

# 74 Numbers

Cardinal numbers are used for counting and saying how many of something there are. Ordinal numbers give the position of something in an ordered list.

See also:

Singular and plural nouns 69

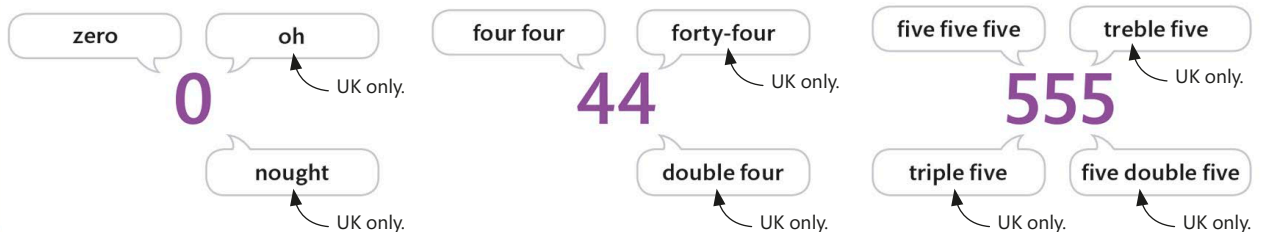
Quantity 75 Approximate quantity 76

## 74.1 CARDINAL NUMBERS

<b>1</b> one	<b>2</b> two	<b>3</b> three	<b>4</b> four	<b>5</b> five	<b>6</b> six
<b>7</b> seven	<b>8</b> eight	<b>9</b> nine	<b>10</b> ten	<b>11</b> eleven	<b>12</b> twelve
<b>13</b> thirteen	<b>14</b> fourteen	<b>15</b> fifteen	<b>16</b> sixteen	<b>17</b> seventeen	<b>18</b> eighteen
<b>19</b> nineteen	<b>20</b> twenty	<b>21</b> twenty-one	<b>22</b> twenty-two	<b>30</b> thirty	<b>40</b> forty
<b>50</b> fifty	<b>60</b> sixty	<b>70</b> seventy	<b>80</b> eighty	<b>90</b> ninety	<b>100</b> one hundred

## 74.2 SAYING NUMBERS

In US English, people say “zero” for the number “0,” whereas in UK English, other words for “0” are possible. When listing repeated numbers, for example part of a phone number, in US English each number is said individually. In UK English, other expressions are possible.



## 74.3 LARGE NUMBERS

You can say "one hundred" or "a hundred." Both are correct. Don't add "s" to "hundred," "thousand," or "million."

100 one hundred

100

a hundred

101 one hundred and one

101

200 two hundred

200

No "s" at the end.

1,000 one thousand

1,000

a thousand

1,200 one thousand, two hundred

1,200

3,000 three thousand

3,000

1,000,000 one million

1,000,000

a million

1,300,000 one million, three hundred thousand

1,300,000

40,000,000 forty million

40,000,000

Commas are used to separate long rows of figures.

## FURTHER EXAMPLES

In UK English, add "and" before the last two numbers to say numbers higher than one hundred. In US English, this is considered informal.

2,876

two thousand, eight hundred and seventy-six

"And" goes before "seventy-six."

54,041

fifty-four thousand and forty-one

100,922

one hundred thousand, nine hundred and twenty-two

296,308

two hundred and ninety-six thousand, three hundred and eight

Use commas to separate millions, thousands, and hundreds.

1,098,283

one million, ninety-eight thousand, two hundred and eighty-three

## 74.4 SIMILAR SOUNDING NUMBERS

It is important to stress the correct syllable in these numbers to avoid confusion.

Stress the last syllables.

13 thirteen

Stress the first syllables.

30 thirty

14 fourteen

40 forty

15 fifteen

50 fifty

16 sixteen

60 sixty

17 seventeen

70 seventy

18 eighteen

80 eighty

19 nineteen

90 ninety

## 74.5 ORDINAL NUMBERS

**1st**  
first

**2nd**  
second

**3rd**  
third

**4th**  
fourth

**5th**  
fifth

**6th**  
sixth

**7th**  
seventh

**8th**  
eighth

**9th**  
ninth

**10th**  
tenth

**11th**  
eleventh

**12th**  
twelfth

**13th**  
thirteenth

**14th**  
fourteenth

**15th**  
fifteenth

**16th**  
sixteenth

**17th**  
seventeenth

**18th**  
eighteenth

**19th**  
nineteenth

**20th**  
twentieth

**21st**  
twenty-first

**22nd**  
twenty-second

**30th**  
thirtieth

**40th**  
fortieth

**50th**  
fiftieth

**60th**  
sixtieth

**70th**  
seventieth

**80th**  
eightieth

**90th**  
ninetieth

**100th**  
one-hundredth

## 74.6 DATES

In the US, people often describe dates by writing cardinal numbers and saying ordinal numbers.

In the UK, people use ordinal numbers to write and say dates.

In US English, the number is written after the month.

May eighteenth

His birthday is on

May 18 (US)

May the 18th (UK)

the 18th of May (UK)

May the eighteenth

the eighteenth of May



## 74.7 FRACTIONS

You might see fractions written out as words. Aside from “half” ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) and “quarter” ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ), the bottom number of a fraction is written or spoken as an ordinal number.

$\frac{1}{4}$

a quarter

Use ordinal numbers for the bottom of a fraction.

$\frac{1}{3}$

a third

$\frac{1}{2}$

a half

Use cardinal numbers for the top of a fraction.

$\frac{3}{5}$

three fifths

Use “and” to link a whole number and a fraction.

$1\frac{1}{2}$

one and a half

## 74.8 DECIMALS

Decimals are always written as numbers, not words. The decimal point is spoken as “point,” and all numbers after the decimal point are spoken separately.

There are three ways of saying decimals that begin with 0.

point five

0.5

nought point five

UK only.

zero point five

1.7

one point seven

3.97

three point nine seven

This is not said as “three point ninety-seven.”

Decimal points are written in English using a period, or full stop.

## 74.9 PERCENTAGES

The % symbol is written and spoken as “percent.” “Per cent” is also sometimes written in UK English. Percentages are normally written as numbers, not words.

1%

one percent

99%

ninety-nine percent

55.5%

fifty-five point five percent

12%

twelve per cent

70%

seventy per cent

100%

one hundred per cent