

# Numerals

**Objective:** By the end of the chapter, you will be able to :

- count in Moroccan Arabic
- combine numbers with nouns to indicate amounts
- ask and answer questions about time

When we talk about numerals, we want to be able to do two things. First, we have to be able to count. That is, we have to learn our numbers. Second, we have to be able to use the numbers with objects. In other words, we have to be able to say things like “five apples” or “twenty-seven students” or “one hundred forty-three volunteers.”

In English, we never think of these two tasks separately. We simply use a number in combination with the plural form of some object. In Arabic, however, we have to learn how to combine different numbers with objects, sometimes using a plural form, sometimes a singular, sometimes with a letter in between the two, sometimes not. As in all things Arabic, what seems difficult now becomes natural with time.

## Cardinal Numbers

Cardinal numbers refer to the normal numbers we use (one, two, three...). They are different than ordinal numbers (first, second, third...) and fractions (one-half, one-third, one-fourth...). For now, we start with the cardinal numbers. We will work with ordinal numbers and fractions later.

### Numbers 1 thru 10

In Moroccan Arabic, there are two ways to combine the numbers 3 thru 10 with an object. We sometimes use the “full” or normal form of the number, and sometimes we use a “short” form of the number. Here is a table listing the full form of numbers 1 thru 10 and the short form of numbers 3 thru 10.

	Full Forms		Short Forms	
one (masc.)	wahd	واحد	Ø	Ø
one (fem.)	wnda	وحدة	Ø	Ø
two	juj	جوج	Ø	Ø
three	tlata	ثلاثة	tlt	ثلاث
four	rbعا	ربعة	rbع	ربع
five	xmsa	خمسة	xms	خمس
six	stta	ستة	stt	ستّ
seven	sbعا	سبعة	sbع	سبع
eight	tmnya	ثمانية	tmn	ثمان
nine	tsعud	تسعود	tsع	تسع
ten	عšra	عشرة	عšr	عشر

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For the numbers 3 thru 10, we combine the **full form** of a number and a noun like this:

**number (full form) + d (د) + plural noun with definite article**

For the numbers 3 thru 10, we combine the **short form** of a number and a noun like this:

**number (short form) + plural noun (no definite article)**

Eight books (using full form)	tmnya d l-ktub	تمنية د الكتب
Five dirhams (using full form)	xmsa d d-drahm	خمسة د الدراهم
Five dirhams (using short form)	xms drahm	خمس دراهم

The numbers **one** and **two** have some special qualities.

The number **one** (**wahd/wħda**) differs from all other numbers because in Arabic, it acts like an adjective. This means that it comes *after* a noun, like other adjectives, and that it must *agree in gender* with the noun, like other adjectives.

one book (book is masc.)	ktab wahd	كتاب واحد
one girl (girl is fem.)	bnt whda	بنت وحدة



Sometimes, you may hear **wahd** (not **wħda**) used before a noun. In this case, it is not acting as a number, but rather as an indefinite article (like the English “a” or “an”). Don’t worry about it now, just be aware of it.

a book	wahd l-ktab	واحد الكتاب
a girl	wahd l-bnt	واحد البنت

The number **two** (**juj**) can be used as a full or short form with plural nouns.

two books	juj d l-ktub	جوج د الكتب
two books	juj ktub	جوج كتب

However, when **two** is part of a compound number (as in twenty-**two**), a different form is used. Here, we use the form **tnayn** (تنتين). This will be shown in the section on numbers from 20 thru 99.

### Dual noun forms

In English, nouns have a singular and a plural form. In Arabic, nouns also have a singular and plural form, but a small number of nouns also have a **dual form**. The dual form is used for these nouns when we refer to two of something. For nouns that have a dual form, therefore, we don’t use **juj**. The dual form includes the idea of “two.” The dual form is usually made by adding “**ayn**” to the end of the singular form. In the following tables, the first three examples have dual forms, but the last two are normal and therefore use their plural form.

	Singular Form		Dual Form	
day	yum	يوم	yumayn	يومَيْن
month	šhr	شهر	šhrayn	شهرَيْن
year	ʿam	عام	ʿamayn	عامَيْن

But...

