

# NUMBERS

an eslhome.es workshop



## 🎯 In this workshop, you will learn how to correctly express:

- ◇ cardinal numbers in both British and American English
- ◇ negative numbers and decimal numbers
- ◇ ordinal numbers and their use in dates
- ◇ common fractions
- ◇ years, understanding the different conventions for different periods
- ◇ various ways to say the number 0
- ◇ different amounts in euros, dollars, and pounds, including dealing with cents, pennies, and larger amounts.





# Do you have a lucky number?

Do you have a lucky number?

The West's most common lucky number is the number 7. The number 3 is quite common too—after all, they do say good things come in threes. The number 13, however, is widely considered unlucky.

The number 8 is lucky in Chinese culture as its pronunciation is similar to the word for prosperity; on the other hand, 4 is an unlucky number because it sounds like the word for death.



# What's in a number?

Whether you have a lucky number or not, you are sure to deal with numbers all the time. They are part of life.

One thing to take into account while learning English is that not all numbers were created equal—in terms of the way they are said, at least.

Today, we will dive into the nitty-gritty and come out the other end with a much deeper knowledge on how to say numbers (and get it right).



**Let's take a look.**



# Cardinal Numbers





# Cardinal Numbers

Cardinal numbers, or counting numbers, are just the normal 'numbers'.

These shouldn't be too much of a challenge for you.

Let's give the following a go:



# Cardinal Numbers

1. Count to 12.
2. Say the difference between 13 and 30.
3. Say 99.
4. Say 5, 50, and 55.





# Cardinal Numbers

One important thing is a difference between British and American English. The British say 'and' before the last two numbers, but the Americans don't.



# Cardinal Numbers

For example: **120**

British English:  
one hundred and twenty

American English:  
one hundred twenty

Pick your style, and let's say the  
following:



# Cardinal Numbers

101

110

250

512

793

999





# Cardinal Numbers

1,000

1,001

1,010

1,300

1,320

1,322

5,000

5,500

5,599



# Cardinal Numbers

10,000

21,200

21,220

21,225

99,999



# Cardinal Numbers

Think back. What symbol separated  
the thousands from the hundreds?

Was it: , . - ?





# Cardinal Numbers

Right. Use a comma (,) to separate thousands.

1,000

10,000

100,000

1,000,000

etc.



# Cardinal Numbers

Now let's try saying some biggies.



# Cardinal Numbers

1,000,000

1,200,000

1,240,000

1,240,500

1,240,538





# Cardinal Numbers

10,000,000

11,506,298

44,298,900

88,273,972



# Minus Numbers



# Cardinal Numbers

When cardinal numbers are below zero, say "minus".

For example,  $-5$  is "minus 5".

Try it:





# Cardinal Numbers

-1

-2

-10

-20

-100

-500



# Cardinal Numbers (Decimals)



# Cardinal Numbers (Decimals)

However, when saying decimals, we say the numbers one by one.

So, 10.525 would be "ten point five two five".

0.01 would be "zero point zero one" or "nought point nought one". We will see more about this later.





# Cardinal Numbers (Decimals)

0.1

0.5

5.5

5.51

9.99



# Cardinal Numbers (Decimals)

0.0001

3.30938

68.29

5.9287

0.4764



# Ordinal Numbers





# Ordinal Numbers

An ordinal number is a number which indicates the position or order.

In other words:

one → first

two → second

three → third



# Ordinal Numbers

Put simply:

Words ending in "one" now end in "first".

Words ending in "two" now end in "second".

Words ending in "three" now end in "third".

Words ending in "teen" now end in "teenth"

Add 'th' to all of the rest.

Just remember: five → fifth (not "fiveth")

twenty → twentieth



# Ordinal Numbers

When writing them, we usually put either "st", "nd", "rd", or "th" in superscript (small and high up).

Like this:

1<sup>st</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup>

4<sup>th</sup>

5<sup>th</sup>

Let's give it a go...



