English Vocabulary – Numbers

Cardinals	
1	one
2	two
3	three
4	four
5	five
6	six
7	seven
8	eight
9	nine
10	ten
11	eleven
12	twelve
13	thirteen
14	fourteen
15	fifteen
16	sixteen
17	seventeen
18	eighteen
19	nineteen
20	twenty
21	twenty one
22	twenty two
23	twenty three
24	twenty four
25	twenty five
26	twenty six
27	twenty seven
28	twenty eight
29	twenty nine
30	thirty
31	thirty one
40	forty
50	fifty
60	sixty
70	seventy
80	eighty
90	ninety
100	one hundred
101	one hundred and one
120	one hundred and twenty
121	one hundred and twenty one
200	two hundred
300	three hundred
1,000	one thousand
2,000	two thousand

Ordinals (used for dates)	
1st	first
2nd	second
3rd	third
4th	fourth
5th	fifth
6th	sixth
7th	seventh
8th	eighth
9th	ninth
10th	tenth
11th	eleventh
12th	twelfth
13th	thirteenth
14th	fourteenth
15th	fifteenth
16th	sixteenth
17th	seventeenth
18th	eighteenth
19th	nineteenth
20th	twentieth
21st	twenty first
22nd	twenty second
23rd	twenty third
24th	twenty fourth
25th	twenty fifth
26th	twenty sixth
27th	twenty seventh
28th	twenty eighth
29th	twenty ninth
30th	thirtieth
31st	thirty first
40th	fortieth
50th	fiftieth
60th	sixtieth
70th	seventieth
80th	eightieth
90th	ninetieth
100th	hundredth
1000th	thousandth

Pronunciation tips:

Teens vs Tens: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXIz_2nad7s (7 mins)

Ordinals: https://www.languageguide.org/ingl%C3%AAs/vocabul%C3%A1rio/n%C3%BAmeros-ordinais/

Large Numbers

1,234	one thousand, two hundred and thirty four
1,500	one thousand, five hundred
2,000	two thousand
3,000	three thousand
100,000	one hundred thousand
150,000	one hundred and fifty thousand
1,000,000	one million
1,500,000	one and a half million / one million, five hundred thousand
1,000,000,000	one billion
1,500,000,000	one and a half billion / one billion, five hundred million
1,000,000,000,000	one trillion
1 googol	10^{100}
1 googolplex	10^{googol}

Fractions

1/2	one half	2/3	two thirds
1/3	one third	3/4	three quarters
1/4	one quarter	4/5	four fifths
1/5	one fifth	7/10	seven tenths
1/6	one sixth	23/100	twenty three hundredths
1/7	one seventh		
1/8	one eighth		
1/9	one ninth		
1/10	one tenth		

Decimals

0.5	zero **point** five
12.6	twelve **point** six
21.57	twenty one **point** five seven
64.1324	sixty four **point** one three two four
108.472	one hundred and eight **point** four seven two
3.1415926	three **point** one four one five nine two six

Words which describe very large, uncountable quantities

1) Plethora / Profusion / Abundance excess

Example: He must have a **plethora** of medical tests.

2) Myriad / Multitude / Legion countless

Example: The sky is filled with **myriad** stars.

3) Cornucopia / Galaxy poetic richness or variety

Example: The farmer's market was a **cornucopia** of colors, smells, and flavors.

4) Everyday alternatives: **tons, loads, heaps, oodles, bunches**

Example: He has **oodles** of homework to do every day.

Exercise. Say and/or write these numbers:

1) 735 _____

2) 41,000 _____

3) 107,947 _____

4) 991,206 _____

5) 87,006 _____

6) 500,000 _____

7) 2,500,000 _____

8) 32,555,763 _____

9) 2/7 _____

10) 8/50 _____

11) 2.19 _____

12) 13.3652 _____

Why numbers are not "plural"

Since numbers generally come before nouns, they are, grammatically speaking, adjectives. For example:

- I have a **blue** car.
- I have **two blue** cars.
- I have **three big blue** cars.

Consequently, numbers can't be plural, as adjectives are never plural in English. Here are some more examples:

- I need **two dozen** eggs.
- There are **six hundred** cars in the car park.
- About **ten thousand** airplanes are in the sky.
- Nearly **ten million** people live in London.
- There are about **eighteen billion** cell phones in the world.

However, if we talk about **unspecific** quantities, then we can use numbers as nouns, in which case they can be plural. For example:

- **Tens** of people were in the kitchen.
- I saw **dozens** of chickens in the pen.
- I receive **hundreds** of e-mails every day.
- There were **thousands of** cars in the car park.
- There must be **millions** of dogs and cats around the world.
- There are **billions** of people in Asia.

Numbers with special names:

- Couple = 2
- Dozen = 12
- Baker's dozen = 13
- Score = 20
- Gross = 144
- Googol = 10^{100}
- Googolplex = 10^{Googol}

Experiment with internet searches:

- 4 score and 10
- 2 gross and 1 score
- 3 gross and 2 dozen and 4 score

Etymology

Couple (2)

From Old French *cople* meaning ‘lovers’ which was based on Latin *copula* meaning ‘connection’.

Dozen (12)

From Old French *dozeine*, which was based on Latin *duodecim* meaning ‘twelve’.

Baker’s dozen (13)

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the term "baker's dozen" originated in the 16th century. At that time, it was a practice among bakers to include an extra loaf when selling a dozen to a retailer, the extra loaf representing the retailer's profit.

Score (20)

The origin is possibly from counting large numbers (for example, sheep) with a notch in a stick for each 20. This way of counting, called “vigesimalism,” probably comes from Old French where "twenty" (vint) could be used as a base, for example, “quatre-vingt” (80). Vigesimalism was a characteristic of Celtic and it is speculated that the English and the French picked it up from the Celts.

Gross (144)

From Old French *grosse douzaine* meaning ‘big dozen’ or ‘dozen dozen’.

Googol (10^{100})

When the American mathematician Edward Kasner (1878-1955) asked his nephew (8 years old) for a name for an enormous number, he suggested the word “Googol”.

When Larry Page and Sergey Brin wanted a name for their company (and their website), they wanted a name that reflected a large amount of information that their search engine could find, so they chose the name “Googol”. When Larry Page tried to check if the domain name was available, he accidentally typed “google.com” instead of “googol.com”, and the rest, as they say, is history!

Lakh / Crore

In the Indian numbering system, *lakh* and *crore* represent large numbers.

1 lakh = 100,000 (one hundred thousand). It is written as 1,00,000 in the Indian numbering system. For example:

- 5 lakh = 500,000
- 10 lakh = 1,000,000 (= 1 million)

1 crore = 10,000,000 (ten million). It is written as 1,00,00,000 in the Indian numbering system. For example:

- 100 lakh = 1 crore
- 1 crore = 10 million
- 10 crore = 100 million
- 100 crore = 1 billion

These words are commonly used when talking about money, salaries, property values, populations, statistics, or government budgets. For example:

- If someone says *“My salary is 12 lakh rupees a year”*, that means 1.2 million rupees.
- If a city has *“5 crore people”*, that means 50 million people.

Example: https://www.youtube.com/shorts/143HUOjEBcs (1 min)