	Singular Form		Plural Form	
week	simana	سيمانة	juj d s-simanat	جوج د السيمانات
minute	dqiqa	دقيقة	juj dqayq	جوج دقائق

## Numbers 11 thru 19

The numbers 11 thru 19 do not have a short form. Only numbers 3 thru 10 have a short form.

eleven	hḏaš	حداش
twelve	ṭnaš	طناش
thirteen	tlṭaš	تلاش
fourteen	rbḗṭaš	ربعطاش
fifteen	xmṣṭaš	خمسطاش
sixteen	sṭṭaš	سطاش
seventeen	sbḗṭaš	سبعطاش
eighteen	tmnṭaš	تمنطاش
nineteen	tsḗṭaš	تسعطاش

For numbers 11 thru 19, we can combine a number and a noun like this:

**number** +  $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{r (ج)} \\ \text{or} \\ \text{1 (١)} \end{array} \right\}$  + **singular noun (no definite article)**

Yes — the singular! In Arabic, the plural form is only used for numbers 2 thru 10. The singular is used for everything else!

sixteen years

sṭtaš r<sub>ε</sub>am

سَطَّاش ر عام

sixteen years

sttaš l<sub>ε</sub>am

سَطَّاش ل عام

eighteen girls

tmnṭaš r bnt

تمنطاش ر بنت

eighteen girls

tmntaš 1 bnt

تمنطاش ل بنت

## Numbers 20, 30, 40 ... 99

For a multiple of ten (20, 30, 40 etc.) in Arabic, we simply use the name for that number, like in English. For numbers such as 21, 22, or 23, however, it is not like English. In Arabic, the “ones” digit is pronounced first, followed by the word “and,” then followed by the “tens” digit. For example, in Arabic the number 21 is literally “one and twenty” while the number 47 is literally “seven and forty.” Also, remember that for the numbers 22, 32, 42, 52, 62, 72, 82, and 92, we do not use *juj*. Rather, we use *tnayn*. Here is a list of the multiples of ten, with examples of numbers between each multiple:

twenty	εšrin	عشرين
twenty-one literally: one and twenty	wahd u εšrin	واحد و عشرين
twenty-two literally: two and twenty Remember: “ <i>tnayn</i> ,” not “ <i>juj</i> ”	tnayn u εšrin	تَين و عشرين
twenty-three literally: three and twenty	tlata u εšrin	ثلاثة و عشرين
twenty-four	rbεa u εšrin	ربعة و عشرين
thirty	tlatin	ثلاثين
thirty-one	wahd u tlatin	واحد و ثلاثين
thirty-two	tnayn u tlatin	تَين و ثلاثين
thirty-three	tlata u tlatin	ثلاثة و ثلاثين
forty	rbεin	ربعين
forty-one	wahd u rbεin	واحد و ربعين
forty-two	tnayn u rbεin	تَين و ربعين
fifty	xmsin	خمسين
sixty	sttin	ستين
seventy	sbεin	سبعين
eighty	tmanin	ثمانين
ninety	tsεin	تسعين
ninety-nine	tsεud u tsεin	تسعود و تسعين

For numbers 20 thru 99, we can combine a number and a noun like this:

### number + singular noun (no definite article)

forty-two years	tnayn u rbεin εam	تَين و ربعين عام
ninety dirhams	tsεin drhm	تسعين درهم
thirty-eight books	tmnya u tlatin ktab	تمنية و ثلاثين كتاب

## Numbers 100, 200, 300 ... 999

The Arabic word for 100 is **miya**. For 200, there is a dual form of **miyatayn**. For 300 thru 900, we use the short form of the numbers 3 thru 9 plus **miya**. For numbers such as 107 or 257, we will use the appropriate multiple of 100 followed by the word “and” and then the rest of the number. Some examples:

one hundred	miya	مِئَة
one hundred one literally: one hundred and one	miya u waḥd	مِئَة وَ وَاحِد
one hundred two literally: one hundred and two	miya u juḥ	مِئَة وَ جَوْج
one hundred ten literally: one hundred and ten	miya u ʿšra	مِئَة وَ عَشْرَة
one hundred eleven	miya u ḥdaš	مِئَة وَ حِضَاش
one hundred twenty-one literally: one hundred and one and twenty	miya u waḥd u ʿšrin	مِئَة وَ وَاحِد وَ عَشْرِينَ
one hundred twenty-two literally: one hundred and two and twenty	miya u tḥayn u ʿšrin	مِئَة وَ ثَنَيْنِ وَ عَشْرِينَ
one hundred ninety-nine	miya u tsʿud u tsʿin	مِئَة وَ تَسْعُود وَ تَسْعِينَ
two hundred	miyatayn	مِئَتَيْنِ
two hundred fifty-seven literally: two hundred and seven and fifty	miyatayn u sbʿa u xmsin	مِئَتَيْنِ وَ سَبْعَة وَ خَمْسِينَ
three hundred	tlṭ miya	ثَلَاث مِئَة
three hundred forty-five literally: three hundred and five and forty	tlṭ miya u xmsa u rbʿin	ثَلَاث مِئَة وَ خَمْسَة وَ رُبْعِينَ
four hundred	rbʿ miya	رَبْع مِئَة
five hundred	xms miya	خَمْس مِئَة
six hundred	stt miya	سِت مِئَة
seven hundred	sbʿ miya	سَبْع مِئَة
eight hundred	tmn miya	ثَمَن مِئَة
nine hundred	tsʿ miya	تَسْع مِئَة
nine hundred ninety-nine	tsʿ miya u tsʿud u tsʿin	تَسْع مِئَة وَ تَسْعُود وَ تَسْعِينَ

