

## How to Write and Read Big Numbers in English — Step-by-Step

Need to know how to write and read big numbers in English so to [become fluent](#) on them? You're on the right place. This article under [English grammar essentials](#) will show you how to write and read numbers in English.

Big numbers follow a simple structure:

*Millions + thousands + hundreds + tens + ones*

Once you learn this pattern, you can read and write any number — even into the millions. Like we did with English numbers from [one —one thousand](#), the English numbers here include Portuguese translation.

*Part 2: Big Numbers*

LESSON 1: Big Numbers (Thousand → Billion).— PT “Números Maiores (1.000 → 1.000.000.000)”

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### *1. Thousands — Milhares*

English	Português
1,000 = one thousand	1.000 = mil
2,000 = two thousand	2.000 = dois mil
5,000 = five thousand	5.000 = cinco mil
10,000 = ten thousand	10.000 = dez mil
20,000 = twenty thousand	20.000 = vinte mil
50,000 = fifty thousand	50.000 = cinquenta mil
100,000 = one hundred thousand	100.000 = cem mil

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### *2. Numbers between the Thousands. — PT “Números entre os Milhares”*

To write big numbers use this pattern: **thousands + hundreds + tens + ones** — PT Para escrever números maiores, use este padrão: “**milhares + centenas + dezenas + unidades**”

English	Português
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1,234 = one thousand two hundred thirty four	1.234 = mil duzentos e trinta e quatro
3,506 = three thousand five hundred six	3.506 = três mil quinhentos e seis
7,890 = seven thousand eight hundred ninety	7.890 = sete mil oitocentos e noventa
12,345 = twelve thousand three hundred forty five	12.345 = doze mil trezentos e quarenta e cinco
99,999 = ninety nine thousand nine hundred ninety nine	99.999 = noventa e nove mil novecentos e noventa e nove

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### *3. Hundreds of thousands. — PT “Centenas de milhares”*

<b>English</b>	<b>Português</b>
100,000 = one hundred thousand	100.000 = cem mil
200,000 = two hundred thousand	200.000 = duzentos mil
500,000 = five hundred thousand	500.000 = quinhentos mil
900,000 = nine hundred thousand	900.000 = novecentos mil

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### *4. One million. — PT “Um milhão”*

<b>English</b>	<b>Português</b>
1,000,000 = one million	1.000.000 = um milhão

This is the next big number after 999,999. — PT “Este é o próximo grande número depois de 999.999.”

## **Lesson 2: Spelling Rules for Big Numbers in English. —PT “Regras de Ortografia para Números Maiores”**

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### *1. Use hyphen for 21–99. — PT “Regra 1: Use hífen para 21–99”.*

<b>English</b>	<b>Português</b>
Twenty-one	vinte e um

Thirty-six trinta e seis

Eighty-nine oitenta e nove

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*2. No hyphens for hundreds or thousands. — PT “Regra 2: Sem hífen para centenas ou milhares”*

**English**

**Português**

Correct: one hundred twenty Cento e vinte

Correct: five thousand six hundred Cinco mil e seiscentos

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*3. The use of “and” is optional. — PT “Regra 3: O uso de “And” é opcional”*

— American English: One hundred twenty five

— British style: One hundred **and** twenty five

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*4. No “s” in plural. — PT “Regra 4: Sem s no plural”*

**Incorret**

**Corret**

✘ five hundreds ✔ five hundred

✘ two thousands ✔ two thousand

Exception: **hundreds** meaning “centenas” in portuguese.

“**Hundreds** of people were around” —PR “**centenas** de pessoas estavam por perto.”

The same can be applied for “**Tens**”. Exemple: tens of people → **dezenas** de pessoas

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These 4 rules partly help [write English numbers correctly](#).

### Lesson 3: Big Numbers in Real Life — How to Use Them? — PR “Números Maiores na Vida Real” Como usá-los passo a passo.

*Age → Idade*

“She is **one hundred two** years old.” — PT “Ela tem cento e dois anos de idade.”

*Money → Dinheiro*

“This phone costs **three hundred fifty** dollars.” — PT “Este telefone custa trezentos e cinquenta dólares.”

*Population → População*

“My town has **fifty thousand** people.” — PT “A minha cidade tem cinquenta mil habitantes.”

*Distance → Distância*

“The city is **one hundred twenty** kilometers away. — PT “A cidade fica a cento e vinte quilômetros de distância.”

*Work → Trabalho*

We need **three thousand** copies. — PT “Precisamos de três mil cópias.”

