

= one million , 10⁹ =

EITHER one billion (short scale) OR one milliard / thousand million (long scale) , 10¹² = EITHER one trillion (short scale) OR one billion (long scale) , etc .

== Using neither ==

The following countries use naming systems for large numbers that are not etymologically related to the short and long scales :

Presence on most continents

The long and short scales are both present on most continents , with usage dependent on the language used . Examples include :

==== Short scale ====

==== Long scale ====

==== Both long and short scale ====

==== Neither long nor short scale ====

= Alternative approaches =

Unambiguous ways of identifying large numbers include :

In written communications , the simplest solution for moderately large numbers is to write the full amount , for example 1 @, @ 000 @, @ 000 @, @ 000 @, @ 000 rather than , say , 1 trillion (short scale) or 1 billion (long scale) .

Combinations of the unambiguous word million , for example : 10⁹

= " one thousand million " ; 10¹² =

" one million million " . This becomes rather unwieldy for numbers above 10¹² .

Combination of numbers of more than 3 digits with the unambiguous word million , for example 13 @, @ 600 million

Scientific notation (also known as standard form or exponential notation , for example 1 × 10⁹ , 1 × 10¹⁰ , 1 × 10¹¹ , 1 × 10¹² , etc .) , or its engineering notation variant (for example 1 × 10⁹ , 10 × 10⁹ , 100 × 10⁹ , 1 × 10¹² , etc .) , or the computing variant E notation (for example 1e9 , 1e10 , 1e11 , 1e12 , etc .) This is the most common practice among scientists and mathematicians , and is both unambiguous and convenient .

SI prefixes in combination with SI units , for example , giga for 10⁹ and tera for 10¹² can give gigawatt (= 10⁹ W) and terawatt (= 10¹² W) , respectively . The International System of Units (SI) is independent of whichever scale is being used . Use with non @-@ SI units (e.g. " giga @-@ dollars " , " giga @-@ miles ") is uncommon although " megabucks " is in informal use representing a large sum of money rather than exactly a million dollars .