



# Numbers and Symbols in English

# Material to Review

Big Numbers

Prices

Decimals

Ordinal Numbers

Fractions

Time



# Big Numbers

There were about **120,000** people at the concert. It was massive!

We produce **342,876,288** cans of food every year.

I can't leave until I've beaten her score of **12,073**. I'm going to be here all night.



# Big Numbers Rules

## 1. **Break** big numbers up **into pieces**!

The commas show you how to break the number up. So say the numbers between the commas and add “billion,” “million,” “thousand,” etc. afterwards.

## 2. Don't make “one hundred,” “one thousand,” etc., plural!

When we're saying a big number, the numbers are not pluralised:

Don't say:

4,000 — “four thousands”

Say:

4,000 — “four thousand”



# Big Numbers Rules Cont.

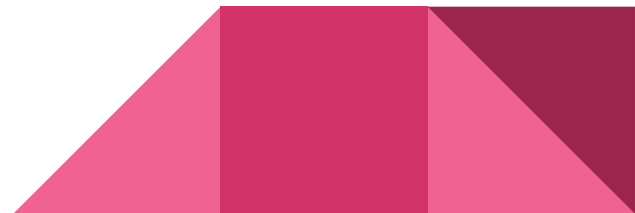
4. “One hundred” or “a hundred” — it doesn’t really matter

With the following numbers, you have freedom of choice:

100 = “one hundred” or “a hundred”

1,000 = “one thousand” or “a thousand”

1,000,000 = “one million” or “a million”



# Symbols in English

- +** “plus sign/addition sign”
- “minus sign/subtraction sign”
- /** “division sign”
- x** “times/multiplication sign”
- =** “equals sign”

- %** “percent sign”
- <** “less than”
- >** “greater than”
- .** “point” or a decimal separator
- ,** thousands separator



# Prices

Look at these sentences. How would you say them?

“That one only costs **\$1.89**! Let’s get it!”

“They really wanted to sell the house for **\$200,000**. In the end, they had to accept half of that.”

“Wow! That only costs **\$0.99**? That’s cheap!”



# Price Rules

1. Word order of prices:
  - a. First number, Currency, Second Number (Cents is optional)
    - i. Ex. Five dollars and 99 cents = \$5.99
  - b. Currency is not often mentioned
    - i. Ex. five ninety-nine=\$5.99



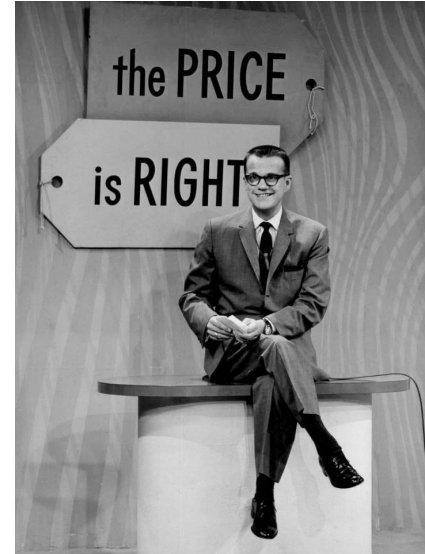


# The Price is Right!

<https://youtu.be/XFUrCBXRH8o>

How to play:

- ❖ Get into teams.
- ❖ Will display an object and ask you to guess its correct price. Write this number down.
- ❖ Once all teams write a price, show the paper and read the number aloud for the rest of the class.
- ❖ Team that is closest to the actual price receives a point.



# How much does this item cost?



**Apple Macbook Pro Laptop**

**1,619.00 euros**

How much does this item cost?



**Gucci Mini-Purse**

1,900.00 euros

How much does this item cost?



© timacora

**2023 4-Door Jeep Wrangler**

74,977.00 euros

How much does this item cost?



**Private Jet**



9.9 million euros

How much does this item cost?



**Two Nights at a Luxury Hotel in  
Hawaii**

1,740 euros

# Decimals

## How would you say?...

According to my calculations, the answer is  
**6.6666666666666666666666666666 ...**

Yes, we must angle the mirror at precisely **45.665°** for accurate calculations.