*Time → Tempo*

The video has **one million** views. — PT “O vídeo tem um milhão de visualizações.”

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### Lesson 4: How to Write and Read Big Numbers in Words and Digits from Thousand to Billion in English?

*Practice Exercises:*

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Before we go further with big numbers, let's review the [basic ones \(1 to 1000\)](#) by doing the following three tasks:

*A. In your notebook, write the numbers in words — PT “Escreva os números por extensor no seu bloco de notas*

**Digits    Words**

421

708

9,500

23,000

100,000

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*B. Write the numbers in digits. — PT “Escreva os números em algarismos”*

<b>Words</b>	<b>Digits Português</b>
four hundred twenty one	quatrocentos e vinte e um
seven hundred eight	setecentos e oito
nine thousand five hundred	nove mil e quinhentos
twenty three thousand	vinte e três mil
one hundred thousand	cem mil

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*C. Choose the correct answer. — PT “Escolha a resposta correta.”*

<b>Question</b>	<b>Correct Answer</b>
40,000 = (forty thousand / fourty thousand)	✓ <b>forty thousand</b>
125 = (one hundred twenty five / one hundred twenty five)	✓ <b>one hundred twenty five</b>
1,000 = (one thousand / one thousand)	✓ <b>one thousand</b>
999 = (nine hundred ninety nine / nine hundred ninety nine)	✓ <b>nine hundred ninety nine</b>
500,000 = (five hundred thousand / five hundreds thousand)	✓ <b>five hundred thousand</b>

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*D. Translate into Your own Language. — PT “Traduza para o inglês”*

**Your own Language English**

three thousand five hundred

twelve thousand

two hundred fifty thousand

one million

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To master these numbers practice using them with [real life English vocabulary](#).

## Lesson 5: English Numbers Words and Digits from 1 Million to 1 Billion. — PT “Números de 1 Milhão a 1 Bilhão”

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*How to write and read big numbers in English?*

*Here is how:*

*1,000,000*

**English**

**Português**

1,000,000 = one million 1.000.000 = um milhão

**As we said earlier 1,000,000 is the next number after 999,999. — PT “Este é o número seguinte após 999.999.” So we say:**

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*10,000,000 — PT “10.000.000?”*

**English**

**Português**

10,000,000 = ten million 10.000.000 = dez milhões

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*100,000,000 — PT “100.000.000”*

**English**

**Português**

100,000,000 = one hundred million 100.000.000 = cem milhões

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1,000,000,000 — PT “1.000.000.000”

**English**

**Português**

1,000,000,000 = one billion 1.000.000.000 = um bilhão

**One billion is the next number after 999,999,999. — PT “Um bilhao é o número seguinte após 999.999.999.”**

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Lesson 6: How to Write and Read Big Numbers in English? — PT “Como Ler Números Maiores?”

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### How to Read Numbers like 1,234,567 in English?

*As we said earlier, reading numbers in English follow this pattern:*

*Millions + thousands + hundreds + tens + ones. — PT “milhões + milhares + centenas + dezenas + unidades”*

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*Example*

**1,234,567**

**Part**      **English**

**Português**

1,000,000 one million

um milhão

234,000 two hundred thirty four thousand

duzentos e trinta e quatro mil

567 five hundred sixty seven

quinhentos e sessenta e sete

*Full reading — Leitura completa*

**One million two hundred thirty four thousand five hundred sixty seven — PT “um milhão duzentos e trinta e quatro mil quinhentos e sessenta e sete”.**

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*English numbers words and digits: More examples on how to write and read big numbers: step by step*

**Numbers in English**

**Português**

**Digits**

**Words**

2,000,000	two million	dois milhões
5,500,000	five million five hundred thousand	cinco milhões e quinhentos mil
12,345,000	twelve million three hundred forty five thousand	doze milhões trezentos e quarenta e cinco mil
99,999,999	ninety nine million nine hundred ninety nine thousand nine hundred ninety nine	noventa e nove milhões novecentos e noventa e nove mil novecentos e noventa e nove
350,600,200	three hundred fifty million six hundred thousand two hundred	trezentos e cinquenta milhões seiscentos mil duzentos

## Lesson 7: Spelling Rules for Big Numbers. — PT “Regras de Ortografia para Números Maiores”

*Rule 1: No s —PT “Regra 1: Sem s”*

**Incorret**

**Corret**

✗ millions dollars      ✓ million dollars

✗ five thousands people      ✓ five thousand people

“In English, *million* and *thousand* do not take an ‘s’ when used before nouns. — PT “Em inglês, *million* e *thousand* não recebem “s” quando usados antes de substantivos”.

