



ESL for Math Class 1: Numbers & Calculations

In all ESL classes, people learn how to read numbers and do simple math. However, the math classes here at VOC often use more complicated vocabulary. Teachers will expect all students to know basic math vocabulary. This worksheet will help you learn some of this vocabulary.

TALKING ABOUT LARGE NUMBERS

In Western culture, we divide large numbers into groups of three **digits**. The number 1000000000 would be written with a comma (,) before every three zeros, going from right to left:

$$1000000000 = 1000000,000 = 1000,000,000 = 1,000,000,000$$

The commas also tell us how to read the number. They help us to divide up the name of the number.

If a number has three digits, then the number is in the **hundreds**.

$$783 = \text{"seven hundred eighty-three"}$$

If a number has four, five or six digits, then the number is in the **thousands**. We read the first part of the number (to the left of the first comma), then "thousand", then the name of the last part of the number.

$$24,783 = \text{"twenty-four thousand, seven hundred eighty-three"}$$

If a number has seven, eight, or nine digits, then the number is in the **millions**. We say the name of the number before the first comma, then "million", then the rest of the number.

$$155,024,783 = \text{"one hundred fifty-six million, twenty-four thousand, seven hundred eighty-three"}$$

If a number has "000" for one part, we don't say anything.

$$3,000,008 = \text{"three million eight"}$$

A dictionary will tell you names of larger numbers, but the common ones are:

$$\begin{aligned} 1,000,000 &= \text{"one million"} \\ 1,000,000,000 &= \text{"one billion"} \\ 1,000,000,000,000 &= \text{"one trillion"} \end{aligned}$$

*Be careful about pronouncing these! Just as you have to be careful about saying "thirteen" and "thirty" carefully, you have to be careful about "million" and "billion".