



- If the noun is singular but represents a group of people, the verb is singular in American English but in British English it may be singular or plural:
 - ▶ *Three quarters/75% of the workforce is/are against the strike.*
- If the noun is plural, the verb is plural:
 - ▶ *Two thirds/65% of children play computer games.*

Decimals

- write and say with a point (.) (not a comma)
- say each figure after the point separately:
 - 79.3 *seventy-nine point three*
 - 3.142 *three point one four two*
 - 0.67 *(zero) point six seven*
(BrE also) *nought point six seven*

Mathematical expressions

- + plus
- minus
- × times/multiplied by
- ÷ divided by
- = equals/is
- % per cent (NAme usually percent)
- 3² three squared
- 5³ five cubed
- 6¹⁰ six to the power of ten
- √ square root of

The figure '0'

The figure 0 has several different names in English, although in American English zero is commonly used in all cases:

Zero

- used in precise scientific, medical and economic contexts and to talk about temperature:
 - ▶ *It was ten degrees below zero last night.*
 - ▶ *zero inflation/growth/profit*

Nought

- used in British English to talk about a number, age, etc.:
 - ▶ *A million is written with six noughts.*
 - ▶ *The car goes from nought to sixty in ten seconds.*
 - ▶ *clothes for children aged nought to six*

'o' /əʊ/ NAme /oʊ/

- used when saying a bank account number, telephone number, etc.

Nil

- used to talk about the score in a team game, for example in football:
 - ▶ *The final score was one nil. (1-0)*
- used to mean 'nothing at all':
 - ▶ *The doctors rated her chances as nil.*

Telephone numbers

- All numbers are said separately. 0 is pronounced /əʊ/ (BrE) or /oʊ/ (NAme):
 - ▶ (01865) 556767
o one eight six five, five five six seven six seven
(or *double five six seven six seven*)

Temperature

- The Celsius or Centigrade (°C) scale is officially used in Britain and for scientific purposes in the US:
 - ▶ *a high of thirty-five degrees Celsius*
 - ▶ *The normal temperature of the human body is 37°C.*
- The Fahrenheit (°F) scale is used in all other contexts in the US and is also still commonly used in Britain. The words 'degrees Fahrenheit/Centigrade/Celsius' are often omitted:
 - ▶ *Temperatures soared to over a hundred. (100°F)*
 - ▶ *She's ill in bed with a temperature of a hundred and two. (102°F)*

Money

In Britain

- ▶ *100 pence/p = 1 British pound (£1)*
- ▶ *It costs 90p/90 pence return on the bus.*
- when talking about an individual coin:
 - ▶ *a twenty pence piece/a twenty p piece*
- when talking about pounds and pence people often only say the numbers:
 - ▶ *It only cost five ninety nine. (£5.99)*

- in informal British English:
 - £1 *a quid*
 - £5 *five quid or a fiver*
 - £10 *ten quid or a tenner*

In the US

- 1c one cent a penny
- 5c five cents a nickel
- 10c ten cents a dime
- 25c twenty-five cents a quarter
- \$1.00 one dollar a dollar bill

- in informal American English dollars are called **bucks**:
 - ▶ *This shirt cost fifty bucks.*

Writing and saying dates

British English

- ▶ *14 October 1998 or 14th October 1998 (14/10/98)*
- ▶ *Her birthday is on the ninth of December.*
- ▶ *Her birthday is on December the ninth.*

American English

- ▶ *October 14, 1998 (10/14/98)*
- ▶ *Her birthday is December 9th.*

Years

- 1999 *nineteen ninety-nine*
- 1608 *sixteen o eight* (or, less commonly, *nineteen hundred and ninety-nine* and *sixteen hundred and eight*)
- 1700 *seventeen hundred*
- 2000 *(the year) two thousand*
- 2002 *two thousand and two*
- 2015 *twenty fifteen*

- AD 76 / A.D. 76 *AD seventy-six*
- 76 CE / 76 C.E. *seventy-six CE*

(Both these expressions mean '76 years after the beginning of the Christian calendar'.)

- 1000 BC / 1000 B.C. *one thousand BC*
- 1000 BCE / 1000 B.C.E. *one thousand BCE*

(Both these expressions mean '1000 years before the beginning of the Christian calendar'.)

Age

- when saying a person's age use only numbers:
 - ▶ *Sue is ten and Tom is six.*
 - ▶ *She left home at sixteen.*
- a man/woman/boy/girl, etc. of ...
 - ▶ *They've got a girl of three and a boy of five.*
 - ▶ *a young woman of nineteen*
- in writing, in descriptions or to emphasize sb's age use ... **years old**:
 - ▶ *She was thirty-one years old and a barrister by profession.*
 - ▶ *He is described as white, 5ft 10 ins tall and about 50 years old.*
 - ▶ *You're forty years old - stop behaving like a teenager!*
- ... **years old** is also used for things:
 - ▶ *The monument is 120 years old.*
- You can also say a ... **year-old/month-old/week-old**, etc.:
 - ▶ *Youth training is available to all sixteen year-olds.*
 - ▶ *a ten week-old baby*
 - ▶ *a remarkable 1000 year-old tomb*

- Use ... **years of age** in formal or written contexts:
 - ▶ *Not applicable to persons under eighteen years of age*

- Use the ... **age group** to talk about people between certain ages:
 - ▶ *He took first prize in the 10-16 age group.*

- To give the approximate age of a person:
 - 13-19 *in his/her teens*
 - 21-29 *in his/her twenties*
 - 31-33 *in his/her early thirties*
 - 34-36 *in his/her mid thirties*
 - 37-39 *in his/her late thirties*

- To refer to a particular event you can use **at/by/before**, etc. the **age of** ...
 - ▶ *Most smokers start smoking cigarettes before the age of sixteen.*

Numbers in time

There is often more than one way of telling the time:

Half hours

- 6:30 *six thirty*
half past six (BrE)
half six (BrE informal)

Other times

- 5:45 *five forty-five* (a) *quarter to six (BrE)*
(a) *quarter to/of six (NAme)*
- 2:15 *two fifteen* (a) *quarter past two (BrE)*
(a) *quarter after two (NAme)*
- 1:10 *one ten* *ten past one (BrE)*
ten after one (NAme)
- 3:05 *three o five* *five past three (BrE)*
five after three (NAme)
- 1:55 *one fifty-five* *five to two (BrE)*
five to/of two (NAme)

- with 5, 10, 20 and 25 the word **minutes** is not necessary, but it is used with other numbers:
 - 10.25 *twenty-five past/after ten*
 - 10.17 *seventeen minutes past/after ten*

- use **o'clock** only for whole hours:
 - ▶ *It's three o'clock.*

- If it is necessary to specify the time of day use **in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening or at night**.

- in more formal contexts use:

- a.m.** = in the morning or after midnight
- p.m.** = in the afternoon, in the evening or before midnight

- ▶ *He gets up at 4 a.m. to deliver the mail.*

Do not use **o'clock** with **a.m.** or **p.m.**:

- ▶ *He gets up at 4 o'clock a.m.*
- ▶ *He gets up at 4 o'clock in the morning.*
- ▶ *I'll see you at 6 o'clock p.m.*
- ▶ *I'll see you at 6 o'clock this evening.*

