



# English for Mathematics



### Introduction

This series of books is aimed at non-native English speakers who attend English language mathematics lessons in primary school. The books aim to support those who find the language used in the lesson unfamiliar and challenging.

Some of the language of mathematics is rarely used outside the classroom. It may, hence, be unfamiliar to those students who don't speak English as their first language. In some cases, words and phrases can have a different meaning in the mathematics classroom to their meaning in common usage. This can lead to confusion and frustration and can hinder progress.

The English for Mathematics series aims to teach students the language used for mathematics taught in primary school. Key words and language structures are explained, using diagrams and illustrations to aid understanding. The 'Wise Owl' gives tips and hints on how to use the language, allowing learners to check their understanding. Carefully graded activities linked to the topic and the focus vocabulary give opportunities to practise using the language.

Each of the 36 units includes notes to teachers or parents, which give ideas for how to present the language and topics to learners. The books can be used in class alongside the main textbook, or at home for further practice and reinforcement.

The clear, easy-to-use layout together with the appealing and helpful pictures and diagrams will help de-mystify the English of mathematics.

Mary Wood, Series Editor

# English for Mathematics: Book B Linda Glithro and Karen Greenway

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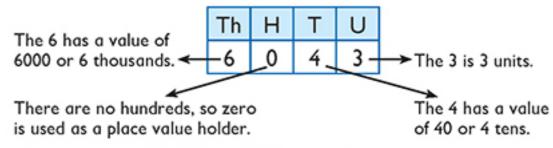


# Partitioning numbers

### Read it!

Key words: digit, place value, thousand, zero, place value holder, partition, ten thousand (10 000)

The position of a digit in a number gives its place value or size.



The 6 has a place value of 6000 or 6 thousands.

There are no hundreds, so zero is used as a place value holder.

The 4 is 40 or 4 tens.

The 3 is 3 units.

**Partitioning** a number breaks it into parts.

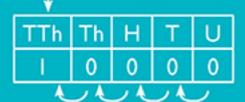
Example:

**Instruction:** Partition 3125.

**Answer:** 3125 = 3000 + 100 + 20 + 5

Remember each place is 10 times the value of the place to its right.

ten thousand



 $\times 10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10$ 

I ten thousand  $= 10 \times 1$  thousand

### **Language focus**

Everyday meaning of **digit**: a finger, thumb or toe

Mathematical meaning of **digit**: any of the numerals 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9

### Think about it!

I. Describe the place value of the 5 in these numbers.

4581 \_\_\_\_\_\_ 5109 \_\_\_\_\_ 1285 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Finish partitioning these numbers.

I. (a) Write these numbers in figures.

One thousand nine hundred and sixteen \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Three thousand four hundred and two \_\_\_\_\_\_

Six thousand and eighty-four \_\_\_\_\_\_

(b) Write these numbers in words.

5739 \_\_\_\_\_\_ 7094 \_\_\_\_\_ 2810 \_\_\_\_\_

2. (a) Partition these numbers.

4759 = \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_ 3602 = \_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_ 8015 = \_\_\_\_

(b) Put these partitioned numbers back together.

2000 + 800 + 40 + 3 = \_\_\_\_\_ 7000 + 300 + 4 = \_\_\_\_\_ 9000 + 80 = \_\_\_\_

3. Here are four digit cards.

Using all four of these cards what is ...



(a) the largest number you can make?

(b) the largest even number you can make? \_\_\_\_\_

(c) the smallest number you can make?

(b) the smallest odd number you can make? \_\_\_\_\_\_

### Teachers' and parents' note

Look for numbers to read, write and discuss in everyday life. Remind students to read numbers from the left. You start with the digit that has the largest place value. 2609 is two thousand six hundred and nine. Make sure that they remember to use zero as a place value holder. Four thousand and sixty is 4060 and ten thousand is 10 000.



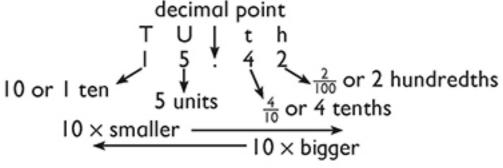
# **Decimal numbers**

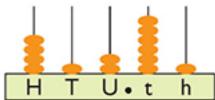
### Read it!

Key words: decimal, decimal point, tenth, hundredth, decimal place

A **decimal** (or decimal number) is a number containing a whole number part and a fraction part.

The **decimal point** separates the whole number part from the fraction.





Example:

T U• t h represents the number 412.61.

This number has 4 hundreds, I ten, 2 units, 6 tenths and I hundredth.

### Language focus

The first decimal place shows the number of tenths (t). The second decimal place shows the number of hundredths (h).

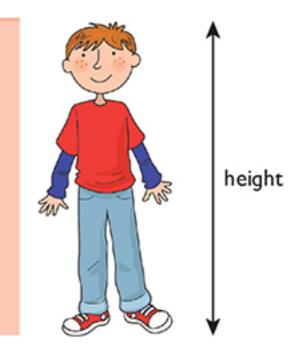
A centimetre is one hundredth of a metre. I metre + 25 centimetres = 1.25 metres 1.25 m = 125 cm



### Think about it!

- I. What is the value of the seven in these numbers?

