
May 2023 OPEN Intermediate Workshop

How to say Complicated Numbers
during Presentations

How to say Complicated Numbers during Presentations

We can all read and understand numbers when they are written down. However, when English speakers say these numbers, they may use some other words that are not written.

Before a presentation, a team member may think they can say a number because they can understand it, but during the presentation they find out that they cannot.

In this workshop, you will learn how to say complicated numbers in English. This will help you say them more smoothly in your next presentation.



Large Numbers

Let's look at some examples to see how to say large numbers.

Notes:

1. In UK English, we use "and" when saying large numbers. In US English, this is omitted.
 2. Also, we often say "a" instead of "one" before one hundred, one thousand, etc.
- 178 = One hundred (and) seventy-eight
 - 1,215 = One thousand, two hundred (and) fifteen
 - 9,563 = Nine thousand, five hundred (and) sixty-three
 - 805,721 = Eight hundred (and) five thousand, seven hundred (and) twenty-one
 - 342,876,288 = three hundred (and) forty-two million, eight hundred (and) seventy-six thousand, two hundred (and) eighty-eight

**Let's
practice.**

1. 386

2. 4,924

3. 275,183

4. 5,812,632

5. 9,238,842,176

A close-up photograph of a circular color calibration chart, likely a Munsell Color Services Laboratory chart. The chart features several overlapping circular segments in various colors: yellow, green, cyan, and blue. Each segment is marked with numerical scales, including a central '4' and various numbers like 120, 110, 70, 100, 80, 190, 200, 210, 220, 3, 230, 15, 7, 14, and 8. The word 'Fractions' is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif font across the center of the image. The background is a soft, out-of-focus gradient of colors.

Fractions are a way to talk about part of a whole. Let's see how to say them.

$1/2$ = one half (we can also say "a half")

$1/3$ = one third

$1/4$ = one fourth (or one quarter)

$1/10$ = one tenth

$2/3$ = two thirds

$3/4$ = three quarters

$4/5$ = four fifths

$7/8$ = seven eighths

Let's Practice.

1. $\frac{2}{3}$

2. $\frac{4}{7}$

3. $\frac{9}{10}$

4. $\frac{7}{16}$



Decimals

Decimal numbers are spoken by listing each number individually after the point.
The zero before the point can be omitted.

0.5 = zero point five

0.75 = zero point seven five

1.538 = one point five three eight

3.142 = three point one four two

9.87 = nine point eight seven

37.45 = thirty-seven point four five

Let's Practice

1. 0.0025

2. 4.93

3. 15.75

4. 234.92

Dates and Years

Dates

- 1st = first
- 2nd = second
- 3rd = third
- 4th = fourth
- 20th = twentieth
- 31st = thirty-first

Years

- 1066 = ten sixty-six
- 1700 = seventeen hundred
- 1805 = eighteen oh five
- 1984 = nineteen eighty-four
- 2002 = two thousand (and) two
- 2012 = two thousand (and) twelve or twenty twelve

Examples

3/14/1998	March fourteenth, nineteen ninety-eight (US)
14/3/1998	The fourteenth of March, nineteen ninety-eight (UK)
Monday 9/2/2021	Monday, September second, twenty twenty-one (US)
Monday 2/9/2021	Monday, the second of September, twenty twenty-one (UK)

Let's practice.

1. 12/25/2019 (US)

2. 3/3/1998 (UK)

3. Friday 7/13/2023 (US)

4. Saturday 2/10/2005 (UK)



Telling the Time

You may not need this for a presentation, but telling the time in English can be complicated.

There are two ways to tell the time:

1. Type A (the easier way – just say the hours and then the minutes).
2. Type B (the more difficult way – the minutes come first with words like “past” or “to”).

Type A

7:00 = seven o'clock

7:05 = seven oh five

7:15 = seven fifteen

7:30 = seven thirty

7:35 = seven thirty-five

7:45 = seven forty-five

Type B

7:00 = seven o'clock

7:05 = five past seven (UK) / five after seven (US)

7:15 = a quarter past seven / a quarter after seven

7:30 = half past seven / half after seven

7:35 = twenty-five to eight

7:45 = a quarter to eight

Let's practice.

1. 9:10

2. 3:40

3. 1:25

4. 5:50

Bonus Section!

The Number 0

Math Symbols

The Number 0

We say **zero** when we talk about the number itself or when reading **percentages** and **decimals**.

We use “**oh**” to say **phone numbers, years, addresses, temperatures, and times**.

UK people use **nought** instead of zero for decimals.

We use “**nil**” to talk about football results.

We use “**love**” in tennis.

Let's practice.

1. The growth was 2.05%.
2. His phone number is 080-2804-2105.
3. She lives at 202 King Street.
4. Newcastle won 4-0 yesterday.

Math Symbols

You may have to describe math symbols in natural English during a presentation. Here are some common ones.

= equals / is equal to

≠ is not equal to

+ plus

> is greater than

- minus

< is less than

× times / multiplied by

≥ greater than or equal to

÷ divided by

≤ less than or equal to

Let's practice

1. $3.02 + 4.56 = 7.58$

2. $72 \div 8 = 9$

3. $18 \times 156 = 2,808$

4. $6/8 > 2/3$

Workshop activity

Read the following sentences. Pay attention to how you pronounce the numbers.

1. There are 3,452 employees working at the Hiroshima site.
2. Micron was founded on 10/5/1978. (US date)
3. 3/4 of the participants have left feedback on our website.
4. $358 \times 765 = 273,870$
5. The project update meeting will begin at 3:15.
6. A wafer with a diameter of 300mm will provide a Fab yield of 97.54%.
7. On 4/16/2023, the attendance at the Hiroshima Carp vs Yakult Swallows game was 30,364. (US date)
8. Her phone number is 090-3049-1406.

9. 7/10 of the team members at the site have completed their training.

10. $561,816 \div 578 = 972$

11. He is happy today because his team won 3 – 0 last night.

12. Micron's revenue in 2022 was \$30.76 billion.

13. The delivery arrived at 10:40 this morning.

14. The IT team have replaced 2/3 of the faulty computers.

15. On Monday 24/4/2023, the total number of cases of COVID-19 in Japan was 33,647,899. (UK date)

16. The number of team members who attended the volunteer event was \geq the number of team members who attended the event last year.