

2. Types of Numbers

Now let's learn the difference between cardinal, ordinal, and nominal numbers. Practice saying these numbers out loud.

A. Cardinal Numbers

These are numbers that answer the question "How many?"

ONES	TENS		HUNDREDS AND THOUSANDS	MILLIONS +
zero (0)	ten (10)	twenty (20)	one hundred / a hundred (100)	one million (6 zeros)
one (1)	eleven (11)	twenty-one (21)	one hundred and one (101)	two million
two (2)	twelve (12)	twenty-two (22)	one hundred (and) ninety-nine (199)	one billion (9 zeros)
three (3)	thirteen (13)	thirty (30)	two hundred (200)	one trillion (12 zeros)
four (4)	fourteen (14)	forty (40)	one thousand (1,000)	
five (5)	fifteen (15)	fifty (50)	two thousand (and) twenty-five (2,025)	
six (6)	sixteen (16)	sixty (60)	one hundred thousand (100,000)	
seven (7)	seventeen (17)	seventy (70)	nine hundred (and) ninety-nine	
eight (8)	eighteen (18)	eighty (80)	thousand, nine hundred (and) ninety-	
nine (9)	nineteen (19)	ninety (90)	nine (999,999)	

B. Ordinal Numbers

These numbers indicate a place or rank.

first (1 st)	sixth (6 th)
second (2 nd)	seventh (7 th)
third (3 rd)	twentieth (20 th)
fourth (4 th)	twenty-first (21 st)
fifth (5 th)	thirtieth (30 th)

one-hundredth (100th)
one-hundred and first (101st)

Small text in words like "1st" is called *superscript*. These letters are sometimes removed in writing.

C. Nominal Numbers

Nominal numbers are not used for counting purposes. They aren't used to describe a position or rank either. Nominal numbers are simply used for identification purposes. Here are some examples:

- telephone numbers
- numbers on race cars, horses, or athletes
- zip codes and postal codes
- license plate numbers
- address numbers
- numbers on ID cards, such as a driver's license, library card, or social insurance card

In spoken English, people often repeat these numbers to confirm that they are correct.

A: My phone number is 223-456-7890.

B: 223-456-7890?

A: That's correct.

A: My license plate number is 2238AB.

B: 2338AB?

A: No, **2238AB**.
(with emphasis on the incorrect #)