  - (a) 3.72 \_\_\_\_\_ (b) 7.43 \_\_\_\_ (c) 1.87 \_\_\_\_
- 2. Change these amounts from metres to centimetres.
  - (a) 2.65 m = \_\_\_\_\_ (b) 0.90 m = \_\_\_\_ (c) 1.04 m = \_\_\_\_\_



Ali is 115 cm tall, which is equivalent to 1.15 m.

What is the height of these children in metres?

- (a) Anton 124 cm = \_\_\_\_\_ (b) Bruno 131 cm = \_\_\_\_
- (c) Conrad 109 cm = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Complete the table for the number 184.39.

The first row has been done for you.

tens	8
units	
hundreds	
tenths	
hundredths	

3. Put these lengths in order, starting with the largest.

1.99 m

655 cm

5.45 m

200 cm

### Teachers' and parents' note

The end of the word 'hundredths' is challenging to pronounce even for native English students. The three sounds /d/ /th/ /s/ require you to move your tongue into three different positions. You could make it a game, emphasising the pronunciation, perhaps using a mirror. At the same time, revise the mathematical definition as the position of the second digit to the right of the decimal point equal to  $\frac{1}{100}$ .



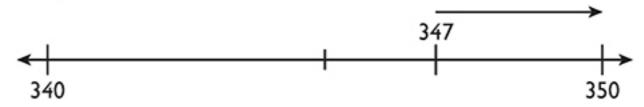
# Rounding numbers

### Read it!

Key words: round (a number to ...), between (halfway between), closer to, closest to

**Rounding** a number makes a simpler number. It is less accurate but easier to use. The number is still close to what it was.

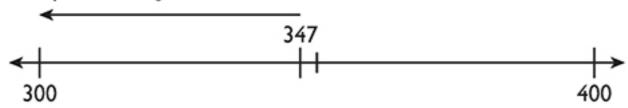
To round to the nearest 10, round down a units digit of 4 or less, and round up a units digit of 5 or more.



347 is between 340 and 350 but is closer to 350.

347 is 350 when rounded to the nearest 10.

To round to the nearest 100, round down a tens digit of 4 or less, and round up a tens digit of 5 or more.



Example:

Question: What is 347 rounded to the nearest 100? (Look at the tens digit.)

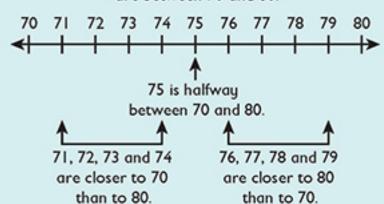
Answer: 300 (347 is rounded down to 300 because 4 tens are nearer to

300 than 400.)

### Language focus

Between, halfway between, closer to

The whole numbers 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78 and 79 are between 70 and 80.



5 is exactly in the middle, but the rule is that the digit 5 is always **rounded up**.



plus

### Think about it!

I. Round these numbers to the nearest 10.

(a) 432 \_\_\_\_\_ (b) 567 \_\_\_\_ (c) 408 \_\_\_\_

2. Round these numbers to the nearest 100.

(a) 762 \_\_\_\_\_ (b) 639 \_\_\_\_\_ (c) 527 \_\_\_\_\_

### **Practise it!**

I. Tick (✓) the number that is closest to 500.

538

485

5050

490

515

2. Complete the table.

	Rounded to the nearest 10	Rounded to the nearest 100
493		
3465		
752		
6056		

3. Mia is rounding numbers to the nearest 10.

Her answer is 650.

List all the whole numbers she could round.



### Teachers' and parents' note

Ask individual students to explain to you how they would round a number to the nearest 10 (100). Remind them that they can use a number line to make it clear. 'Teaching' another person is an excellent way to develop understanding.



# Comparing numbers

### Read it!

Key words: compare, size, number line, order, greater than ( > ), less than (<)

You compare numbers by looking at the difference in their size, for example, 125 is less than 152.

To compare and order 4-digit numbers, look at the thousands digit, then the hundreds digit, then the tens digit and finally the units digit.

Here are four numbers: 5251 Example:

5673

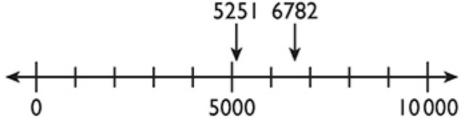
5256

**Instruction:** Arrange the numbers in order of size starting with the smallest

number. Estimate the positions of the smallest and largest

numbers on a 0-10000 number line.

5251, 5256, 5673, 6782 Answer:



0-10000 number line marked in multiples of 1000

### Language focus

equal	=	3 + 6 = 4 + 5
greater than	>	3 + 6 > 4 + 3
less than	<	3+6<4+9

8 > 6 This says: 'Eight is greater than six.'

6 < 8 This says: 'Six is less

than eight.'

We can order numbers in a list or show the order using the < and > signs.

