

Numbers in English

There are some differences between English and Croatian when it comes to expressing numbers. The examples below will help you to read and write numbers and figures in English in the correct way.

Expressing large numbers

The words *hundred*, *thousand*, *million* and *dozen*, when used as a definite number are always singular. Only when they express a large but indefinite number we can use *hundreds of*, *thousands of*, *millions of* and *dozens of*.

For example:

The concert hall can hold up to five hundred people.

The concert hall can hold hundreds of people.

English	Read as:	Croatian
100	a/one hundred	sto/stotinu
500	five hundred	petsto/pet stotina
1,000	a/one thousand	tisuću
3,000	three thousand	tri tisuće
1,000,000	a/one million	milijun
7,000,000	seven million	sedam milijuna
hundreds of pounds		stotine funti
thousands of customers		tisuće kupaca

If you sometimes use numbers over a million, notice that there is a difference between English and Croatian when it comes to counting zeros.

English	Read as:	Croatian
1,000,000	a/one million	milijun
1,000,000,000	a/one billion	milijarda
1,000,000,000,000	a/one trillion	bilijun

If you want to avoid writing zeros when dealing with millions, in English it is possible to use an abbreviation for the word *million* which follows the number without a space. For example, *The new school cost €7m to build.* (read as: seven million euros)

Reading mathematical symbols

$2 + 2 = 4$	2 plus 2 equals 4
$4 - 3 = 1$	4 minus 3 equals 1
$2 \times 3 = 6$	2 times 3 equals 6
$9 \div 3 = 3$	9 divided by 3 equals 3
$\sqrt{16} = 4$	the square root of 16 is 4
5-6	5 to 6
$10 \pm 20\%$	10 plus or minus 20 per cent
(BP) 120/80	(blood pressure) 120 over 80
#3	number 3
$\frac{1}{2}$	a/one half

$\frac{7}{8}$ seven eights
 $2\frac{1}{3}$ (miles) two and a third miles

Commas and points

Great Britain and the United States use a point to indicate the decimal place. Croatia uses a comma instead. Likewise, while the U.K. and U.S. use a comma to separate groups of thousands, Croatia uses a point instead. Do not forget to also use the decimal point between the whole number and the decimal when you express values in per cents (%) or per mills (‰). In Croatia, a comma is used instead of the decimal point.

English	Read as:	Croatian
6,300.00	six thousand three hundred	6.300,00
18,150.00	eighteen thousand one hundred and fifty	18.150,00
1,412,605.14	one million four hundred and twelve thousand six hundred and five point fourteen	1.412.605,12
40% [?]	forty per cent [?]	40% [?]
63.07% [?]	sixty-three point naught/zero seven per cent [?]	63,07% [?]
0.5‰ [?]	naught/zero point five per mill	0,5‰ [?]

Space

There is no consensus as to whether or not to include a space between the number and per cent sign in English and in Croatian. Hence the question mark in the examples under the previous heading. British and Croatian style guides seem to be in favour of spacing, but common practice shows that the per cent sign is rarely separated by a space. In American English, the space is skipped with percentages. Notice also that in English the per cent sign can be written in two different ways: as *per cent* or *percent*.

Likewise, in the U.K. and U.S. there is no consensus as to whether or not to include a space between a number and a unit of measurement. Style guides generally recommend to leave a space, but in everyday usage the two are not usually spaced. In Croatian, there is usually a space between a number and a unit of measurement.

Frequent English usage	Read as:	Croatian usage
50mph	fifty miles per hour	80 km/h
5ft 7ins or 5' 7"	five foot seven inches	170 cm
77°F	seventy-seven degrees Fahrenheit	25°C
0.5cm	point five centimetres	0,5 cm
65 sq ft	sixty-five square feet	6 m ²

When it comes to currency symbols, do not insert a space between a currency *symbol* and the number. However, separate currency *abbreviations* and the number with a space. You will also notice that currency symbols and abbreviations precede the numbers in the English language.

English	Read as:	Croatian
£60	sixty pounds	60 funti
\$25	twenty-five dollars	25 dolara
GBP 2.40	two pounds forty pence	2 funte i 40 penija

USD 35.20 thirty-five dollars and twenty cents | 35 dolara i 20 centi