



NUMBERS

Cardinal numbers

A Cardinal Number is used to count. It answers the question "How many?"

	British English	American English
545	Five hundred and forty-five	Five hundred forty-five
1,000,000,000	A milliard	A billion

Ordinal Numbers

They are used to position something in a list (1st, 2nd, 3rd, ...); for centuries (20th century); for kings and queens (Henry VIII, pronounced Henry the Eighth); for dates (She was born on the 15th of February).

They are formed by adding a "th" to the end of a cardinal number, with a few exceptions (1st, 2nd, 3rd) and a few spelling abnormalities (fifth, ninth, twentieth, ...).

Plural

There is no final "s" after dozen, hundred, thousand, million, and billion, except when these words are followed by the preposition "of" and a noun: *two dozen eggs* but *hundreds of spectators*.

Collective nouns such as *total*, *couple*, *number* and *majority* can be singular or plural. It depends on whether the noun refers to a single entity or to plural items and, often, on whether the noun is preceded by *a* or *the*. When preceded by *a*, these nouns are usually treated as plural. When preceded by *the*, they refer to a single entity and are singular: *a majority of followers agree with him* but *the majority of followers agrees with him*.

How to write and say the date

Days of the week and months of the year are capitalized: Friday, May, ...

A date is not written and spoken the same way on either side of the pond, and it makes a difference!

12/09/2019	Written	Spoken
British English	12 th September 2019	The twelfth of September, twenty nineteen
American English	December 9 th 2019	December ninth, twenty nineteen

Use the preposition "in" with the year and the month, use "on" with the complete date: *it happened in 1995, ... in August, ... on 12th August, 1995*.

How to say a phone number

In English, each number is pronounced individually.

The number 0 can be pronounced like the letter "O", or "zero".

If the same number appears consecutively, you can group them after "double" or "triple".

06 33 56 78 88: Oh - six - double three - five - six - seven - triple eight.