# Decimals

## Correct Answers

$45.665^\circ$  = “forty-five point six six five degrees”

$66.6666666666...$  = “sixty-six point six recurring”



# Decimals Rules

1. Say “**point**” in decimal numbers

Say “point” and not “dot” or “full stop.”

2. After “point,” say the numbers one by one

After the point, we just say the numbers one by one (“six six five”).



# Decimals Rules

3. When numbers repeat forever, just say “recurring”

When you have the number 6 repeating itself forever, say it once and add “recurring.”

Sometimes, more than one number repeats itself over and over, like this:

12.131313131313 ...

In this case, just say the pair of numbers that repeat themselves and add “recurring.”

12.131313131313 ... = “twelve point one three recurring”



# Ordinal Numbers

Ordinal numbers: first, second, third ...

Shall we move the meeting to the **5th**?

He came in **1st**. Again! The man's a machine!

You are currently **256th** in the queue. Your call is important to us.  
Please hold.





# Ordinal Numbers Rules

1. Use “-th” for ordinal numbers **after** 1st, 2nd and 3rd

It's the same for small and big numbers:

This is the **fifth** computer he's bought this year.

You're the **ninety-ninth** person to ask me that today.

If you're making 1, 2 or 3 ordinal, remember that they're different:

1st → “first”

2nd → “second”

3rd → “third”

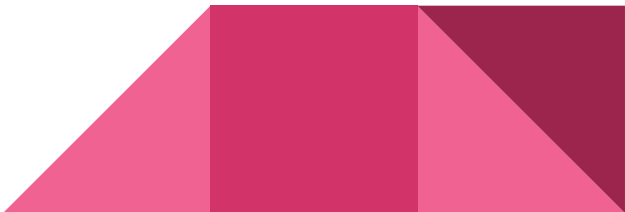


# Fractions

How do you say these sentences?

The meeting should have just been **1 ½** hours, but because Eduardo wouldn't stop talking, it went on for over **2 ½** hours. I was late for my other meeting.

I do not want all of it - can you just give me  $\frac{1}{6}$  of the pizza? No, actually I will take  $\frac{1}{3}$  of it.



# Fractions

Correct Answers:

$1 \frac{1}{2}$  hours = “one and a half hours” or “an hour and a half”

$2 \frac{1}{2}$  = “two and a half hours”

$\frac{1}{6}$  = “one-sixth” or “a sixth”

$\frac{1}{3}$  = “one-third” or “a third”



# Fraction Rules

1. Ordinal Number on the bottom
2. Make the bottom number plural if the top number is 2 or higher ( $\frac{2}{3}$  = “two thirds”)
3. Say “quarter” not “fourth” and “half” not “second” ( $\frac{1}{2}$  = one half,  $\frac{3}{2}$  = three halves)



# Time

Time in the United States is typically not written in 24-hour (military time).

The movie starts at **7:00**. Don't be late!

The plane leaves at **5:43 PM**. Then the adventure begins!

The next train leaving platform 4 will depart at **3:00 PM**.

Shall we meet at around **6:30 tonight**?

You're late! It's **08:03**.



# Time

19:00 (7:00) = “seven” or “seven p.m.” or maybe “seven o’clock”

17:43 (5:43) = “seventeen forty-three” or “five forty-three”

15:00 (3:00) = “fifteen hundred” or “three o’clock”

18:30 (6:30) = “eighteen thirty” or “six thirty” or “half-past six”

08:03 = “eight oh-three” or “three (minutes) past eight”



# Time Rules

1. When speaking informally, don't use 24-hour time. And when you use 24-hour time, never use "o'clock" or "half past" or "5 to." We just say the numbers:

That means we don't say "nineteen o'clock." Instead, say "seven o'clock."

How do you know whether it's morning or evening?"

If you like, you can say "p.m." or "a.m." to clarify. But usually, the context is clear enough.



## Time Rules Cont.

3. There are two ways of saying “half past something”

You can say “06:30” in two different ways:

“It’s half past 6.” (half past + number)

“It’s 6 thirty.” (number + thirty)

But you can never say “it’s half past 6 o’clock.”





# Time Rules Cont.

## 4. Use “oh”

If you have to express a time like this (3:03), instead of saying “zero,” just say “oh.”

3:03 = “three oh-three”

1:08 = “one oh-eight”

