

How to pronounce dates and numbers in English

ENGLISH
VOCABULARY

The DATE in English



There are two ways of saying the date in English.

Written English

Spoken English

Numbers



March 7

MONTH + DAY

March seventh

Even if the *-th* isn't written,
an ordinal number is still said.

3 / 7 / 17

MONTH / DAY / YEAR



7th March

DAY + MONTH

The seventh of March

7 / 3 / 17

DAY / MONTH / YEAR

Days

We always use **ordinal numbers** for the date in spoken English.

- 1st first
- 2nd second
- 3rd third
- 4th fourth
- 5th fifth
- 6th sixth
- 7th seventh
- 8th eighth
- 9th ninth
- 10th tenth

Months

Months always start with capital letters.

august ❌

August ✅

What day is this?

3 / 5 / 18

March 5, 2018

3rd May 2018

Big difference!

Years

Years are normally divided into two parts.*

1984

nineteen eighty-four

1652 sixteen fifty-two

1941 nineteen forty-one

2017 twenty seventeen

* **Exception:** For the years from 2000 to 2010, we normally say *two thousand and + number*.

2006 two thousand and six

Dates

- In English, we can say dates either with the day before the month, or the month before the day:

“The first of January” / “January the first“.

- Remember to use **ordinal numbers for dates** in English.

(The first, the second, the third, the fourth, the fifth, the twenty-second, the thirty-first etc.)

Years

- For years up until 2000, separate the four numbers into two **pairs of two**:

1965 = “nineteen sixty-five”

1871 = “eighteen seventy-one”

1999 = “nineteen ninety-nine”

1800 = “eighteen hundred”

1904 = “nineteen oh four”

1900’s = “nineteen hundreds” E.g. The town was built at the beginning of the 1900’s.

80’s = “eighties” E.g. Back in the 80’s (“the eighties”) we didn’t have computers.

- For the decade 2001 – 2010, you say “two thousand and —” when speaking British English:

2001 = “two thousand and one”

2009 = “two thousand and nine”

However, from 2010 onwards you have a choice.

For example, 2012 can be either “two thousand (and) twelve” or “twenty twelve“.

2016 = “two thousand and sixteen” (B.E.) / “two thousand sixteen” (A.E) / “twenty sixteen”

Numbers in English



0 zero	10 ten	20 twenty	30 thirty
1 one	11 eleven	21 twenty-one	31 thirty-one
2 two	12 twelve	22 twenty-two	32 thirty-two
3 three	13 thirteen	23 twenty-three	33 thirty-three
4 four	14 fourteen	24 twenty-four	34 thirty-four
5 five	15 fifteen	25 twenty-five	35 thirty-five
6 six	16 sixteen	26 twenty-six	36 thirty-six
7 seven	17 seventeen	27 twenty-seven	37 thirty-seven
8 eight	18 eighteen	28 twenty-eight	38 thirty-eight
9 nine	19 nineteen	29 twenty-nine	39 thirty-nine
40 forty	50 fifty	60 sixty	70 seventy
41 forty-one	51 fifty-one	61 sixty-one	71 seventy-one
42 forty-two	52 fifty-two	62 sixty-two	72 seventy-two
43 forty-three	53 fifty-three	63 sixty-three	73 seventy-three
44 forty-four	54 fifty-four	64 sixty-four	74 seventy-four
45 forty-five	55 fifty-five	65 sixty-five	75 seventy-five
46 forty-six	56 fifty-six	66 sixty-six	76 seventy-six
47 forty-seven	57 fifty-seven	67 sixty-seven	77 seventy-seven
48 forty-eight	58 fifty-eight	68 sixty-eight	78 seventy-eight
49 forty-nine	59 fifty-nine	69 sixty-nine	79 seventy-nine
80 eighty	90 ninety	LARGE NUMBERS © Woodward English 100 one hundred 1,000 one thousand 101 one hundred and one 2,000 two thousand 200 two hundred 10,000 ten thousand 300 three hundred 100,000 one hundred thousand 400 four hundred 1,000,000 one million 500 five hundred 10,000,000 ten million 600 six hundred 123,456,789 700 seven hundred one hundred and twenty-three million, 800 eight hundred four hundred and fifty-six thousand, 900 nine hundred seven hundred and eighty-nine.	
81 eighty-one	91 ninety-one		
82 eighty-two	92 ninety-two		
83 eighty-three	93 ninety-three		
84 eighty-four	94 ninety-four		
85 eighty-five	95 ninety-five		
86 eighty-six	96 ninety-six		
87 eighty-seven	97 ninety-seven		
88 eighty-eight	98 ninety-eight		
89 eighty-nine	99 ninety-nine		

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Large numbers

- Divide the number into units of hundreds and thousands:

400,000 = “four hundred thousand” (no s plural)

- If the number includes a smaller number, use “and” in British English:

450,000 = “four hundred and fifty thousand”

400,360 = “four hundred thousand and three hundred and sixty”

Fractions, ratios and percentages

$\frac{1}{2}$ = “one half”

$\frac{1}{3}$ = “one third”

$\frac{1}{4}$ = “one quarter”

$\frac{1}{5}$ = “one fifth”

$\frac{1}{6}$ = “one sixth”

$\frac{3}{5}$ = “three fifths”

1.5% = “one point five percent”

0.3% = “nought / zero point three percent”

2:1 = “two to one”

Saying 0

- Depending on the context, we can pronounce zero in different ways:

2-0 (football) = “Two nil”

30 – 0 (tennis) = “Thirty love”

604 7721 (phone number) = “six oh four...”

0.4 (a number) = “nought point four” or “zero point four”

0C (temperature) = “zero degrees”

Talking about calculations in English

+ (plus)

= (equals / makes)

$2 + 1 = 3$ (“two plus one equals / makes three”)

– (minus / take away)

$5 - 3 = 2$ (“five minus three equals two” / “five take away three equals two”)

x (multiplied by / times)

$2 \times 3 = 6$ (“two multiplied by three equals six” / “two times three equals six”)

/ (divided by)

$6 / 3 = 2$ (“six divided by three equals two”)