15 Numbers

Numbers

Look at how to say numbers. The word 'and' (shown in brackets) is used in British English.

348	three hundred (and) forty-eight
21,000	twenty-one thousand
21,300	twenty-one thousand, three hundred
21,348	twenty-one thousand, three hundred (and) forty-eight
240,000	two hundred (and) forty thousand
8.5m	eight point five million

Note these points.

- The words 'hundred', 'thousand', etc do NOT have an '-s' when used in numbers like those above. However they do have an '-s' in phrases like 'hundreds of people', 'millions of dollars'.
- 0 can be spoken as 'zero', 'nought' or 'oh' depending on dialect and context. The safest thing is just to say 'zero'.
- It is often easier to use approximate numbers:

390–410	around / about / roughly 400
396	nearly / just under 400
404	just over 400

+ / - / x / ÷

Look at how to say mathematical operations.

8+2	eight plus two
8–2	eight minus (take away) two
8×2	eight times (multiplied by) two
8÷2	eight divided by two

To say the result use 'is' or 'makes' or 'equals'.

*Eight plus two **is / makes / equals** ten.*

Money

Look at how to say amounts of money.

€9	nine euros
€9.50	nine euros fifty
	OR nine euros and fifty cents

Euros and dollars both have cents. Pounds have pence.

Different currencies have an exchange rate. You can ask:

*What's the **euro–dollar exchange rate**?*
*What's **the rate of** the euro **to** the dollar?*

In other contexts the word 'rate' means %.

The inflation rate is 4%.

Fractions, decimals and percentages

Look at how to say fractions.

½	a half	⅓	a third
¼	a quarter	⅔	two thirds
¾	three quarters		

A quarter of our staff *are on short-term contracts.*
Two thirds of the people *who responded to our survey wanted longer opening hours on Sundays.*

With more complicated fractions we say 'out of' instead of giving the fraction.

Three out of ten people *who visited our website placed an order.* (NOT three-tenths of the people)

With decimals use the word 'point' and say the numbers after the point individually.

2.56   two point five six (NOT two point fifty-six)

With % use 'per cent'. The noun is 'percentage'.

*What **percentage profit** do you make on this product?*

With ratios use the word 'to'.

8 : 1   eight to one

*The **ratio** (proportion) **of** staff **to** managers in our company is around **eight to one**.*

Measurements

Look at how to say measurements.

10mm	ten millimetres
10cm	ten centimetres
10m	ten metres
$10m^2$	ten square metres (area)
5×2	five by two (area / cross section)
$10m^3$	ten cubic metres (volume)

Don't use 'of' with units of measurement:

two hundred euros / gigabytes
(NOT of euros / of gigabytes)

Other points

Note the phrase 'on average'.

On average *we assemble 80 cars a day.*

Note the prepositions in these examples.

*We had an increase **in** sales **of** 6%.*
*Sales increased **from** €14m **to** €16m.*

1 Read the text for general understanding.

2 Read it again and <u>underline</u> the words you don't know. Check their meaning.

3 Highlight words you know passively, but don't use actively. Choose some to write sentences of your own.

4 Check pronunciation at macmillandictionary.com

15.1 Match the numbers with the way they are said.

1 790 ☐   4 70,900 ☐
2 7,900 ☐   5 79,000 ☐
3 7,990 ☐   6 7,900,000 ☐

a seven thousand, nine hundred (and) ninety
b seventy-nine thousand
c seven hundred (and) ninety
d seven million, nine hundred thousand
e seventy thousand, nine hundred
f seven thousand, nine hundred

15.2 Write in words how you would say the numbers below. You can choose whether or not to include 'and'.

1 460 ___*four hundred (and) sixty*___
2 1,300 _____
3 6,950 _____
4 80,500 _____
5 73,000 _____
6 4,200,000 _____

