

Saying large numbers

We say large numbers by listing the numbers in order of size, biggest first. When reading a single number, all the number labels should be singular, for example 10,400 is ten thousand four hundred and not ten thousands four hundreds.

We describe three digit numbers in hundreds, then tens. Generally, in British English we usually connect large numbers with double or single digit figures with *and*, but in American English *and* is not used. Note that hundreds, thousands and millions are not connected to each other with *and*.

For example:

Number	Name
13-19	teen
10	ten
100	hundred
1000	thousand
10,000	ten thousand
100,000	hundred thousand
1,000,000	million
1,000,000,000	billion
1,000,000,000,000	trillion

345 is three hundred and forty-five (three hundred forty five in American).

59,321 is fifty nine thousand, three hundred and twenty one. (not fifty nine thousand and three hundred...)

You can then describe large numbers with a series of different figures, grouping numbers in hundreds and tens, starting with the biggest number. So we describe hundreds/tens of millions, then thousands, then hundreds:

1,345,612 = one million, three hundred and forty five thousand, six hundred and twelve

153,200 = one hundred and fifty three thousand, two hundred

In the...

When we want to say where a number generally lies, in the above groups, we can say it is in the... For example, 14 is in the teens, 325 is in the hundreds. For tens and hundreds of larger numbers (thousands, millions), we say in the tens (or hundreds) of... So: hundreds of thousands and tens of millions.

Hundreds and thousands

Often it is easier to describe four figure numbers in hundreds instead of thousands. This is perfectly acceptable. For example, 1500 might be described as fifteen hundred, instead of one thousand five hundred (or one and a half thousand), because it is simpler to say.

Naming large numbers exercise

Practise reading these numbers out loud (first you can write them down)

4,567
367
98,745
120,005
5,000
34,230
873,120
10,043
7,340,200
54,500
24
4,567,090
67,000
92,000,031
1,000,010,000,023

Suggested Answers

4,567 – four thousand, five hundred and sixty-seven
342 – three hundred and forty-two
98,745 – ninety-eight thousand, seven hundred and forty-five
120,005 – one hundred and twenty thousand and five
5,000 – five thousand, or five k, g or grand
34,230 – thirty four thousand, two hundred and thirty
873,120 – eight hundred and seventy three thousand, one hundred and twenty
10,043 – ten thousand and forty three
7,340,200 – seven million, three hundred and forty thousand, two hundred
5,500 – five thousand, five hundred or fifty-five hundred
24 – two dozen
4,567,090 – four million, five hundred and sixty seven thousand and ninety
67,000 – sixty seven thousand, sixty seven k, grand or g
92,000,031 – ninety two million and thirty one
1,000,010,000,023 – one trillion, ten million and twenty three

Source: <https://englishlessonsbrighton.co.uk/saying-large-numbers-english/>