Expressions Using Numbers

Fractions and Decimals

1/2	a/one half	3/4	three quarters *or* three fourths
1/3	a/one third	9/10	nine tenths
1/4	a/one quarter *or* a/one fourth (for emphasis, use **one** instead of **a**)	2 1/2	two and a half
		5 2/3	five and two thirds
1/8	one eighth	0.1	(zero) point one
1/12	one twelfth	0.25	(zero) point two five
1/16	one sixteenth	1.75	one point seven five
2/3	two thirds	12.3	twelve point three

- *One half of our income is spent on rent.*
- *half a pound / half an hour / a mile and a half*
- *More than two thirds of the voters are against new taxes.*
- *He has a .325 (point three two five) batting average this season.*
- *A normal body temperature is ninety-eight point six degrees.*

Mathematical Expressions

+	plus	≠	is not equal to	%	percent
-	minus	≈	is approximately	5^2	five squared
×	times/multiplied by	=	equal to	4^3	four cubed
÷	divided by	>	is greater than	7^{10}	7 to the tenth power
=	equals/is	<	is less than	√	square root

- 8 + 9 = 17 *eight plus nine equals* (or *is*) *seventeen*
- 6 x 4 = 24 *six times four equals twenty-four* or *six multiplied by four is twenty-four*
- √4 = 2 *the square root of four is two*
- *90%* (= ninety percent) *of the students have a computer at home.*

Telephone Numbers

In telephone numbers, you say each number separately, often with a pause after the first three numbers.

0 is pronounced like "oh" /oʊ/:

- *731-5037 seven three one, five oh three seven*

If you are calling a number in a different area or on a cell phone, you have to use the **area code** first:

- *(212) 569-2236 two one two, five six nine, two two three six*

Numbers containing 00 are pronounced like this:

- *1 (800) 555-1212 one eight hundred, five five five, one two one two*
- *589-2300 five eight nine, two three hundred*

Temperature

The **Fahrenheit** (°F) scale is usually used to measure temperature in the U.S.:

- *Temperatures went up to over a hundred* (= 100°F).
- *You'll need a hat and gloves – it's three below* (= -3°F) *outside today!*
- *She's sick in bed with a temperature of a hundred and two* (= 102°F).

The **Celsius** or **Centigrade** (°C) scale is used in scientific contexts:

- *Water freezes at 0°C* (= zero degrees Celsius) *and boils at 100°C* (= one hundred degrees Celsius).

Money

1¢	one cent	a penny
5¢	five cents	a nickel
10¢	ten cents	a dime
25¢	twenty-five cents	a quarter
$1.00	one dollar	a dollar bill
$20.00	twenty dollars	a twenty-dollar bill *or* a twenty

- *Is that all, sir? That will be $5.85 (five eighty-five) plus tax.*
- *Do you have change for a twenty?*
- *I need some quarters for the parking meter.*

In informal speech, dollars are sometimes called **bucks**:

- *This shirt cost fifty bucks.*

Dates

You can **write** dates in numbers, or in numbers and words:

- *4/15/11 (month/day/year)*
- *April 15th, 2011* or *April 15, 2011*

You can **say**:

- *April (the) fifteenth, two thousand and eleven* or *the fifteenth of April, two thousand and eleven*
- *She was born on May 4 (May fourth/the fourth of May).*
- *My passport expires in 2014 (two thousand and fourteen* or *twenty fourteen).*
- *My grandmother died in 1989 (nineteen eighty-nine).*
- *Are you available on the 23rd (twenty-third) of June?*
- *The play is on Thursday the 30th (thirtieth).*

Times

There is usually more than one way of saying times:

6:05	six o five	five after six	11:30	eleven thirty	half past eleven
8:10	eight ten	ten after eight	9:45	nine forty-five	(a) quarter to/of ten
4:15	four fifteen	(a) quarter after four	12:55	twelve fifty-five	five to/of one

Use **o'clock** only for whole hours:

- *It's three o'clock.*

The 12-hour clock is used in the U.S., so sometimes you need to specify the time of day:

- *The meeting will begin at 8 p.m. sharp.*
- *We didn't get home till after 1 a.m.*
- *My plane leaves at six in the morning/three in the afternoon.*
- *She worked until six in the evening/eleven at night.*

Weights and Measures

	U.S. Standard System	Metric System

Weight

	1 ounce (oz.)	= 28.35 grams (g)
16 ounces	= 1 pound (lb.)	= 0.454 kilogram (kg)
2,000 pounds	= 1 ton	= 907 kilograms

- *I weigh 195 pounds.*
- *Their new baby weighs 7 pounds, 12 ounces.*
- *The truck weighs over four tons.*
- *We added six ounces of nuts to the cookies.*

Length

	1 inch (in.)	= 2.54 centimeters (cm)
12 inches	= 1 foot (ft.)	= 30.48 centimeters
3 feet	= 1 yard (yd.)	= 0.9144 meter (m)
1,760 yards	= 1 mile	= 1.609 kilometers (km)

- *The bus stop is only 30 yards away from our house.*
- *The frame is 5 inches by 7 inches.*
- *There are 5,280 feet in one mile.*

Area

	1 square inch (sq. inch)	= 6.45 square centimeters (cm^2)
144 square inches	= 1 square foot (sq. foot)	= 929.03 square centimeters
9 square feet	= 1 square yard (sq. yard)	= 0.836 square meter (m^2)
4,840 square yards	= 1 acre	= 0.405 hectare
640 acres	= 1 square mile	= 2.59 square kilometers (km^2) or 259 hectares

- *Our backyard measures 3,000 square feet.*
- *How many square inches are in a square yard?*
- *The farm has four acres of corn fields.*

Capacity

	1 fluid ounce (fl. oz.)	= 29.573 milliliters (ml)
16 fluid ounces	= 1 pint (pt.)	= 0.473 liter (l)
2 pints	= 1 quart (qt.)	= 0.946 liter
4 quarts	= 1 gallon (gal.)	= 3.785 liters
	1 teaspoon (tsp.)	= 5 milliliters
1 tablespoon (tbsp.)	= 3 teaspoons	= 15 milliliters
1 cup (c.)	= 8 ounces	= 237 milliliters
2 cups	= 1 pint	= 473 milliliters

- *I need to buy a gallon of milk and some bananas.*
- *How many pints are there in a gallon?*
- *To make bread, you will need 4 cups of flour and 1 tablespoon of yeast.*