

UNIVERSITY OF DIYALA
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
TECHNICAL ENGLISH
Asst.prof. : Sawsan A. Qassim

NUMBERS IN ENGLISH

The cardinal numbers (one, two, three, etc.) are adjectives referring to quantity, and the ordinal numbers (first, second, third, etc.) refer to distribution.

Number	Cardinal	Ordinal
١	one	first
٢	two	second
٣	three	third
٤	four	fourth
٥	five	fifth
٦	six	sixth
٧	seven	seventh
٨	eight	eighth
٩	nine	ninth
١٠	ten	tenth
١١	eleven	eleventh
١٢	twelve	twelfth
١٣	thirteen	thirteenth
١٤	fourteen	fourteenth
١٥	fifteen	fifteenth

16	sixteen	sixteenth
17	seventeen	seventeenth
18	eighteen	eighteenth
19	nineteen	nineteenth
20	twenty	twentieth
21	twenty-one	twenty-first
22	twenty-two	twenty-second
23	twenty-three	twenty-third
24	twenty-four	twenty-fourth
25	twenty-five	twenty-fifth
26	twenty-six	twenty-sixth
27	twenty-seven	twenty-seventh
28	twenty-eight	twenty-eighth
29	twenty-nine	twenty-ninth
30	thirty	thirtieth
31	thirty-one	thirty-first
40	forty	fortieth
50	fifty	fiftieth
60	sixty	sixtieth
70	seventy	seventieth
80	eighty	eightieth
90	ninety	ninetieth
100	one hundred	hundredth

๕๐๐ five hundred five hundredth

๑,๐๐๐ one thousand thousandth

๑,๕๐๐ one thousand five hundred, or fifteen hundred one thousand five hundredth

๑๐๐,๐๐๐ one hundred thousand hundred thousandth

๑,๐๐๐,๐๐๐ one million millionth

EXAMPLES

There are twenty-five people in the room.

He was the fourteenth person to win the award.

Six hundred thousand people were left homeless after the earthquake.

I must have asked you twenty times to be quiet.

He went to Israel for the third time this year.

READING DECIMALS

Read decimals aloud in English by pronouncing the decimal point as "point", then read each digit individually. Money is not read this way.

Written Said

๐.๕ point five

๐.๒๕ point two five

๐.๗๓

point seven three

๐.๑๕

point zero five

0.6029

point six five two nine

2.90

two point nine five

READING FRACTIONS

Read fractions using the cardinal number for the numerator and the ordinal number for the denominator, making the ordinal number plural if the numerator is larger than 1. This applies to all numbers except for the number 2, which is read "half" when it is the denominator, and "halves" if there is more than one.

Written	Said
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1/3	one third
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3/4	three fourths
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5/6	five sixths
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1/2	one half
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3/2	three halves
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PRONOUNCING PERCENTAGES

Percentages are easy to read aloud in English. Just say the number and then add the word "percent."

Written	Pronounced
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%⁵ five percent

%²⁵ twenty-five percent

%^{36.25} thirty-six point two five percent

%¹⁰⁰ one hundred percent

%⁴⁰⁰ four hundred percent

READING SUMS OF MONEY

To read a sum of money, first read the whole number, then add the currency name. If there is a decimal, follow with the decimal pronounced as a whole number, and if coinage has a name in the currency, add that word at the end. Note that normal decimals are not read in this way. These rules only apply to currency.

Written Spoken

\$²⁵ twenty-five dollars

€⁵² fifty-two euros

£¹⁴⁰ one hundred and forty pounds

\$^{43.25} forty-three dollars and twenty-five cents (shortened to "forty-three twenty-five" in everyday speech)

€^{12.66} twelve euros sixty-six

£^{10.50} ten pounds fifty

PRONOUNCING MEASUREMENTS

Just read out the number, followed by the unit of measurement, which will often be abbreviated in the written form.

Written Spoken

60m sixty meters

25 km/h twenty-five kilometers per hour

11 ft eleven feet

2 L two liters

3 tbsp three tablespoons

1 tsp one teaspoon

PRONOUNCING YEARS

Reading years in English is relatively complicated. In general, when the year is a four digit number, read the first two digits as a whole number, then the second two digits as another whole number. There are a few exceptions to this rule. Years that are within the first 100 years of a new millenium can be read as whole numbers even though they have four digits, or they can be read as two two-digit numbers. Millennia are always read as whole numbers because they would be difficult to pronounce otherwise. New centuries are read as whole numbers of hundreds. We do not use the word "thousand", at least not for reading years within the past 1000 years.

Years that have just three digits can be read as a three digit number, or as a one digit number followed by a two-digit number. Years that are a two digit number are read as a whole number. You can precede any year by the words "the year" to make your meaning clear, and this is common for two and three digit years. Years before the year 0 are followed by BC, pronounced as two letters of the alphabet.

Interestingly, these rules apply to reading street addresses as well.

Written Spoken

2014 twenty fourteen or two thousand fourteen

٢٠٠٨ two thousand eight

٢٠٠٠ two thousand

١٩٤٤ nineteen forty-four

١٩٠٨ nineteen o eight

١٩٠٠ nineteen hundred

١٦٠٠ sixteen hundred

١٢٥٦ twelve fifty-six

١٠٠٦ ten o six

٨٦٦ eight hundred sixty-six or eight sixty-six

٢٥ twenty-five

٣٠٠٠ BC three thousand BC

٣٢٥٠ BC thirty two fifty BC

HOW TO SAY 0

There are several ways to pronounce the number 0, used in different contexts. Unfortunately, usage varies between different English-speaking countries. These pronunciations apply to American English.

Pronunciation	Usage
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zero	Used to read the number by itself, in reading decimals, percentages, and phone numbers, and in some fixed expressions.
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o (the letter name)	Used to read years, addresses, times and temperatures
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nil	Used to report sports scores
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nought	Not used in the USA
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EXAMPLES

Written Said

0.06=2.02+3.04 Three point zero four plus two point zero two makes five point zero six.

There is a 0% chance of rain. There is a zero percent chance of rain.

The temperature is -20°C. The temperature is twenty degrees below zero.

You can reach me at 0171 390 1062. You can reach me at zero one seven one, three nine zero, one zero six two

I live at 4604 Smith Street. I live at forty-six o four Smith Street

He became king in 1409. He became king in fourteen o nine.

I waited until 4:05. I waited until four o five.

The score was 4-0. The score was four nil.