

NUMBERS

A Notice how the following numbers are said in English.

28% twenty-eight per cent

10.3 ten point three

$\frac{4}{9}$ four ninths

10 m × 12 m ten metres by twelve metres

$1\frac{2}{3}$ one and two thirds

$\frac{7}{8}$ seven eighths or seven over eight

1,623,457 one million, six hundred and twenty-three thousand, four hundred and fifty-seven

$6 \times 7 = 42$ six times seven is forty two, six times seven equals forty two

$e=mc^2$ e equals mc squared

B How numerate are you? Try this numbers quiz.

1. Name the first four odd numbers.
2. Name the first four even numbers.
3. Name the first four prime numbers.
4. Give an example of a fraction.

C Write the following in words.

1. 2% of the British population owned 90% of the country's wealth in 1992.
2. 62.3% adults have false teeth.
3. $\frac{2}{3} \times 7 = 4.66$
4. 2,694,425 people live here.

D Read the following records aloud.

1. Oxygen accounts for 46.6% of the earth's crust.
2. The top coffee-drinking country in the world is Finland where 1,892 cups per annum are consumed per head of the population.
3. The commonest item of lost property on London transport is the umbrella. 23,250 umbrellas were handed in to London transport lost property offices in 1987.
4. The smallest country in the world is the Vatican City with an area of 0.4 sq km.

ABBREVIATIONS

A Some abbreviations are read as individual letters:

WHO World Health Organisation

PM Prime Minister

BBC British Broadcasting Corporation

MP Member of Parliament

UN United Nations

B Some abbreviations are read as words, we call them acronyms.

NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

OPEC Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries

AIDS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

C Abbreviations are used in the organisation of language. How do we read the following ones?

etc.

NB

i.e.

RSVP

PTO

e.g.

D You might see the following abbreviations on a letter/ message/ envelope. What do they stand for?

c/o

asap

enc.

PS

(Adapted from McCarthy M., O'Dell, F. *English Vocabulary in Use, Upper-intermediate and Advanced*. Cambridge University Press, 1994.)