



# How to Count and Say Numbers in Foreign Languages

KS2 MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Ages 9-12 ⌚ 3 min read

## Starting with the Basics

Counting in a foreign language might seem tricky at first, but it's actually one of the easiest things to learn! Every language has its own special words for numbers, and once you know them, you can use them over and over again.

The most important numbers to learn are **1 to 10**. These are your building blocks. In **Spanish**, you say: uno, dos, tres, cuatro, cinco, seis, siete, ocho, nueve, diez. In **French**, it's: un, deux, trois, quatre, cinq, six, sept, huit, neuf, dix.

Think of it like learning the alphabet in English—once you know your letters, you can build any word you want. Numbers work the same way!

## Making Bigger Numbers

Once you know **1 to 10**, you can make bigger numbers by putting them together. In most European languages, **11** through **19** have their own special names, but then something clever happens. **20, 30, 40**, and so on follow a pattern. For example, in Spanish, **25** is "veinticinco"—which literally means "twenty-five."

To say larger numbers like **100, 1,000, or 1,000,000**, you need to know these key words. In French, 100 is "cent" and 1,000 is "mille." You then combine them with smaller numbers to make any number you want.

## Why Some Languages Count Differently

Here's something fascinating: not all languages count the same way! Some languages have special rules. In **Chinese**, numbers follow a very logical pattern that makes them easier to say than English. For instance, **11** is literally "ten-one," not a completely different word like "eleven."

Think of it like how different countries build their houses—some use bricks, some use wood, but they all keep people safe and warm in their own way.

## Practice Makes Perfect

The best way to learn numbers in any language is to **say them out loud** every day. Try counting to 100 in your target language, or practice saying prices, ages, and phone numbers. Listen to native speakers on YouTube or language apps to hear the correct **pronunciation**. Before long, numbers in a foreign language will feel as natural as English ones!