Numbers: zero to ten

English Pre-A1 starter

What this topic teaches

Numbers are everywhere: room numbers, bus routes, prices and pens on a desk. This topic teaches the English words for the numbers **zero** to **ten**.

- You will read and write the eleven number words.
- You will see two jobs a number can do: it can **name** a place (*Room 2*) or **count** things (*two pens*).
- Memory hook: the **digit** is the picture, the word is its English name. *2* and *two* are the same number.

Zero to five

Digit	Word
0	zero
1	one
2	two
3	three
4	four
5	five

- Point to each digit, then read its word.
- *zero* means nothing at all: *zero pens* = no pens.

Six to ten

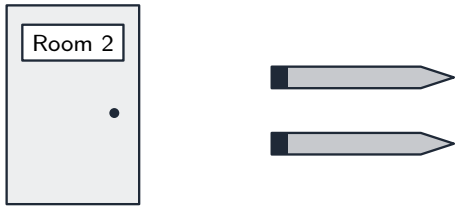
Digit	Word
6	six
7	seven
8	eight
9	nine
10	ten

- *ten* is written with two digits, 1 and 0, but it is one word: **ten**.
- Read the whole word, not only its first letter: *six* and *seven* both start with *s*.

Naming and counting

A number can do two different jobs.

Job	Example	Meaning
name a place	Room four	the room with the number 4 on its door
name a route	Bus nine	the bus with 9 on it
count	four pens	4 pens, one more than three



A number can name a place or count things

- In *Room four* the number comes **after** the place word.
- In *four pens* the number comes **before** the thing, and the thing adds **-s** for more than one: *one pen*, *two pens*.
- *Room four* is one room. It does not mean four rooms.

Watch out: traps for Chinese speakers

- △ **Add -s when you count more than one.** Chinese says 两 with no change to 两. English says *two pen**s***. Only *one* keeps the plain word: *one pen*.
- △ **Room 2 is "Room two", not "the second room".** The number is a name on the door; just read it.
- △ **Do not drop a digit.** *10* is **ten**. If you read only the 0, you say *zero* and the meaning changes completely.
- △ **A digit and a word are both correct.** *Room 4* and *Room four* say the same thing. Mixing them in one label, like *Room 4our*, is never correct.

Say it aloud

Count aloud from zero to ten. Then count back from ten to zero.

- Say your classroom number: *Room* _____.
- Count the pens on your desk: *one pen*, *two pens* …
- Read a bus or room number you see today.

Check yourself

Answer first, then read the explanation.

1. Write the word for 7. – **seven**.
2. Write the digit for *eight*. – **8**.
3. *two pen* or *two pens*? – **two pens**. More than one adds *-s*.
4. A door says *Room 6*. Say it. – **Room six**. It names one room.
5. A student reads *10* as *zero*. What is wrong? – The 1 was dropped; *10* is **ten**.

■ Practice: fill in the numbers

My classroom is Room (6) ____ (3). I have (7) ____ (2) books and (8) ____ (1) pen. My bus is Bus (9) ____ (10).

Answers. 6 **three**. 7 **two** – and the word is *books*, with *-s*. 8 **one** – *pen* has no *-s*. 9 **ten**.