5673 > 5256 > 5251

5251 < 5256 < 5673



### Think about it!

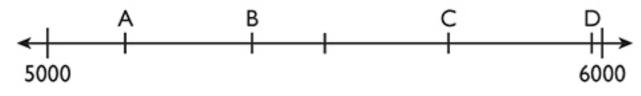
Write > or < in the box to make these statements correct.

- (a) 9032 8965
- (b) 4512 4152

I. Write > or < in each circle.

Then write a whole number that comes in between each pair.

- (a) 3569 (a) 3659 (b)
- (b) 7111 799 \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) 2099 ( 2101 \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) 6407 ( 6079 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Match each letter to the correct number.



5723 is \_\_\_\_\_; 5140 is \_\_\_\_\_; 5981 is \_\_\_\_\_; 5369 is \_\_\_\_\_

3. Here are 4 digit cards.



- (a) Write all the 4-digit numbers greater than 7000 that can be made using all 4 cards.
- (b) Put the numbers you made in order of size starting with the smallest.

### Teachers' and parents' note

Look for opportunities to compare numbers. Ask questions like: Were there more people at the football match this month than last month? Which river is the longest? Which village has the greater population?

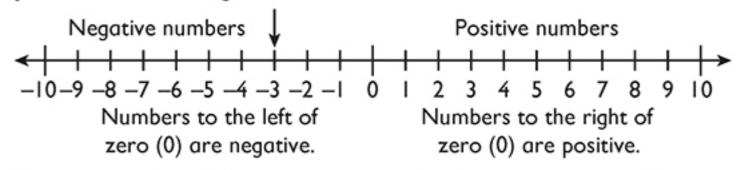


# **Negative numbers**

### Read it!

Key words: negative number, positive number, zero, temperature

A **negative number** is less than **zero** (0). It is written with a minus sign. A **positive number** is greater than zero.



A thermometer is an instrument for measuring **temperature**. Temperatures are measured in degrees Celsius (°C).

Example:

Question: Look at the number line. Which number is shown

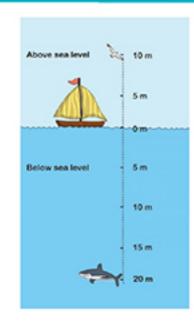
by the arrow?

Answer: -3

### Language focus

A negative number is written with a minus sign in front, for example, -7.

Read this as 'negative seven'.



Sea level is 0 m. Negative numbers describe depths below sea level. Positive numbers give heights above sea level.

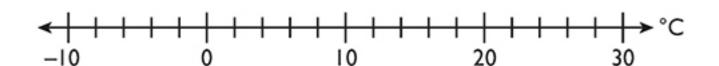


### Think about it!

Look at the number line in the image above.

- (a) What is the position of the seagull?
- (b) What is the position of the shark?

### I. Here is a temperature scale.



The temperature is 1° below freezing on a cold day.

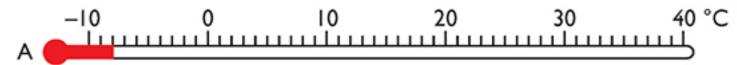
Mark with an arrow  $(\uparrow)$  the position of this temperature on the scale.



### 2. Here are some temperatures:

- (a) Which is the coldest temperature?
- (b) Which is the warmest temperature?
- (c) Write the temperatures in order of size starting with the warmest.

### 3. What temperature is shown on these thermometers?





- (a) A is \_\_\_\_\_°C.
- (b) B is \_\_\_\_\_°C.

### Teachers' and parents' note

Provide opportunities for students to count on and back in steps of constant size from a given starting number, including passing through zero. Relate positive and negative numbers to contexts such as above and below ground level, temperature scales and weather charts.



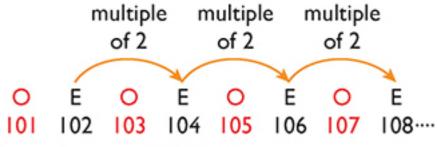
## Odd and even numbers

### Read it!

Key words: even, odd, next, general statement, counter example

**Even** numbers are multiples of 2. They end in 0, 2, 4, 6 or 8.

**Odd** numbers have a remainder of 1 when they are divided by 2.



O stands for an odd number. E stands for an even number.

**Example:** ... 52, 54, 56, \_\_

Instruction: Write the next three even numbers.

**Answer:** 58, 60, 62

### Language focus

Definition	Example
A general statement is a statement of a rule that is always true.	When I add two odd numbers, the answer is always even.
A counter example is an example that proves a general statement is wrong.	General statement: 'When I add an odd number and an even number, the answer is even.'  This statement can be proved to be incorrect by this counter example: $3 + 4 = 7$ This answer is odd.

We can use examples to illustrate a general statement such as 'the sum of two odd numbers is even'.

We can use O to stand for odd and E to stand for even and write this as O + O = E.

Example: 3 + 5 = 8(3 and 5 are odd, 8 is even)



- I. Write an example to illustrate the general statement E + E = E.
- Write a counter example to show that this general statement
   O = E is false.