

Numbers

A Cardinal numbers: one, two, three, four etc:

- 1 There are different names for the number 0.**
When you count, and in mathematics, you say nought:
The substance weighs nought point five grammes (0.5 grammes)
In most sports, you say nil:
We lost five – nil (5-0)
In tennis, you say love:
Becker leads forty – love (40-0)
When you talk about the temperature, you say zero:
In the winter it can get as cold as twenty-five degrees below zero.
When you are talking about phone numbers, you say each number separately, and 0 is oh:
*Oh two seven two five five oh nine
0 2 7 2 5 5 0 9*
You also say oh for dates and for numbers less than one:
*Nineteen oh one (1901)
Nought point oh oh five (0.005)*
- 2 You say and between the hundreds and the rest of the number:**
*two hundred and fifty (250)
one hundred and twenty-one (121)
three thousand nine hundred and ten (3910)*
- 3 Numbers like hundred, thousand and million do not have a plural -s when they are exact numbers:**
*Three million two hundred thousand four hundred and one (3200401)
There were millions of people at the concert.
They say this tree is a hundred years old.
I've told you hundreds of times, you mustn't smoke in here!*
- 4 You can often make numbers into compound adjectives, using the structure: number + singular noun. You normally link the two parts with a hyphen '-':**
*The team played with ten men: It was a ten-man team.
The watch cost forty pounds: It's a forty-pound watch.*

B Ordinal numbers: first, second, third etc:

- 1 You use ordinal numbers to say where someone or something is in a sequence or group:**
*We lived on the fifth floor.
He was second in the race.
This is the tenth time I've seen the film.*
- 2 You can use an ordinal and a cardinal number together, with the ordinal first:**
*The first five rows are the most expensive.
The first three people who come in to the shop will win £100, the second five will have £50.*
- 3 You use ordinals in dates. When you write dates, you can use a short form 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th etc:**
*Today is the first of May (May 1st).
The play opens on the twenty-second of March (March 22nd).*

C To talk about how often someone does something, you use once, twice. With numbers above two, you say three times, four times etc:

- I've read that book twice.
The clock struck four times.
You must take this medicine three times a day.*

Numbers Practice

A Look at these sporting results and work out the places of the runners using these ordinals:

first second third fourth fifth sixth

- Team A finished in 49 seconds.
- Team B finished in 51 seconds.
- Team C finished last.
- Team D finished in 48 seconds.
- Team E finished in 55 seconds.
- Team F finished in 50.5 seconds.

B Read these sentences and decide if the 0 in each sentence is:

oh zero nought nil love

- The area code for Bath is 01225.
- Germany won the match 2-0.
- My great-grandfather was born in 1909, I think.
- The score here at Wimbledon is 40-0 to Lendl.
- In rugby you sometimes have scores of 70-0!
- We want to reduce inflation to 0.5% this year.
- 0.004 milligrammes of this substance can poison a man.
- It was very cold. The temperature was below 0.

C Complete these sentences using compound adjectives:

e.g. The book has 120 pages.

It's a one hundred and twenty page book.

- This house is two hundred and fifty years old.
It's a _____ house.
- The speed limit here is 80 miles per hour.
There's an _____ speed limit here.
- The baby weighed five pounds when she was born.
She was a _____ baby.
- The journey to Cornwall takes 3 hours by train.
It's a _____ train journey to Cornwall.
- My new shirt cost £22.
This is a _____ shirt.
- The meal we ate had three courses.
We had a _____ meal.

D Look at this plan of Bob's activities, then complete the sentences using: once twice three times etc

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
shopping		✓	✓		✓	✓	
swimming	✓			✓			
gardening					✓	✓	✓
watch TV		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
eat in restaurant						✓	

- Last week Bob went shopping _____.
- He went to the swimming pool _____.
- Bob watched TV _____ last week.
- He only went out for a meal _____.

Letters

A There are 26 letters in the English alphabet. Can you arrange them in the right sequence?

Q W E R T Y U I O P A S D F G H J K L Z X C V B N M

1		8		15		22	
2		9		16		23	
3		10		17		24	
4		11		18		25	
5		12		19		26	
6		13		20			
7		14		21			

B Some of the letters are not pronounced like in other languages. Here are the phonetic symbols for the sounds of English:

Vowels

/i:/ tree	/u/ good
/ɪ/ big	/u:/ moon
/e/ get	/ʌ/ cut
/æ/ hat	/ɜ:/ bird
/ɑ:/ car	/ə/ father
/ɔ:/ door	/ɒ/ pot
	/i:/ very

Diphthongs

/eɪ/ day
/oʊ/ no
/aɪ/ my
/aʊ/ now
/ɔɪ/ boy
/ɪə/ near
/eə/ hair
/ʊə/ sure
/aɪə/ fire
/aʊə/ flower

Consonants

/p/ pen	/f/ fall	/h/ hello
/b/ book	/v/ very	/m/ mum
/t/ tea	/θ/ thin	/n/ not
/d/ did	/ð/ then	/ŋ/ sing
/k/ can	/s/ so	/l/ leg
/g/ go	/z/ zoo	/r/ red
/tʃ/ cheap	/ʃ/ she	/j/ yes
/dʒ/ job	/ʒ/ vision	/w/ wet

C Which letters of the alphabet are these?

1 /zed/	7 /bi:/	13 /aɪ/	20 /dʒeɪ/
2 /eɪtʃ/	8 /eɪ/	14 /es/	21 /en/
3 /dʒi:/	9 /keɪ/	15 /eɪ/	22 /di:/
4 /i:/	10 /eks/	16 /em/	23 /pi:/
5 /dʌbəlju:/	11 /el/	17 /ju:/	24 /ɑ:/
6 /waɪ/	12 /kju:/	18 /si:/	25 /vi:/
		19 /ti:/	26 /oʊ/

1 _____	7 _____	13 _____	20 _____
2 _____	8 _____	14 _____	21 _____
3 _____	9 _____	15 _____	22 _____
4 _____	10 _____	16 _____	23 _____
5 _____	11 _____	17 _____	24 _____
6 _____	12 _____	18 _____	25 _____
		19 _____	26 _____

D How do you pronounce these common abbreviations?

1 UK	6 CD	11 EC
2 GB	7 DJ	12 USA
3 a.m.	8 BBC	13 VIP
4 p.m.	9 TV	14 UFO
5 PTO	10 NATO	15 WWF

1 _____	6 _____	11 _____
2 _____	7 _____	12 _____
3 _____	8 _____	13 _____
4 _____	9 _____	14 _____
5 _____	10 _____	15 _____