



Lesson 48.

The Numeral



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The Numerals

Definition: The numeral is a part of speech that indicates the number or order of objects.

English numerals are divided into two groups: **cardinal** and **ordinal** numerals.

Cardinal numerals indicate the number of objects (answer the question «how much? – how many?»):

one, two, three, four, five ...

Ordinal numerals indicate the order of objects (answer the question «which?»):

first, second, third, fourth, fifth ...

The Numerals

Features of the use of English numerals

In the case of designating numbers, pages, chapters, parts of books, auditoriums, houses, trams, etc., cardinal numerals are usually used.

In this case, the cardinal numeral follows the noun it defines, and the noun is used without an article:

chapter one

part two

lesson three

page fifteen

Open your books at page twenty-three

Read paragraph five

The Numerals

Features of the use of English numerals

In the case of using an ordinal numeral it is placed before the noun, and the noun acquires a definite article:

the first chapter

the second part

the third lesson

Years are denoted by cardinal numerals. When reading the year designations, the chronological date is divided in half and each half being read as a separate number:

1917 (nineteen seventeen)

1848 (eighteen forty-eight)

A. S. Pushkin was born in 1799 and died in 1837.

The Numerals

Features of the use of English numerals

When denoting arithmetic operations, the verb expressing the result of the action can be in the singular or in the plural:

Five plus four is nine.

Three times four are twelve.

Cardinal numerals over one are used with a plural noun:

There are three classes of reactors: slow, intermediate and fast.

Two-digit and multi-digit numbers ending in one are used with a plural noun:

There are thirty-one days in January.

The Numerals

Cardinal numbers

Cardinal numerals are useful to answer some kinds of questions like:

«How many fish are there in the fishbowl?»

or

«How much money do I have in the bank?»

So, they are used to count.

0 – zero, naught, null

1 – one

2 – two

3 – three

4 – four

5 – five

6 – six

7 – seven

8 – eight

9 – nine

10 – ten

11 – eleven

12 – twelve

The Numerals

Cardinal numbers

Cardinal numerals from 13 to 19 are formed by adding the suffix **-teen**:

13 – thirteen
14 – fourteen
15 – fifteen
16 – sixteen
17 – seventeen
18 – eighteen
19 – nineteen

Numerals-tens are formed using the **-ty** suffix:

60 – sixty
80 – eighty

The Numerals

Cardinal numbers

If the cardinal numeral consists of tens and ones, then these two words are separated by a hyphen:

21 – twenty-one
73 – seventy-three

If the cardinal numeral consists of hundreds and thousands, then words denoting tens and ones can be attached to them using the conjunction **and**:

101 – one hundred **and** one
386 – three hundred **and** eighty-six
4034 – four thousand **and** thirty-four
6739 – six thousand seven hundred **and** thirty-nine

The Numerals

Cardinal numbers

Phone numbers, credit card numbers, etc. are read numerically:

89 568 90786 – eight nine, five six eight, nine oh seven eight six

In large numbers, the digits are separated from each other by a comma:

1,467
345,845,234

Some examples

I purchased one apple.

They ordered eighteen sandwiches.

He wore the number twenty-three.

I think there must be eight hundred and twenty-one dollars on my account.

My dad turns fifty-nine this year.

The Numerals

Ordinal numbers

Ordinal numerals in English are formed from cardinal ones by adding the suffix **-th**:

seven - seventh
seven - seventh
ten - tenth

If this suffix is preceded by the letter **-y**, then it is replaced with **-ie**:

thirty – thirtieth
eighty – eightieth

Exceptions are the following ordinal numbers:

one – first
two – second
three – third

five – fifth
eight – eighth

nine – ninth
twelve – twelfth

The Numerals

Ordinal numbers

In compound ordinal numerals, only the last component has an ordinal form:

36th – thirty-sixth

242nd – two hundred and forty-second

A noun associated with an ordinal numeral is used with the definite article:

The second act of the play is my favourite.

Less often, in this case, an indefinite article can be used, then the meaning of the phrase changes to «**one more**»:

I've written a complaint, and then a second one.

The Numerals

Date and time in English

Years in English are read as follows:

1400 – fourteen hundred
1502 – fifteen two (fifteen hundred and two)
1812 – eighteen twelve (eighteen hundred and twelve)
2000 – two thousand, twenty hundred
2007 – two thousand seven

Dates are written in ordinal numerals:

17th January, 1998 – the seventeenth of January, nineteen ninety-eight
January 17th, 1998 – January the seventeenth, nineteen ninety-eight

The Numerals

Date and time in English

Times of day:

4.00 – four (o'clock)

8.05 – five minutes past eight (eight oh five)

2.10 – ten minutes past two (two ten)

5.12 – twelve minutes past five (five twelve)

11.15 – quarter past eleven (eleven fifteen)

9.30 – half past nine (nine thirty)

1.35 – twenty-five minutes to two (one thirty-five)

10.45 – quarter to eleven (ten forty-five)

7.52 – eight minutes to eight (seven fifty-two)

The Numerals

Date and time in English

The word «**past**» is used to refer to the part of an hour from zero to 30 minutes (literally means "after"):

I came here at quarter past nine.

The word «**to**» denotes a time from 30 to 59 minutes:

The plane takes off at ten minutes to twelve.

American English also sometimes uses the words **after** and **till**:

quarter **after** nine

ten minutes **till** twelve

The Numerals

Date and time in English

The word **o'clock** is used only to indicate a whole hour (no minutes). It is not used with the words **am** / **pm** or after the digits ".00"

The accident occurred at six o'clock.

In informal conversation, the word **o'clock** is often omitted:

I'm stuck in traffic, I'll be at home only at 8.

Words **a.m.** and **p.m.** (from Lat. "ante meridiem" and "post meridiem") denote the time before and after noon:

The match is starting at 4 p. m.

I usually get up at 7 a. m.

The Numerals

Fractional numbers in English

Simple fractions consist of a cardinal numerator and an ordinal denominator:

$1/12$ – one-twelfth

$1/7$ – one-seventh

Exceptions:

$1/2$ - one half

$1/4$ - one quarter

If the numerator is more than one, the denominator is used in plural form:

$5/6$ – five-sixths

$8/10$ – eight-tenths

In mixed numbers, the fractional part is joined to the integer with conjunction **and**:

$5 \frac{1}{3}$ – five and one-third

The Numerals

Fractional numbers in English

Nouns associated with a fractional number are used in the singular and with the preposition **of**:

$1/4$ mile – one quarter of a mile

Nouns associated with mixed fractions are used in the plural and without the preposition **of**:

$5 \frac{1}{4}$ kilograms – five and one fourth kilograms

In decimal fractions, the fractional part is appended to the integer with the word **point**:

0.6 – zero point six

8.2 – eight point two

If the integer part is zero, its pronunciation is not important : 0.75 (.75) – point seventy five

The Numerals

Substantiation of numerals in English

English numerals can go into the noun class. In this case, they can be used in the plural, combined with the article and adjectives:

hundreds of visitors

thousands of children

millions of immigrants

the five of hearts / the nine of diamonds

the late eighties

I got a three in Geography.

It's a dangerous area, you should go only in twos.

Arrange the chairs in threes, please!

The Numerals

Substantiation of numerals in English

Numbers 100, 1,000; 1,000,000 are used with the indefinite article **a** or the numeral **one**. If the number does not exceed one hundred, thousand or a million, more often **a** is used: 100 - a hundred - one hundred. If it exceeds, then **one** is more often used.

I have a hundred pens.

We see a thousand soldiers.

We gave them a million flowers

There are one billion people there

Using percentage expressions:

I own 51 **percent** of this company.

I own 51 **per cent** of this company.

The spellings **per cent** and **percent** are both correct. The two-word spelling is more common in Canada and Britain, while the one-word spelling is preferred in the United States.