



Numbers

- "Think of a number between one and twenty. Now double it. Multiply the total by four. Now subtract eighteen. Add three and take away the number you started with. Now close your eyes."
- "Yes."
- "Dark, isn't it?"

Cardinal numbers tell us how many things there are in a group. They are used in figures, prices, schedules, percentages, years, measures, phone numbers, time, addresses, codes, age, etc.

I'm 27 years old.

It only costs 23 euros. There is a 20% discount.

Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in Britain is 1,343 metres high.

Ordinal numbers tell us what position something has in an ordered group. They are mainly used for dates and centuries. We pronounce "the" before the ordinal numbers, though we do not write it.

Today is March 26th.

The Industrial Revolution took place in the 19th century.

How old are you?

I'm 25 (years old)

I'm in my early twenties.

I'm in my late fifties.

I'm forty something.

Numbers /2

Numbers function as adjectives and they do not take the plural form.

*Five thousand, three hundred and forty five inhabitants.
Three hundred and six letters.*

Note how we use "and" after the word "hundred".

ZERO

It is pronounced as the letter O (oh) in telephone numbers and in years.

*My telephone number is 605902700 (six oh five nine oh two seven double oh)
1908. (Nineteen oh eight)*

In maths, we say zero or nought .

3809 (Three eight zero nine)

YEARS

Years are read as two separate numbers. This changes in the year 2000.

1893 (eighteen ninety three)
2008 (two thousand and eight)

DECIMALS

Decimals take a dot (.) on the left.

*0.65 point sixty five
3.90 three point ninety*

THOUSANDS

Thousands take a comma (,)

*8,679
2,400*

FRACTIONS

In some fractions we combine ordinal and cardinal numbers.

*1/4 a quarter
1/2 a half
2/3 two thirds*

3/5 three fifths

PERCENTAGES

A percentage is a fraction of something, it is a particular number of a whole thing which is divided into 100 parts.

30% (thirty per cent)

We are paid a fifteen per cent of the total income.

The interest rate is 3% a month.

Note that the words hundred and thousand appear in plural when they are used as indefinite pronouns.

There are hundreds of people who do sports every day.

There were thousands of cars on the road this morning.

In maths we say:

+ plus

- minus

x by

/ divided by

= equals

For more mathematical terms you can check

<http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/jearth/maths/dictionary.html>