# Ordinal Numbers

1<sup>st</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup>

4<sup>th</sup>

5<sup>th</sup>

6<sup>th</sup>

7<sup>th</sup>

8<sup>th</sup>

9<sup>th</sup>





# Ordinal Numbers

10<sup>th</sup>

11<sup>th</sup>

12<sup>th</sup>



# Ordinal Numbers

13<sup>th</sup>

14<sup>th</sup>

15<sup>th</sup>

16<sup>th</sup>

17<sup>th</sup>

18<sup>th</sup>

19<sup>th</sup>



# Ordinal Numbers

20<sup>th</sup>

21<sup>st</sup>

22<sup>nd</sup>

23<sup>rd</sup>

24<sup>th</sup>

25<sup>th</sup>



# Ordinal Numbers

30<sup>th</sup>

31<sup>st</sup>





# Ordinal Numbers

40<sup>th</sup>

50<sup>th</sup>

90<sup>th</sup>

99<sup>th</sup>

100<sup>th</sup>



# Ordinal Numbers

101<sup>st</sup>

102<sup>nd</sup>

103<sup>rd</sup>

104<sup>th</sup>

105<sup>th</sup>



# Ordinal Numbers

1,000<sup>th</sup>

10,000<sup>th</sup>

100,000<sup>th</sup>

1,000,000<sup>th</sup>



# The Date





# The Date

Remember, the dates use the ordinal numbers.

In the British format:

30/05 = the thirtieth of May.

In the American format, same date would be:

05/30 = May thirtieth



# The Date

Let's practise saying a few dates.

British

American

01/01

01/01

15/01

01/15

14/02

02/14

05/05

05/05

21/06

06/21

31/10

10/31

25/12

12/25

31/12

12/31



# Fractions



# Fractions

Knowing the ordinal numbers will help you to say fractions.

Most of the fractions use the same number as the ordinal number.

So,  $\frac{1}{3}$  is one third, and  $\frac{2}{3}$  is two thirds.

$\frac{1}{5}$  is one fifth,  $\frac{1}{6}$  is one sixth, and  $\frac{1}{7}$  is one seventh, etc.





# Fractions

The exceptions are:

$\frac{1}{2}$  is one half.

$\frac{1}{4}$  is one quarter.

$\frac{3}{4}$  is three quarters.

Try saying these:



# Fractions

$\frac{1}{2}$

$\frac{1}{4}$

$\frac{3}{4}$

$\frac{1}{9}$

$\frac{1}{10}$

$\frac{3}{5}$

$\frac{5}{6}$

$\frac{7}{8}$



# The Year



# The Year

When saying the year, things are a little different.

Most years are said in two parts. For example, 1999 is said "nineteen ninety-nine", separating the 19 from the 99.

Let's try this out:





# The Year

1066

1215

1492

1918

1980

2010

2022



# The Year

Notice that we don't use a comma  
when writing the year.

2022, not 2,022



# The Year

Some years, however, are a little different.



# The Year

The years before Christ.

Just say the number and BC.

3500BC (invention of the wheel)

1600BC (beginning of Greek civilisation)

753BC (foundation of Rome)





# The Year

Up until the year AD 999:

Say AD before the year to ensure we don't confuse it with BC. Just say the number the way you would read it.

AD 105 (first use of modern paper)

AD 476 (fall of the Roman Empire)

AD 730 (invention of printing in China)



# The Year

Then, we have the year falling on each century.

Say it in two parts: the first number, and "hundred".

For example, 1100 = eleven hundred.

Try it:



# The Year

1200

1300

1500

1900



# The Year

Then, we have the first decade of each century.

We still pronounce it in two parts. Curiously, however, we would pronounce 1909 as "nineteen oh nine".

It avoids confusion. ("Nineteen nine" would sound too similar to 99.)

Try it:





# The Year

1105

1509

1901

1908



# The Year

Then, we have the years after 2000.

To start with, 2000 is "two thousand".

Then, from 2001 to 2009, you have two options.

2001: twenty oh one

2001: two thousand and one

Try it:



# The Year

2001

2002

2005

2009



# The Year

After that, we continue to have two options.

2010: twenty ten

2010: two thousand (and) ten

Try it:





# The Year

2012

2019

2020

2022

and into the future:

2030

2050



0



0

This curious number (or absence of a number) can be said in a few different ways.

It tends to be called **zero**.

It can also be called **nought** or **naught**.

Sometimes we say "oh".

On other occasions, it has other names.



0

**Say either nought\* or zero** in mathematics and the temperature.

The temperature is 0 degrees.

There is a 0.5 percent chance of rain.

I scored a 0 on the exam.

$$3 + 0 = 3$$

Every number multiplied by 0 is 0.

\* "nought" is the British spelling and "naught" is American, but the Americans usually say "zero"





0

Certain collocations use "zero".

