

## Having fun with Roman sums

The numbers we use today are called Arabic numbers. The Romans used letter for their numbers, and we call these Roman numbers or numerals.

**The Romans used the letter I for the number 1**

Then they used two letters for number 2 = II

Guess what they use for the number 3? \_\_\_\_\_

That's right, for number 3 they used III

This looked like I + I + I = III or 1+ 1+ 1 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Try adding up these numbers**

I + II+ III +III + I = \_\_\_\_\_

and

1 +2 + 3+ 3 + 1 = \_\_\_\_\_

You might find one of them easier!

Now, what do you think the Romans used for number 4?

Yes, they could use four letters.

The Romans do something different, because they are Roman!

**For the number 5 the Romans used the letter V**

Then, to write the number 4 they do a sum!

They write number 4 as IV! Which means V take away I or 5 - 1 = \_\_\_\_\_

Try adding V + IV + I = \_\_\_\_\_ or 5 + 4 + 1 = \_\_\_\_\_ Which sum is easier?

**These are the Roman numbers we have looked at so far**

1      2      3      4      5

I      II      III      IV      V

**Counting up to ten!**

If you want to count on from 5 to get 6, add I to get the number 6 = VI, then for 7 = VII, and again for 8 = VIII

By having a smaller number on the right-hand side of a higher number you ADD

So, XV = 10 + 5 = 15

**Now things get tricky! The Romans used X for the number 10**

To get the number 9 they wrote IX, so like number 4, by having a lower value number on the left-hand side of the higher value number, you SUBTRACT the left number from the right number.

So, IX = 10 - 1 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Phew! These Roman numbers are tricky! Here are the numbers to ten again**

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

I      II      III      IV      V      VI      VII      VIII      IX      X

Things then get tricky again because the Romans used different letters for these numbers: 50 = L, 100 = C, 500 =D, 1,000 = M

**The Romans used this pattern and rule in all their numbers**

Like this: XL = (X or 10) - (L or 50) = 10 less than 50 = 40

10    20    30    40    50    60    70    80    90    100

X    XX    XXX    XL    L    LX    LXX    LXXX    XC    C

100    200    300    400    500    600    700    800    900    1,000

C    CC    CCC    CD    D    DC    DCC    DCCC    CM    M

So, if the lower number is on the left = subtract and on the right = add  
Use the number lists above if you need help

What number is this CL? \_\_\_\_\_

What number is this XL? \_\_\_\_\_

What number is this XLIV? \_\_\_\_\_ Hint (XL + IV)

**Imagine trying to write these years with Roman numbers! Some years are easier than others!**

1850 = MCDCCCL    1993 = MCMXLI    2013 = MMXIII    2020 = MMXX

Can you write the number 13 in Roman numbers? \_\_\_\_\_

Can you write the number 88 in Roman numbers? \_\_\_\_\_

Can you write the number 222 in Roman numbers? \_\_\_\_\_

Can you write today's date in Roman numbers? Give the day, month and year

\_\_\_\_\_

Can you write you own birth date in Roman numbers? \_\_\_\_\_

So after all that do you think you would enjoy being a Roman and using their numbers or are you happy to stick with our numbers?

Can you write down one place where we still sometimes see Romans numbers used today?

\_\_\_\_\_

We still sometimes see Roman numerals on clocks, especially large clocks in public places such as railway stations.

**Make your own clock face**

Draw a circle on a piece of paper (using a round tin might be good) to make a clock face, then fill in all the numbers that are on a clock using the Roman numbers you have learnt.

IIXXCC = 222  
IIIIXXXI = 88  
IIII = 13  
4 = 4  
XLIV = 44  
XL = 40  
CL = 150  
Page 2 Answers