

Numbers

1. How to say numbers

- 752 seven hundred and fifty-two
- 8,427 eight thousand, four hundred and twenty-seven
- 90,563 ninety thousand, five hundred and sixty-three
- 3,740,033 three million, seven hundred and forty thousand and thirty-three

Notice that we say *seven hundred and fifty-two*.

Notice also that we say *seven hundred* and not *seven hundreds*, and we say *eight thousand* and not *eight thousands*, etc. When there is a number before 'hundred', 'thousand', etc. the word 'hundred', 'thousand', etc. is always singular.

2. How to say telephone numbers

1. Say each number separately.
2. For 0, say 'oh' or 'zero'.
3. For two figures together, for example '99', say 'double nine' or 'nine nine'.
 - (01556) 734086 oh one double five six, seven three four, oh eight six

3. How to write and say years and dates:

Years

- 1900 nineteen hundred
- 1905 nineteen oh five/nineteen hundred and five
- 1965 nineteen sixty-five
- 2000 two thousand/the year two thousand
- 2009 two thousand and nine
- 2025 two thousand and twenty-five/twenty twenty-five

Dates

(UK English) 18 March 2009 or 18th March 2009 or 18/03/09

Say 'the eighteenth of March, two thousand and nine'.

(US English) March 18, 2009 or 03/18/09

Say 'March eighteenth, two thousand and nine'.

Look at the dates given between slashes (i.e. 18/03/09) in UK and US English and notice the different order of the day and the month. In UK English, the day comes first but in US English, the month comes first.

4. How to say the time

- 3:00 three o'clock
- 3:15 three fifteen or (a) quarter past three
- 3:30 three thirty or half past three or (*informal*) half three
- 3:20 three twenty or twenty past three
- 4:45 four forty-five or (a) quarter to five
- 4:35 four thirty-five or twenty-five to five
- 4:05 four oh five or five past four
- 4:09 four oh nine or nine minutes past four

Notice that 'o'clock' is used only with whole hours.

In US English, the word 'after' is usually used instead of 'past' and the word 'of' is often used instead of 'to'.

5. How to say people's ages

The main thing to remember when saying people's ages is that you usually only say the number. You do not say 'years' (e.g. *My sister is 23 and my brother is 21.*)

Exercise 1

1. How do you say 381?
2. How do you say 51,633?
3. How do you say this telephone number? (02755) 347022
4. How do you say this year? 1602
5. How do you say this year? 2045
6. How do you say this date? 21 April 2002

