

Ordinal numbers

1 st	first	11 th	eleventh	21 st	twenty-first	31 st	thirty-first
2 nd	second	12 th	twelfth	22 nd	twenty-second	40 th	fortieth
3 rd	third	13 th	thirteenth	23 rd	twenty-third	50 th	fiftieth
4 th	fourth	14 th	fourteenth	24 th	twenty-fourth	60 th	sixtieth
5 th	fifth	15 th	fifteenth	25 th	twenty-fifth	70 th	seventieth
6 th	sixth	16 th	sixteenth	26 th	twenty-sixth	80 th	eightieth
7 th	seventh	17 th	seventeenth	27 th	twenty-seventh	90 th	ninetieth
8 th	eighth	18 th	eighteenth	28 th	twenty-eighth	100 th	one hundredth
9 th	ninth	19 th	nineteenth	29 th	twenty-ninth	1000 th	one thousandth
10 th	tenth	20 th	twentieth	30 th	thirtieth	1,000,000 th	one millionth

Writing the Ordinal Numbers

To write ordinal numbers we just add *th* to the number:

Example:

four – fourth

eleven – eleventh

Exceptions

- one – first
- two – second
- three – third
- five – fifth
- eight – eighth
- nine – ninth
- twelve – twelfth

In larger numbers, we only change the last numeral to an ordinal number:

Example:

421st = four hundred and twenty-first

5,011th = five thousand and eleventh

Numerals

To turn numerals into ordinal numbers we add the last two letters of the written number to the numeral.

- first = 1st
- second = 2nd
- third = 3rd
- fourth = 4th
- twenty-sixth = 26th
- a/one hundred and first = 101st

Usage

Date: We use ordinal numbers to say the date.

Example:

Today is the eleventh of June.

The concert is on the the seventeenth of January.

Order and lists: We use ordinal numbers to put things in an order or when making lists/enumerations.

Example:

We live on the fifteenth floor.

First, wash the rice. Second, put it in a saucepan. Third, add water. Fourth, cook for 10 minutes.

Titles: In titles (e.g. kings and queens), ordinal numbers are written as Roman numerals. In Spoken English, we add the definite article before the ordinal number:

Example:

Charles II – Charles the Second

Edward VI – Edward the Sixth

Henry VIII – Henry the Eighth

Roman Numerals

Symbol	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
Value	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10