

4 Ordinal numbers



Language focus

Use **ordinal numbers** to talk about the position of something or someone in a series, such as dates or competitors in a race.

*My brother finished **second** in the 200 metres at the school championships.*

*When is your birthday? It's on the **fourth** of June.*

Numbers used for a quantity of something are called **cardinal numbers**.

Cardinal number	Ordinal number	Cardinal number	Ordinal number
1	first	4	fourth
2	second	5	fifth
3	third	6	sixth

In general, ordinal numbers are formed by adding **th** to the cardinal number: **ten – tenth**.

First, second and **third** are exceptions and do not follow the **th** rule.

The ordinal for eight is **eighth**, not **eightth**.

The ordinal for nine is **ninth**, not **nineth**.

The ordinal for twelve is **twelfth**, not **twelveth**.

In a compound cardinal, use a hyphen, e.g. **thirty-third**.

If a cardinal number ends in **y**, change the **y** to an **i** and then add **eth**.

twenty twentieth thirty thirtieth forty fortieth

1 Write the ordinal numbers.

1 7 seventh

2 15

3 22

4 31

5 38

6 44

2 Write the dates with ordinal numbers.

1 3 January the third of January
2 5 May the fifth of May
3 29 July the twenty-ninth of July

4 23 February the twenty-third of February
5 8 November the eighth of November
6 30 August the thirtieth of August

3 Replace the underlined phrases with dates written in full.

Hi, Grandma

I've got so much to tell you! On (1) 2 March, Florence won her school swimming championship. She was brilliant! (2) The next day, my football team got to the final of the Morley Cup. The match will be on (3) 4 May. I can't wait. On (4) the day after the final, I'm going on a school trip to Amsterdam.

Don't forget all the birthdays coming up, Grandma! It's Florence's on (5) 25 April. Mine is (6) three days later!

Love, Sophia

1 the second of March
2 _____
3 _____

4 _____
5 _____
6 _____

4 Complete your diary. Write one activity for each day.

● MAY

7 Monday
8 Tuesday
9 Wednesday
10 Thursday
11 Friday
12 Saturday
13 Sunday



5 Answer the questions.

1 What are you doing on the eighth of May?
2 What are you doing on the tenth of May?
3 What are you doing on the twelfth of May?
4 What are you doing on the thirteenth of May?
