

# Numbers

Intermediate English, Week 2, Spring 2021

# Reading very large numbers

- In English, we can divide our numbers into *tens, hundreds, thousands, millions, billions, and trillions*
  - There are bigger numbers, but we don't use them very often!
- To read a very big number, look at how many commas ( , ) it has. Then read each section by itself, left to right
  - One comma – thousands 26,000
  - Two commas – millions 8,000,000
  - Three commas – billions 349,000,000,000

# Ordinal numbers

- An *ordinal number* is used for putting things in order, not for a quantity
  - We use them for dates, streets, and
- 1<sup>st</sup> = first (also 21<sup>st</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, 41<sup>st</sup>... but **not 11**)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> = second (22<sup>nd</sup>, 32<sup>nd</sup>, 42<sup>nd</sup>... but **not 12**)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> = third (23<sup>rd</sup>, 33<sup>rd</sup>, 43<sup>rd</sup>... but **not 13**)
- For all other numbers, put a “th” on the end of the number
  - 16<sup>th</sup> = sixteenth, 70<sup>th</sup> = seventieth, etc.

# Zero or “oh” ?

- Sometimes, we pronounce the number 0 as “oh”
- We do this in addresses, years, time, telephone numbers, and transportation
  - You need to take bus number 302 at 12:07 PM.
  - My telephone number is 651-702-3840.
  - The library is at 301 Jackson Street. It was built in 1903.
- It is also okay to say “zero,” but native speakers usually say “oh”

# Decimals and percents

- A *decimal* is part of a number, not a whole number
- We write it using a decimal point ‘ . ’ (pronounced “point”)
  - 395.667
  - 3.14159
- Read each number after the decimal by itself
  - 5.62 five point six two **NOT five point sixty two**
- % is pronounced *percent*. We can use it together with decimals
  - 18.45% eighteen point four five percent
  - 100% = all of something, the whole

# Fractions

- A *fraction* is part of a number
- We write fractions with two numbers, one on top and one on bottom
- Some fractions have special readings
  - $\frac{1}{2}$  = one half
  - $\frac{2}{3}$  = two thirds
  - $\frac{3}{4}$  = three fourths OR three quarters
- For other fractions, read the top number, then the bottom number as an ordinal number (with -th)
  - $\frac{4}{5}$  = four fifths
  - $\frac{1}{7}$  = one seventh

# Basic math

- We read math symbols using certain English words
- = equals; is
- + plus
  - $7+7=14$  seven plus seven is fourteen
- - minus (in an equation); negative (in front of a number)
  - $8-5=3$  eight minus five equals three / It is  $-12^{\circ}$  outside. (negative 12 degrees)
- $\times$  multiplied by; times
  - $3\times 4=12$  three times four equals twelve
- $\div$  divided by
  - $10\div 5=2$  ten divided by five is two

# How do you read these sentences?

1. My address is 401 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55102. My phone number is 612-280-1708.
2. More than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of people in San Francisco are Asian, and 5.26% are African American.
3. The population of Dallas, Texas, is 1,331,000 people.
4.  $347-55=292$ , and  $431+96=527$ .



# Fix the mistakes in the sentences

11<sup>th</sup> (eleventh)

1. The house is on the corner of 4th Street and ~~11st~~ Avenue.

multiplied (times)

2. Sixteen ~~divided~~ by two is thirty two.

million

3. The population of Minnesota is more than five ~~billion~~ people.

point

4. Seventy nine ~~dot~~ nine six percent of people in Minnesota voted in the 2020 election.