This is the case in:

zero tolerance

zero visibility

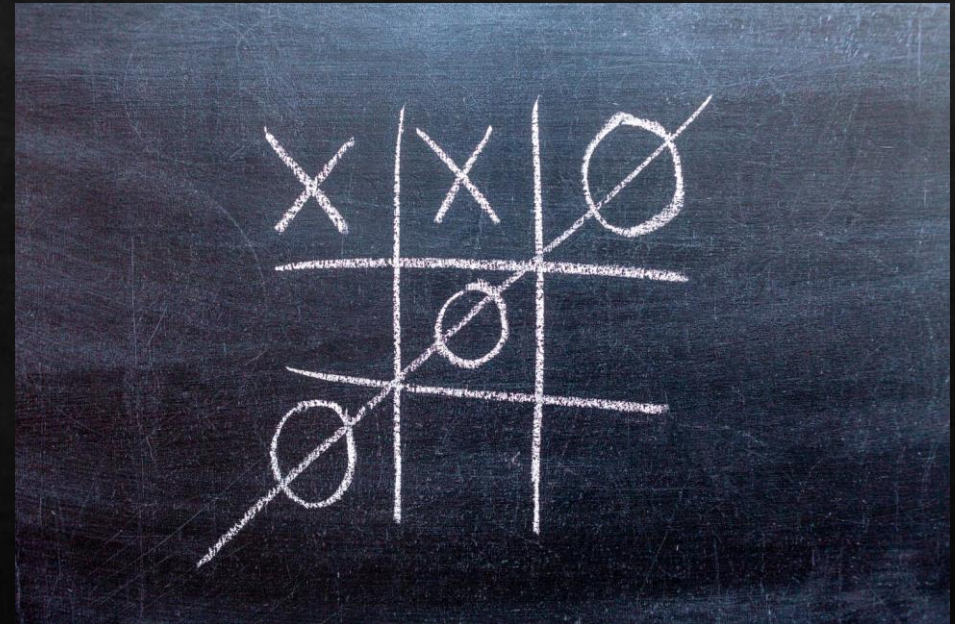
zero chances

zero sugar



0

This game is called "noughts and crosses" in the UK.



In the US, it is tic-tac-toe.



0

Say "oh" when the numbers are identifiers.

My phone number is 020 11 22 05 05.

I am staying in room 605.

My credit card number is:  
5001 0909 2801 3110

You have been assigned task 104.





0

Say "nil" when giving the football score.

Manchester City won 5-0.

The score is 0-0 at the moment.

You can also say "nil" when you mean "nothing".

The mistake reduced our work to nil.

There has been nil rainfall this week.





0

In tennis alone, say "luv".

There are theories as to why, but no one is really sure. The most common one is that it comes from "l'oeuf" meaning "the egg".

The current score is 15-0.



0

Another word you will hear is "zilch". It is another informal way to represent zero or nothing, often used in casual conversation.

For instance, you might say, "I have zilch knowledge about astrophysics," or "Unfortunately, there's zilch chance of it happening". It emphasises a complete lack or absence of something.



# Money



# Money

Let's start simple.

For €1, \$1, and £1, say: one euro, one dollar, and one pound, respectively.

Note that we write the symbol **before** the number.





# Money

Depending on the currency, the smaller division changes.

For euros, we say "cents".

1c = one cent

2c = two cents

10c = ten cents

50c = fifty cents



# Money

For dollars, we also say "cents".  
However, they have special names for certain coins.

1c = a penny

5c = a nickel

10c = a dime

25c = a quarter



# Money

For pounds, we have the penny, whose plural is "pence". But, we just say "p".

1p (one penny) is said "1p"

5p (five pence) is said "5p"...

10p

20p

50p



# Money

When we mix the two, we usually drop the "p" or "cents".

€1.50 tends to be one euro fifty, but you can say one euro fifty cents.

You don't need to say "and" or "with" or any other preposition.

Let's try it:





# Money

50p

20c

99c

£10

€35

\$80

£11.65

€60.25

\$30.60

£109.99

€99.99

\$76.75

£320.50

€252.20

\$199.99



# Money

You can also drop the currency from the middle. So, €1.99 can be "one ninety-nine".

Try it:

\$5.50

€10.20

£2.99



# NUMBERS

We hope you have enjoyed  
this workshop.

