

36 Numerals, dates, and weights and measures

348 Cardinal numbers (adjectives and pronouns)

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 <i>one</i> | 11 <i>eleven</i> | 21 <i>twenty-one</i> | 31 <i>thirty-one etc.</i> |
| 2 <i>two</i> | 12 <i>twelve</i> | 22 <i>twenty-two</i> | 40 <i>forty</i> |
| 3 <i>three</i> | 13 <i>thirteen</i> | 23 <i>twenty-three</i> | 50 <i>fifty</i> |
| 4 <i>four</i> | 14 <i>fourteen</i> | 24 <i>twenty-four</i> | 60 <i>sixty</i> |
| 5 <i>five</i> | 15 <i>fifteen</i> | 25 <i>twenty-five</i> | 70 <i>seventy</i> |
| 6 <i>six</i> | 16 <i>sixteen</i> | 26 <i>twenty-six</i> | 80 <i>eighty</i> |
| 7 <i>seven</i> | 17 <i>seventeen</i> | 27 <i>twenty-seven</i> | 90 <i>ninety</i> |
| 8 <i>eight</i> | 18 <i>eighteen</i> | 28 <i>twenty-eight</i> | 100 <i>a hundred</i> |
| 9 <i>nine</i> | 19 <i>nineteen</i> | 29 <i>twenty-nine</i> | 1,000 <i>a thousand</i> |
| 10 <i>ten</i> | 20 <i>twenty</i> | 30 <i>thirty</i> | 1,000,000 <i>a million</i> |
| 400 <i>four hundred</i> | 140 <i>a/one hundred and forty</i> | 1,006 <i>a/one thousand and six</i> | |
| 5,000 <i>five thousand</i> | 260,127 <i>two hundred and sixty thousand, one hundred and twenty-seven</i> | | |

349 Points to notice about cardinal numbers

A When writing in words, or reading, a number composed of three or more figures we place **and** before the word denoting tens or units:

713 *seven hundred and thirteen*

5,102 *five thousand, one hundred and two but*

6,100 *six thousand, one hundred (no tens or units) and is used similarly with hundreds of thousands:*

320,410 *three hundred and twenty thousand, four hundred and ten and hundreds of millions:*

303.000,000 *three hundred and three million*

B **a** is more usual than **one** before **hundred, thousand, million etc.**, when these numbers stand alone or begin an expression:

100 *a hundred* 1,000 *a thousand*

100,000 *a hundred thousand*

We can also say **a hundred and one, a hundred and two etc. up to a hundred and ninety-nine** and **a thousand and one etc. up to a thousand and ninety-nine**. Otherwise we use **one**, not **a** (see above). So:

1,040 *a/one thousand and forty but*

1,140 *one thousand, one hundred and forty*

C The words **hundred, thousand, million and dozen**, when used of a definite number, are never made plural:

six hundred men ten thousand pounds two dozen eggs If however, these words are used loosely, merely to convey the idea of a large number, they must be made plural:

hundreds of people thousands of birds dozens of times Note also that in this case the preposition **of** is placed after hundreds, thousands etc.

of is not used with definite numbers except before **the/them/ these/those or possessives**:

so: *of the blue ones ten of these four of Tom's brothers*

D Numbers composed of four or more figures are divided into groups of three as shown above. Decimals are indicated by **'.'**, which is read 'point':

10.92 ten point nine two

A zero after a decimal point is usually read **'nought'**:

8.04 eight point nought four

But **'o'** and **'zero'** would also be possible.

350 Ordinal numbers (adjectives and pronouns)

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>first</i> | <i>eleventh</i> | <i>twenty-first</i> | <i>thirty-first etc.</i> |
| <i>second</i> | <i>twelfth</i> | <i>twenty-second</i> | <i>fortieth</i> |
| <i>third</i> | <i>thirteenth</i> | <i>twenty-third</i> | <i>fiftieth</i> |
| <i>fourth</i> | <i>fourteenth</i> | <i>twenty-fourth</i> | <i>sixtieth</i> |

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <i>fifth</i> | <i>fifteenth</i> | <i>twenty-fifth</i> | <i>seventieth</i> |
| <i>sixth</i> | <i>sixteenth</i> | <i>twenty-sixth</i> | <i>eightieth</i> |
| <i>seventh</i> | <i>seventeenth</i> | <i>twenty-seventh</i> | <i>ninetieth</i> |
| <i>eighth</i> | <i>eighteenth</i> | <i>twenty-eighth</i> | <i>hundredth</i> |
| <i>ninth</i> | <i>nineteenth</i> | <i>twenty-ninth</i> | <i>thousandth</i> |
| <i>tenth</i> | <i>twentieth</i> | <i>thirtieth</i> | <i>millionth</i> |