Example: Thousand people attended the meeting.

*Rule 2: Use hyphens for 21–99. — PT “Regra 2: Use hífen para 21–99”*

**English**

**Português**

Seventy-one      setenta e um

Sixty-six      sessenta e seis

Forty-eight      quarenta e oito

Do the same even inside big numbers this way:

**45,678**

→ **forty-five thousand six hundred seventy eight** — PT “quarenta e cinco mil seiscientos e setenta e oito”.

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*Rule 3: “And” is optional. — PT “And” é opcional*

American English:

**One million two hundred fifty thousand**

British English:

**One million two hundred and fifty thousand**

Both are correct depending on the country. — PT “Ambos estão corretos; dependendo do país”.

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*Rule 4: Group numbers in threes. — PT “Regra 4: Agrupe os números em trios”.*

**Format Países**

1,234,567 EUA, Reino Unido

1 234 567 França, Canadá (francês)

1.234.567 Brasil, Portugal, Moçambique

“Different countries use different separators, but the structure (millions–thousands–hundreds) is always the same.”

For better practice of the numbers use them in short sentences either with simple present or past. Find here [5 most commonly used English verbs](#) .

**Lesson 8: Big Numbers in Real Life. — PT “Números Maiores na Vida Real”**

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*Money — Dinheiro*

The company made two million dollars last year.— PT “A empresa faturou dois milhões de dólares no ano passado.”

The house costs five hundred thousand dollars.—PT “A casa custa quinhentos mil dólares.”

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*Population — População*

My city has **three million** people.—PT “Minha cidade tem **três milhões** de habitantes.”

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*Distance — Distância*

**The sun is one hundred fifty million kilometers away. — PT “O sol está a cento e cinquenta milhões de quilômetros de distância.”**

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*Social media — Redes sociais*

“The channel has **one billion** views. — PT “O canal tem **um bilhão** de visualizações.”

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*Work — Trabalho*

**We produced three million units this year. — PT “Produzimos três milhões de unidades este ano.”**

To practice these numbers use them with [essential verbs](#) or vocabulary builder. [Practice helps build confidence.](#)

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**Lesson 9: English Numbers from 1,000 to 1 billion — Practice Exercises**

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*A. Write the numbers in words in your Note book. — PT “Escreva os números por extenso no seu bloco de notas”*

<b>Digit</b>	<b>Words Português</b>
20,000,000	vinte milhões
100,000,000	cem milhões
3,500,000	três milhões e quinhentos mil
9,999,000	nove milhões novecentos e noventa e nove mil
1,000,000,000	um bilhão

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*B. Write the numbers in digits — PT “Escreva os números em algarismos”*

<b>Words</b>	<b>Digits Português</b>
twenty million	vinte milhões
one hundred million	cem milhões
three million five hundred thousand	três milhões e quinhentos mil
nine million nine hundred ninety nine thousand	nove milhões novecentos e noventa e nove mil
one billion	um bilhão

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*C. Choose the correct answer — PT “Escolha a resposta correta”*

<b>Question</b>	<b>Correct Answer</b>
1,000,000 = (one million / one millions)	✓ <b>one million</b>
10,000,000 = (ten million / ten millions)	✓ <b>ten million</b>
45,678 = (forty five thousand six hundred seventy eight / forty five thousand six hundred seventy eight)	✓ <b>forty five thousand six hundred seventy eight</b>
100,000,000 = (one hundred million / one hundred millions)	✓ <b>one hundred million</b>
1,000,000,000 = (one billion / one billions)	✓ <b>one billion</b>

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**Lesson 10: Ordinals (Millionth to Billionth). —PT “Ordinais: De Milionésimo a Bilionésimo”**

<b>Número</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Português</b>
1,000,000th	one millionth	milionésimo
10,000,000th	ten millionth	dez milionésimo
100,000,000th	one hundred millionth	centésimo milionésimo

1,000,000,000th one billionth

bilionésimo

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### *Examples*

#### **English**

#### **Português**

“He is the one millionth customer.”

“Ele é o milionésimo cliente.”

“This is the one billionth view on the video.” “Esta é a bilionésima visualização do vídeo.”

This is all we had to say about the numbers. What next, now that you know how to write and read basic and big numbers in English? — Here is what: Practice using them in your everyday life. Use them together with English vocabulary and verbs you’ve gone through earlier on this site. Only [by practicing](#) you can [build confidence](#) in English.

Learn here also [common ESL verb mistakes](#) learners make.

Thank you for reading this post.