91 Numbers

A Cardinal numbers

379 = three **hundred** and seventy nine
5,084 = five thousand and eighty-four
2,550,000 = two **million**, five hundred and fifty thousand
3,000,000,000 = three **billion**
2,860 = two **thousand** eight hundred and sixty
470,000 = four hundred and seventy thousand

Note: There is no plural 's' after hundred, thousand, million and billion when they are part of a number. On their own, they can be plural, e.g. **thousands** of people; **millions** of insects.

B Ordinal numbers and dates

One of the problems with dates is that we write them and say them in a different way:

We write **4 January** (or 4th January), but say **the fourth of January** *or* **January the fourth.**
We write **21 May** (or 21st May), but say **the twenty-first of May** *or* **May the twenty-first.**
1997 = **nineteen ninety seven**
1905 = **nineteen hundred and five** *or* **nineteen oh five**

C Fractions and decimals

$1\frac{1}{4}$ = one and **a quarter**
$1\frac{1}{2}$ = one and **a half**
$1\frac{3}{4}$ = one and **three quarters**
$1\frac{1}{3}$ = one and **a third**
1.25 = one **point** two five
1.5 = one point five
1.75 = one point seven five
1.33 = one point three three

D Percentages

26% = twenty-six **per cent**
More than 50% is the **majority**; less than 50% is the **minority**.

E Arithmetic

There are four basic processes for **working out** (= calculating) a problem:

+ = **addition** e.g. 6 + 4 = 10 (six **plus/and** four **equals/is** ten)
− = **subtraction** e.g. 6 − 4 = 2 (six **minus** four equals/is two)
× = **multiplication** e.g. 6 × 4 = 24 (six **times / multiplied by** four equals/is twenty-four)
÷ = **division** e.g. 4 ÷ 2 = 2 (four **divided by** two equals/is two)

F Saying '0'

This can be spoken in different ways in different contexts.

telephone number: 603 724 = six **oh** three, seven two four (AmEng = six **zero** three)
mathematics: 0.7 = **nought** point seven, 6.02 = six point oh two
temperature: −10 degrees = ten degrees below **zero** / minus ten degrees
football: 2–0 = two **nil** tennis: 40–0 = forty **love**

G Talking numbers

Here are several useful words and expressions connected with numbers:

The streets have got **odd** numbers (e.g. 3, 5, 7) on the left and **even** numbers (e.g. 4, 6, 8) on the right.
I got 16 **out** of 20 in our last test. 16/20

Exercises

91.1 **How do you say these numbers in English? Write your answers after each one.**

1 462 .....
2 $2^1/_2$ .....
3 2,345 .....
4 6.75 .....
5 0.25 .....
6 $3^1/_3$ .....
7 1,250,000 .....
8 10.04 .....
9 47% .....
10 10 September .....
11 3 July .....
12 602 8477 (phone number) .....
13 −5 centigrade .....
14 In 1903 .....
15 In 1876 .....

Now practise saying them. If possible, record yourself saying them and then record a native speaker of English saying them or someone from your country who speaks English very well. Listen to both. How do you sound?

91.2 **Correct the mistakes in these sentences.**

1 After the game I heard the crowd was over twenty thousands.
2 We arrived on the ten September.
3 There were two hundred twenty altogether.
4 I got twenty-five from forty in my test.
5 My birthday is thirty-one August.
6 My phone number is seven twenty three, six nought nine.

91.3 **Write answers to these problems.**

1 23 and 36 is .....
2 24 times 8 is .....
3 80 minus 20 is .....
4 65 divided by 13 is .....
5 Add 10 and 6, multiply by 8, then subtract 40 and divide by 11. What have you got left?
6 Divide 33 by 11, multiply by 7, add 10, and subtract 16. What number is left?

91.4 **Answer these questions. Write your answers in words.**

1 When were you born?
2 How much do you weigh?
3 What is the number of the flat or house where you live?
4 Is that an odd or an even number?
5 What is the approximate population of your town?
6 What is the approximate population of your country?
7 What is the normal temperature of a healthy person?
8 How many kilometres are there in a mile?