When writing in words or reading fractions other than $\frac{1}{2}$ (a half) and $\frac{1}{4}$ (a quarter), we use a combination of cardinal and ordinal numbers:

$\frac{1}{5}$ *a/one fifth* $\frac{1}{10}$ *a/one tenth* (*a* is more usual than *one*)

$\frac{3}{5}$ *three fifths* $\frac{7}{10}$ *seven tenths*

A whole number + a fraction can be followed directly by a plural noun:

$2\frac{1}{4}$ miles == *two and a quarter miles*

$\frac{1}{2}$ (*half*) can be followed directly by a noun but other fractions require **of** before a noun:

half a second but a quarter of a second (See also 2 E.)

half + **of** can also be used, but the **of** is optional:

Half (of) my earnings go in tax.

351 Points to notice about ordinal numbers

A Notice the irregular spelling of *fifth*, *eighth*, *ninth* and *twelfth*.

B When ordinal numbers are expressed in figures the last two letters of the written word must be added (except in dates):

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <i>first</i> = 1 st | <i>twenty-first</i> = 21 st |
| <i>second</i> = 2 nd | <i>forty-second</i> = 42 nd |
| <i>third</i> = 3 rd | <i>sixty-third</i> = 63 rd |
| <i>fourth</i> = 4 th | <i>eightieth</i> = 80 th |

C In compound ordinal numbers the rule about **and** is the same as for compound cardinal numbers: 101st = the hundred and first.

The article **the** normally precedes ordinal numbers:

the sixtieth day *the fortieth visitor*

Titles of kings etc. are written in Roman figures:

Charles V James III Elizabeth II

But in spoken English we use the ordinal numbers preceded by the:

Charles the Fifth *James the Third* *Elizabeth the Second*

352 Dates

The days of the week

The months of the year

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Sunday (Sun.) | January (Jan.) | July |
| Monday (Mon.) | February (Feb.) | August (Aug.) |
| Tuesday (Tues.) | March (Mar.) | September (Sept.) |
| Wednesday (Wed.) | April (Apr.) | October (Oct.) |
| Thursday (Thurs.) | May | November (Nov.) |
| Friday (Fri.) | June | December (Dec.) |
| Saturday (Sat.) | | |

Days and months are always written with capital letters. Dates are expressed by ordinal numbers, so when speaking we say:

March the tenth, July the fourteenth etc. or the tenth of March etc.

They can, however, be written in a variety of ways; e.g. *March the tenth* could be written:

March 10 *10 March* *10th of March*
March 10th *10th March* *March the 10th*

B The year

When reading or speaking we use the term **hundred** but not **thousand**. The year 1987 would be read as *nineteen hundred and eighty-seven* or *nineteen eighty-seven*.

Years before the Christian era are followed by the letters BC (= Before Christ) and years dating from the Christian era are occasionally preceded by the letters AD (= Anno Domini, in

the year of the Lord). The former are read in either way: *1500 BC* would be read as *one thousand five hundred BC* or *fifteen hundred BC*.

353 Weights, length and liquid measure

A Weights

The English weights table is as follows:

16 ounces (oz.) = 1 pound (lb.)

14 Rounds = 1 stow (st.)

8 stone = 1 hundredweight (cwt.)

20 hundredweight = 1 ton

1 pound = 0.454 kilogram (kg) 2.2 pounds = 1 kilogram 2.204-6 tbs = 1

metric tonne

Plurals

ounce, pound and ton can take a in the plural when they are used as

nouns, stone and hundredweight do not take s: e.g. we say six

Round of sugar or six pounds of sugar, but ten hundredweight of coal has no alternative.

When used in compound adjectives these terms never take a:

a ten-ton lorry kilo or kilogram usually take s in the plural when used as nouns:

two kilos of apples or two kilograms of apples

B Length

The English table of length is as follows:

12 inches (in.) = 1 foot (ft.)

3 feet = 1 yard (yd.)

1,760 yards = 1 mile (m.)

1 inch = 2.54 centimetres (cm)

1 yard = 0.914 metre (m)

1 mile = 1.609 kilometres (km)

Plurals

When there is more than one inch/mile/centimetre we normally use the plural form of these words:

one inch, ten inches one mile, four miles

one centimetre, five centimetres

When there is more than one foot we can use either foot or feet. feet is the more usual when measuring heights. We can say;

six foot tall or six feet tall two foot long or two feet long When used in compound adjectives the above forms never take the plural form: a two-mile walk, a six-inch ruler.

C Liquid measure

2 pints (Pt.) = 1 quart (qt.)

1 pint = 0.568 litre (l)

4 quarts = 1 gallon (gal.)

1 gallon = 4.55 litres

D Traditionally British measurements have been made in ounces, inches, pints etc. but there is now a gradual move towards the metric system.