

61 Numbers

A Cardinal numbers

379 = three **hundred** and seventy-nine
 5,084 = five thousand and eighty-four
 2,000,000 = two **million**

2,860 = two **thousand**, eight hundred and sixty
 470,000 = four hundred and seventy thousand
 3,000,000,000 = three **billion**

Language help

There is no plural 's' after *hundred*, *thousand*, *million* and *billion* when they are part of a number. When we are talking generally, they are plural, e.g. **thousands** of people, **millions** of insects.

B Dates

With dates, we write them and say them in a different way. We can write **4 June** or **June 4th**, but say **the fourth of June** or **June the fourth**.

We can write **21 May** or **May 21st**, but say the **twenty-first of May** or **May the twenty-first**.

1997 = **nineteen ninety-seven**; 2016 = **two thousand and sixteen** or **twenty sixteen**

Common mistakes

The **seventh** of April (NOT The seven April); the **fourth** question (NOT the ~~four~~ question)

C Fractions and decimals

$1\frac{1}{4}$ = one and **a quarter**

1.25 = one **point** two five

$1\frac{1}{2}$ = one and **a half**

1.5 = one point five

$1\frac{3}{4}$ = one and **three quarters**

1.75 = one point seven five

D Percentages

26% is spoken as twenty-six **per cent**. More than 50% of something is the **majority** of it, less than 50% of something is the **minority**:

The **vast majority** of the students (e.g. 95%) agreed with the new plan, only a **small minority** (e.g. 5%) were unhappy.

E Calculations

There are four basic processes. Notice how they are said when we are **working out** [trying to **calculate**] the answer.

+ = **addition** e.g. $6 + 4 = 10$ (six **plus**/and four **equals/is** ten)

- = **subtraction** e.g. $6 - 4 = 2$ (six **minus** four is two)

x = **multiplication** e.g. $6 \times 4 = 24$ (six **multiplied by** / **times** four is twenty-four)

÷ = **division** e.g. $8 \div 2 = 4$ (eight **divided by** two is four)

Some people are not very good at **adding up** numbers [putting numbers together to reach a total], and often **get stuck** [have a problem] if they have to work out something quite difficult. The easiest way is to use a **calculator** [a small electronic machine for working out numbers].

F Saying '0'

'0' can be spoken in different ways in different situations:

telephone number: 603449 = six **oh** three, **double** four nine OR six **zero** three, **double** four nine

mathematics: 0.7 = **nought** point seven; 6.02 = six point **oh** two OR six point **nought** two

temperature: -10 degrees = ten degrees below **zero** OR **minus** ten degrees

Exercises

61.1 How do you say these numbers in English? Write the answers in words, then practise saying them.

- 1 462 *four hundred and sixty-two*
- 2 $2\frac{1}{2}$
- 3 2,345
- 4 0.25
- 5 1,250,000
- 6 10.04
- 7 47%
- 8 10 September
- 9 940338 (phone number)
- 10 -5 Celsius
- 11 in 1996
- 12 2012

61.2 Correct the mistakes.

- 1 Two thousand and five hundred. *Two thousand, five hundred*
- 2 After the game, I heard that the crowd was over twenty thousands.
- 3 We arrived on the seven June.
- 4 There were two hundred twenty altogether.
- 5 My birthday is the thirty-one August.
- 6 My phone number is seven twenty-three, six nought nine.

61.3 Complete the sentences.

- 1 Eight *multiplied* by seven is fifty-six.
- 2 The were in favour of the new airport; about 80%, I think.
- 3 A small did not support the idea, but it was only 5%.
- 4 I'm not very good at arithmetic. I always have to use a
- 5 When I tried to add all the numbers, I couldn't it out.
- 6 I can do simple calculations, but I get if the numbers are very big.

61.4 Can you work out the answers? If you find it difficult, use paper or a calculator.

- 1 23 and 36 is *fifty-nine*
- 2 24 times 3 is
- 3 80 minus 20 is
- 4 65 divided by 13 is
- 5 Add 10 and 6, multiply by 3, then subtract 15 and divide by 11. What number is left?
- 6 Divide 33 by 11, multiply by 7, add 10, and subtract 16. What number is left?

61.5 Over to you

Answer the questions. Write your answers in words.

- 1 When were you born?
- 2 How tall are you?
- 3 What's the number of the flat or house where you live?
- 4 When's your birthday?
- 5 What's the approximate population of your town?
- 6 What's your body temperature?