Roman numerals

Learn

In our number system, all of our numbers are made using ten different digits.
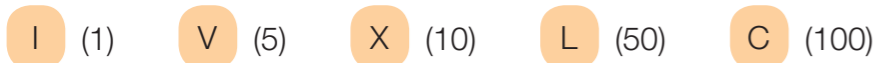
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Using place value (100s, 10s and 1s), we can use these ten digits to represent any number we wish.

There are many different number systems. One other that we still use is Roman numerals.

The Romans used letters to represent some numbers.

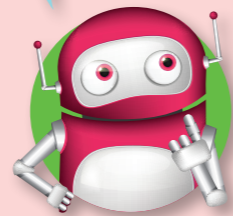There are five Roman numerals that you need to know.

I (1)   V (5)   X (10)   L (50)   C (100)

By using these numbers together, they could make any number, but it isn't always easy! The chart below can help you to learn Roman numerals to 100.

Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Roman numeral	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
Number	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Roman numeral	XI	XII	XIII	XIV	XV	XVI	XVII	XVIII	XIX	XX
Number	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100		
Roman numeral	XXX	XL	L	LX	LXX	LXXX	XC	C		

✓ Tips

- It all seems very complicated, but if you learn some important numbers it can be okay.
- Learn the Roman numerals 1 to 10 by heart. It will make other numbers easier to understand.
- Also, pay close attention to how they make 4 (IV), 9 (IX), 40 (XL) and 90 (CX).

XCIV plus LIX equals…
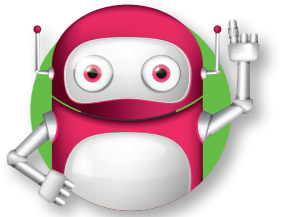
Talk maths

I I I V X X X L C

Make a set of Roman numeral cards. It is important to have three 'one' cards, and three 'ten' cards. These can make any number between 1 and 100.

Next, challenge a partner to make numbers. You can either call out a number, such as seventy-three, or arrange some Roman numerals.

Whenever anyone gives an answer, they must explain their working out.

Challenge each other to write your ages in Roman numerals.

Activities

1. Change these numbers to Roman numerals.
   - a. 4
   - b. 11
   - c. 25
   - d. 19
   - e. 52
   - f. 45
   - g. 90
   - h. 87

2. Change these Roman numerals to numbers.
   - a. VI
   - b. IX
   - c. XVII
   - d. XXII
   - e. LV
   - f. XL
   - g. LXXXVIII
   - h. XC

3. Which digit can't be shown with Roman numerals?

Problems

Change these Roman numerals into numbers, and then complete the calculations.

Brain-teaser
XIV plus XXIII

Brain-buster
XCI minus LXV