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

1¼ = one and **a quarter**
1½ = one and **a half**
1¾ = one and **three quarters**
1.25 = one **point** two five
1.5 = one point five
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 x 4 = 24 (six **multiplied by** / **times** four is twenty-four)
÷ = **division** e.g. 8 ÷ 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

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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 2½ .....
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? .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS