

Numbers and time

Introduction



My number is **0044 20 7869 4452**.

Numbers

0	zero / 'o'	19	nineteen
1	one	20	twenty
2	two	21	twenty-one
3	three	22	twenty-two
4	four	23	twenty-three
5	five	24	twenty-four
6	six	25	twenty-five
7	seven	26	twenty-six
8	eight	27	twenty-seven
9	nine	28	twenty-eight
10	ten	29	twenty-nine
11	eleven	30	thirty
12	twelve	40	forty
13	thirteen	50	fifty
14	fourteen	60	sixty
15	fifteen	70	seventy
16	sixteen	80	eighty
17	seventeen	90	ninety
18	eighteen	100	one hundred

Telephone numbers

1. We say each digit of a phone number separately: 01622 613579

My number is zero one six two two six one three five seven nine.

My number is sixty-one thirty-five seventy-nine. ❌

2. We can say 'zero' or 'o' 03 21 13 75 23 =

'o' three two one one three seven five two three
or

zero three two one one three seven five two three

3. 33 = three three or double three

Other numbers

236 = two hundred and thirty-six

4,567 = four thousand, five hundred and sixty-seven

Sometimes we can say the digits separately. For example:

Flight no. BA5786 = BA five seven eight six

Room no. 236 = Room no. two hundred and thirty-six or two three six

2610 Castle Avenue = two thousand, six hundred and ten or two six one 'o' Castle Avenue

Time

We write	or	We say	or
01:00	1:00 a.m. [or am]	one (a.m.)	one o'clock (in the morning)
02:00	2:00 a.m.	two (a.m.)	two o'clock (in the morning)
03:00	3:00 a.m.	three (a.m.)	three o'clock (in the morning)
12:00		twelve (noon/midday)	
13:00	1:00 p.m. [or pm]	one (p.m.)	one o'clock (in the afternoon)
14:00	2:00 p.m.	two (p.m.)	two o'clock (in the morning)
15:00	3:00 p.m.	three (p.m.)	three o'clock (in the afternoon)
16:00	4:00 p.m.	four (p.m.)	four o'clock (in the afternoon)
17:00	5:00 p.m.	five (p.m.)	five o'clock (in the afternoon/evening)
18:00	6:00 p.m.	six (p.m.)	six o'clock (in the evening)
19:00	7:00 p.m.	seven (p.m.)	seven o'clock (in the evening)
20:00	8:00 p.m.	eight (p.m.)	eight o'clock (in the evening/at night)
21:00	9:00 p.m.	nine (p.m.)	nine o'clock (in the evening/at night)
22:00	10:00 p.m.	ten (p.m.)	ten o'clock (in the evening/at night)
23:00	11:00 p.m.	eleven p.m.	eleven o'clock (in the evening/at night)
00:00		twelve midnight	twelve o'clock (at night)

We write	or	We say	or
12:05	12:05 a.m./p.m.	twelve 'o' five (a.m./p.m.)	five past twelve (in the morning/afternoon)
12:10	12:10 a.m./p.m.	twelve ten (a.m./p.m.)	ten past twelve (in the morning/afternoon)
12:15	12:15 a.m./p.m.	twelve fifteen (a.m./p.m.)	quarter past twelve (in the morning/afternoon)

12:20	12:20 a.m./p.m.	twelve twenty (a.m./p.m.)	twenty past twelve (in the morning/afternoon)
12.25	12:25 a.m./p.m.	twelve twenty-five (a.m./p.m.)	twenty-five past twelve (in the morning/afternoon)
12:30	12:30 a.m./p.m.	twelve thirty (a.m./p.m.)	half past twelve (in the morning/afternoon)
12:35	12:35 a.m./p.m.	twelve thirty-five (a.m./p.m.)	twenty-five to one (in the morning/afternoon)
12:40	12:40 a.m./p.m.	twelve forty (a.m./p.m.)	twenty to one (in the morning/afternoon)
12:45	12:45 a.m./p.m.	twelve forty-five (a.m./p.m.)	quarter to one (in the morning/afternoon)
12:50	12:50 a.m./p.m.	twelve fifty (a.m./p.m.)	ten to one (in the morning/afternoon)
12:55	12:55 a.m./p.m.	twelve fifty-five (a.m./p.m.)	five to one (in the morning/afternoon)

Note that

1. We only say 'o'clock' with whole hours when there are no minutes:
5 o'clock

half past 5 o'clock ❌
twenty to 4 o'clock ❌

2. We never say or write '13 o'clock' or 'half past seventeen' etc.

When talking about timetables or schedules, we may say:
eighteen hundred - 18:00 eighteen 'o' five - 18:05

This is also used by military personnel who say:

eighteen hundred hours - 18:00 'o' eight hundred hours - 08:00

All these expressions are very rare in everyday conversation.

Examples



"What time is it?" "It's five o'clock."



"It's five past twelve."



"What's your number?" "My office number is **0151 456778** and my mobile is **07719 345221**."

"And your address?" "**15 Church Street, Liverpool, L11DA**."



"My flight number is **EZY3456**. It lands at **12:05**. We can have lunch before the meeting at **three**."



"Here are your keys. You have room numbers **345** and **346** on the third floor. Enjoy your stay."



"We have **fifty** people in our Tokyo office and about a **hundred** in Europe."



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