

# COMMENT LIRE LES CHIFFRES

**3.45** : three point forty five

**0.08** : point oh eight

$\frac{1}{2}$  : one half

**2  $\frac{1}{2}$**  : two and a half

**1/3** : one third

$\frac{3}{4}$  : three quarters

**1/12** : one twelfth

**3.5%** : three point five per cent

*1- In British English, 'and' is used after a 'hundred' when saying numbers.*

*It is pronounced 'n':*

**315** : three hundred n fifteen

**1,908** : one thousand, nine hundred n eight

*2- Decimals are preceded by a period but a comma is put after thousand:*

**1.625** = one point six two five = 1,625 in French

**1,625** = one thousand, six hundred and twenty five = 1 625 in French

*3- Fractions are read this way:*

**1  $\frac{3}{7}$**  = one and three sevenths

**6  $\frac{5}{9}$**  = six and five ninths

*4- '... et demi' = and a half*

**12  $\frac{1}{2}$**  : twelve and a half

**1 hour  $\frac{1}{2}$**  : one and a half hours (followed by plural)

*5- Dozen, hundred, thousand and million don't take 's' after a precise numeral, nor after 'several, a few, many':*

Three hundred houses  
several million people

*6- Dates can be read in two parts:*

**1789:** seventeen eighty nine / seventeen hundred and eighty nine

**2006:** two thousand and six / twenty oh (like the letter "o") six

**2018:** twenty eighteen / two thousand and eighteen

*7- Months and days are said this way:*

*British English:* **12 (th) May = the twelfth of May.**

*American English:* **May (12th) = May the twelfth**

*And written this way:*

*British English:* 12/05/99 = **12th of May 1999** (day/month/year)

*American English:* 12/05/99 = **5th of December 1999** (month/day/year)

*8- Telephone numbers, flight numbers, bank account number, series of figures are said number by number:*

06 78 93 65 80 = oh six seven eight nine three six five eight oh

*9- Billion = one thousand million = milliard:*

**1,000,000** = a million

**1,000,000,000** = a billion

*10- Hundreds and thousands*

Often it is easier to describe four figure numbers in hundreds instead of thousands. This is perfectly acceptable.

**1,000** = one thousand

**1,500** = fifteen hundred or one thousand five hundred (or one and a half thousand)

**50 000** = fifty thousand

**150 000** = one hundred and fifty thousand

*11- Prices are read this way:*

**£1**: one pound

**90p** : ninety pence

**£25.60** : twenty-five pounds sixty

**\$1** : one dollar

**80c** : eighty cents

**\$41.50** : forty-one dollars fifty

*12- Ordinals are used to speak about Kings and Popes:*

Louis the fourteenth

John the Twenty-third