

Roman Numerals

We may use [Cookies](#) [OK](#)

Ancient Romans used a special method of showing numbers

Examples: They wrote **V** instead of **5**
And wrote **IX** instead of **9**

Read on to learn about Roman Numerals or go straight to the [Roman Numeral Conversion Tool](#).

The Roman Symbols

Roman Numerals are based on the following symbols:

1	5	10	50	100	500	1000
I	V	X	L	C	D	M

Basic Combinations

Which can be combined like this:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX

10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
X	XX	XXX	XL	L	LX	LXX	LXXX	XC

100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900
C	CC	CCC	CD	D	DC	DCC	DCCC	CM

Forming Numbers - The Rules

When a symbol appears **after a larger** (or equal) symbol it is **added**

- Example: $VI = V + I = 5 + 1 = 6$
- Example: $LXX = L + X + X = 50 + 10 + 10 = 70$

But if the symbol appears **before a larger** symbol it is **subtracted**

- Example: $IV = V - I = 5 - 1 = 4$
- Example: $IX = X - I = 10 - 1 = 9$

To Remember: **A**fter **L**arger is **A**dded

Don't use the same symbol more than three times in a row (but IIII is sometimes used for 4, particularly on clocks)

How to Convert to Roman Numerals

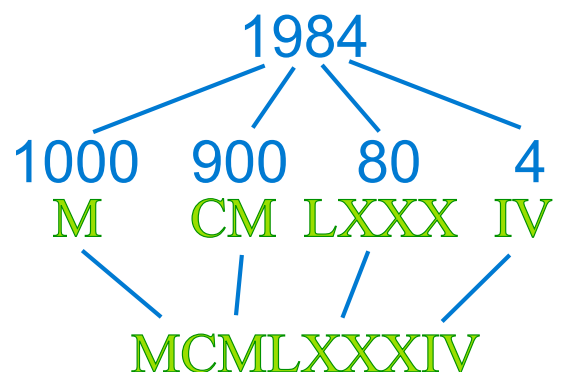
Break the number into Thousands, Hundreds, Tens and Ones, and write down each in turn.

Example: Convert 1984 to Roman Numerals.

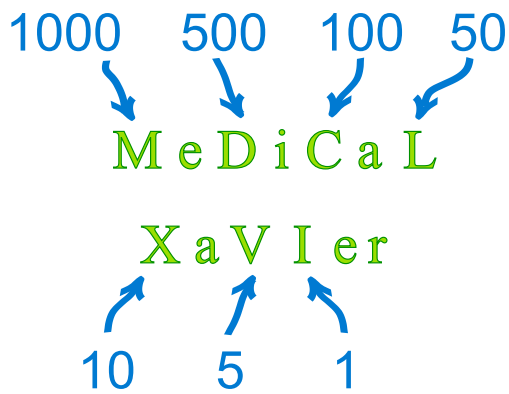
Break 1984 into 1000, 900, 80 and 4, then do each conversion

- 1000 = M
- 900 = CM
- 80 = LXXX
- 4 = IV

$1000 + 900 + 80 + 4 = 1984$, so **1984 = MCMLXXXIV**



HOW TO REMEMBER



Think "MeDiCaL XaVier".

It has the roman numerals in descending order from 1000 to 1.

I, for one, like Roman numerals!

Really Big Numbers

Numbers greater than 1.000 are formed by placing a dash over the symbol, meaning "times 1.000", but these are not commonly used:

5.000	10.000	50.000	100.000	500.000	1.000.000
\bar{V}	\bar{X}	\bar{L}	\bar{C}	\bar{D}	\bar{M}

Conversion Tool

You can convert to/from Roman Numerals here:

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[Question 1](#)
[Question 2](#)
[Question 3](#)
[Question 4](#)
[Question 5](#)
[Question 6](#)
[Question 7](#)
[Question 8](#)
[Question 9](#)
[Question 10](#)

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