

Cardinal, Ordinal and Nominal Numbers

Warm-Up

Learning English isn't all about letters and words. You need to learn numbers, too! How high can you count in English? When is your birthday? What is your telephone number?

1. Dialogues

Read the dialogues, and practice with a partner. Then circle the number words. Try to figure out the difference between these three types of numbers.

A. Cardinal Numbers

A: How many aunts do you have?
B: I have two aunts on my mom's side and three on my dad's side. How many do you have?
A: I only have one aunt. You have five aunts!
B: Are you counting great-aunts? I also have three great-aunts.
A: You have so many aunts! I don't have any great-aunts.
B: I have a lot of aunts, but I only have one uncle—Uncle Bob.
A: Does your uncle have any kids?
B: Yes. He has six kids.
A: I guess you have a lot of cousins too!

B. Ordinal Numbers

A: How was the race?
B: Great. I came in third place.
A: Congratulations! Who came in second place?
B: My sister came in second place.
A: Really? That's fantastic.
B: Can you guess who came in first?
A: Hmm, did your brother come in first?
B: No, he came in 19th. My best friend came in first!
A: Wow! What an exciting race.

C. Nominal Numbers

A: I need some player information for our files. What number is on your hockey jersey?
B: Number 17.
A: Okay, and what's your zip code?
B: 89097-3678.
A: Thanks. Do you know your driver's license number?
B: Let me check. It's 340980478. Do you need my social insurance number, too?
A: No, but I do need your telephone number.
B: I will give you my cell number. It's 319-789-8901.
A: Thank you! Your file is up to date.