15.3 Write in words how you would say the mathematical operations below. There may be more than one correct answer.

1 37−5=32
   thirty-seven minus five is (makes / equals) thirty-two

2 12×3=36

3 143+68=211

4 480÷15=32

15.4 Write in words how you would say the prices and measurements below.

1 €15.50 (two ways)   3 50cm^2
2 £4.60 (two ways)   4 15m^3

1 _____ or _____
2 _____ or _____
3 _____
4 _____

15.5 Match the fractions, decimals, percentages and ratios with the way they are said.

1 2½ ☐   3 2.55 ☐   5 ¾ ☐   7 2:1 ☐
2 2.5 ☐   4 2.5% ☐   6 ⅔ ☐   8 4⁄25 ☐

a two thirds   e three quarters
b two point five per cent f two and a half
c two point five   g four out of twenty-five
d two to one   h two point five five

15.6 Write in words how you would say the fractions, decimals, percentages and ratios below. Use a separate piece of paper.

1 ⅓   3 6.75   5 12.5%   7 0.02
2 9.3   4 6:1   6 1¾   8 13⁄40

15.7 Complete the sentences with these prepositions: *by, in, of, of, of, on, out, over, to, to.*

1 What's the exchange rate of the euro _____ the dollar?
2 Our turnover last quarter was just _____ €15m – €15.8m to be exact.
3 70% _____ the people we surveyed preferred strawberry to vanilla yoghurt.
4 Seven _____ _____ every ten people in our survey said they preferred strawberry to vanilla yoghurt.
5 _____ average US mobile subscribers send and receive 350 SMS messages a month.
6 We saw an increase _____ profits _____ 6.5% last year.
7 The gold to silver price ratio is usually around 50 or 60 _____ 1.
8 I need a piece of wood with a length of 2m and a cross section of 8cm _____ 4cm.

15.8 The following report extract has eight mistakes. Find them and correct them.

CUSTOMER SATIS...

We carried out an email-based survey of customers who have ordered from our website in the last six months. 140 out a possible 873 customers replied. Of these 140 people, the ratio of existing customers to new customers was three by two.

Existing customers had made, for average, three purchases from the website over the six-month period.

Here are the main findings of the survey:

- Rough half of our customers are from the business-to-business sector.
- 85 percentage of customers were either 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with our service.
- The remaining 15% gave a variety of reasons for not being satisfied. However it seems that recently there has been an increase on the number of late deliveries and missing items.
- Three quarters the people who replied said they wanted more video on the site so that they could see our products in use.
- Many people suggested that we give more generous discounts. One regular customer suggested a 5% discount for orders with a value more than 1,000 of euros.

ANSWERS

Exercise 15.1

1. c
2. f
3. a
4. e
5. b
6. d

Exercise 15.2

1. four hundred (and) sixty
2. one thousand, three hundred
3. six thousand, nine hundred (and) fifty
4. eighty thousand, five hundred
5. seventy-three thousand
6. four million, two hundred thousand

Exercise 15.3

1. thirty-seven minus five is (makes/equals) thirty-two
2. twelve times (multiplied by) three is (makes/equals) thirty-six
3. one hundred (and) forty-three plus sixty-eight is (makes/equals) two hundred (and) eleven
4. four hundred and eighty divided by fifteen is (makes/equals) thirty-two

Exercise 15.4

1. fifteen euros and fifty cents/fifteen euros fifty
2. four pounds and sixty pence /four pounds sixty
3. fifty square centimetres
4. fifteen cubic centimetres

Exercise 15.5

1. f
2. c
3. h
4. b
5. e
6. a
7. d
8. g

Exercise 15.6

1. one third
2. nine point three
3. six point seven five
4. six to one
5. twelve point five per cent
6. one and three quarters
7. zero point zero two
8. thirteen out of forty

Exercise 15.7

1. to
2. over
3. of
4. out of
5. On
6. in
7. to
8. by

Exercise 15.8

1. ~~out~~ out of
2. ~~three by two~~ three to two
3. ~~for average~~ on average
4. ~~Rough~~ Roughly
5. ~~percentage~~ per cent
6. ~~increase on~~ increase in
7. ~~Three quarters the people~~ Three quarters of the people
8. ~~1,000 of euros~~ 1,000 euros