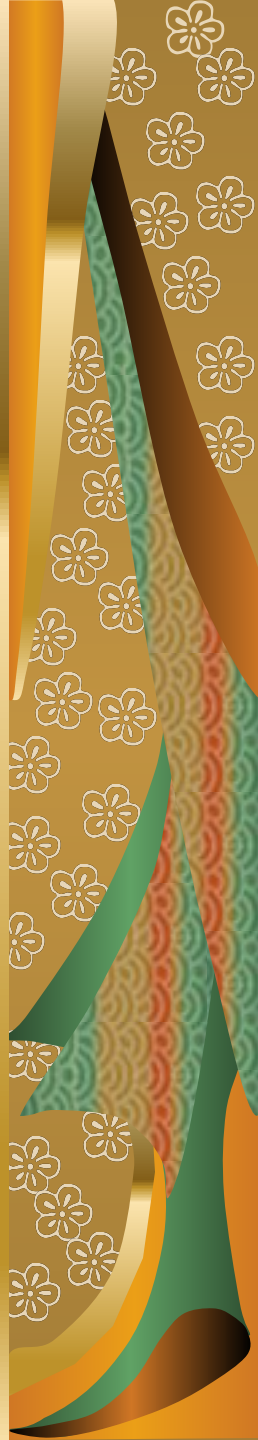
Read the numeral and name its type

- 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