

VI 15 NUMBERS AND QUANTITIES

BEGINNER

Numbers

The main units of numbers in English are:

1	10	100	1000	1000000	1000000000
one	ten	hundred	thousand	million	billion

Here is a list of numbers. On the left are normal or "cardinal" numbers. On the right are "ordinal" numbers, which we use to define a thing's position in a series.

Cardinal Number		Ordinal Number	
0	zero, nought		
1	one	1 st	first
2	two	2 nd	second
3	three	3 rd	third
4	four	4 th	fourth

Activity 1 Reading Drill

Activity 2 Can you answer the questions below?

1. What is the 2nd letter in the alphabet? _____
2. What is the 4th letter in the alphabet? _____
3. What is the 13th letter in the alphabet? _____
4. What is the 1st letter in the alphabet? _____
5. What is the 5th letter in the alphabet? _____
6. What is the 19th letter in the alphabet? _____

7. What is the 9th letter in the alphabet? _____
8. What is the 23rd letter in the alphabet? _____
9. What is the 11th letter in the alphabet? _____
10. What is the 7th letter in the alphabet? _____

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INTERMEDIATE

<p>In <u>dribs</u> and drabs</p>	<p>If something comes in dribs and drabs, it arrives little by little, in small amounts or numbers. "Instead of the crowd that was expected, people arrived in dribs and drabs."</p>
<p>Have one over the <u>eight</u></p>	<p>If a person has had one over the eight, they are slightly drunk. "Don't listen to him. You can see he's had one over eight!"</p>
<p>At the <u>eleventh</u> hour</p>	<p>If something happens at the eleventh hour, it happens when it is almost too late, or at the last possible moment. "Our team won after they scored a goal at the eleventh hour."</p>

Activity 1 Phrase Drill

**Activity 2 Give more number/quantity idioms that you know
Use in a sentence**

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ADVANCED

A drop in the bucket --- small or significant amount or expense

Opposite idiom: cost an arm and a leg(price)

>>for a millionaire, the cost of a luxury car is a drop in the bucket

☹☹Incredibly, there were only two inches of snow this year, which was a drop in the bucket compared with the usual twenty-five inches.

The lion's share ---- the majority of, most (superlative)

>>The lion's share of the federal taxes in the United States goes into entitlement programs such as Social Security and Medicare.

>>Billy shared some of his candy with his friends, but he kept the lion's share for himself.

Pile up ----- to remain unaccomplished, to accumulate.

Usage note: used for chores or other work that is not done according to a normal routine.

>>The vehicles are piled up on the street by now.

>>The more I delay in doing household chores, the more they pile up.

Come up short----- to have less than correct amount.

Usage note: refers to the amount of money , separable idiom.

☹☹ Darren came up short when he counted the money in her pocket, she came up ten dollars short

☹☹ The bank teller came up short when he counted her coins in her drawer.

Activity 1 Complete the sentences and fill in the blanks using the idioms above:

1. I couldn't believe how much work _____ on my desks while I'm away on a business trip.
2. When the cashier counted the money, she was surprised to _____ by about \$ 50.
3. The elderly couples adopted a son received _____ of the estate, while the other nephews received a smaller portion.
4. A \$2 dollar contribution for the poor is ____ for the elite.

Activity 2 Make sentences describing real situations in your life.