**Exact** multiples of 100 (100, 300, 400, etc. – not 137 or 278) are combined with a noun like this:

**number + ت (t) + singular noun**

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four hundred chairs	rbɛ miyat kursi	ربعة مئة كرسي
six hundred ryal	stt miyat ryal	ست مئة ريال

But when a number between 100 and 999 is **not** an exact multiple of 100 (e.g. 167, 492, 504), we combine the number with a noun according to the rule for the final digits of the number.

105 books (use the rule for “5”)	miya u xmsa d l-ktub	مئة وخمسة د الكتب
214 books (use the rule for “14”)	miyatayn u rbɛtaš r ktab	مئتين وربعطاش ر كتاب
657 books (use the rule for “57”)	stt miya u sbɛa u xmsin ktab	ست مئة وسبعة وخمسين كتاب

#### Exercise: Match the number with the correct Arabic translation.

199	miya u tsɛud u rbɛin	مئة وتسعود وربعين
2	tsɛud u sttin	تسعود و ستين
11	miya u stta u xmsin	مئة وستة وخمسين
149	xmsa u sbɛin	خمسة وسبعين
137	miya u tsɛud u tsɛin	مئة وتسعود وتسعين
75	hɔdaš	حشاش
69	miya u sbɛa u tlatin	مئة وسبعة وتلاتين
156	juj	جوج

### Numbers 1000, 2000, 3000 ...

The word for “thousand” has the singular form **alf**, the dual form **alfayn**, and the plural form **alaf**. The plural form is used with the short form of the numbers 3 thru 10 from “3” thousand to “10” thousand. Then we return to the singular form (like we do for all Arabic nouns). Like the word for “hundred,” it is followed by “and” when the number is not an exact multiple of 1000 (e.g. 1027 or 4738). From 1000 onward:

one thousand	alf	ألف
one thousand one	alf u wad	ألف و واحد
one thousand fifteen	alf u xmsaš	ألف وخمسطاش
one thousand three hundred sixty-seven (literally: one thousand and three hundred and seven and sixty)	alf u tlt miya u sbɛa u sttin	ألف و تلت مئة وسبعة وستين
two thousand	alfayn	ألفين
two thousand twenty-two	alfayn u tnayn u ɛšrin	ألفين و تنتين و عشرين
three thousand	tlt alaf	تلت ألاف

three thousand seven hundred and fifty	tl̥t̥ alaf u sb̥ ɛmiya u xmsin	ثَلَاثَ أَلْفٍ وَ سَبْعَ مِئَةٍ وَ خَمْسِينَ
four thousand	rb̥ ɛ alaf	رَبْعَ أَلْفٍ
five thousand	xms alaf	خَمْسَ أَلْفٍ
six thousand	stt̥ alaf	سِتَّ أَلْفٍ
seven thousand	sb̥ ɛ alaf	سَبْعَ أَلْفٍ
eight thousand	tmn alaf	تَمَنَ أَلْفٍ
nine thousand	ts̥ ɛ alaf	تَسْعَ أَلْفٍ
nine thousand nine hundred ninety-nine	ts̥ ɛ alaf u ts̥ ɛ miya u ts̥ ɛ ud u ts̥ ɛ in	تَسْعَ أَلْفٍ وَ تَسْعَ مِئَةٍ وَ تَسْعُودَ وَ تَسْعِينَ
ten thousand	ɛšr̥ alaf	عَشَرَ أَلْفٍ
eleven thousand	h̥daš̥ r̥ alaf	حِضَاشَ رَ أَلْفٍ
two hundred thousand	miyatayn̥ alf	مِئَتَيْنِ أَلْفٍ
999,999	ts̥ ɛ miya u ts̥ ɛ ud u ts̥ ɛ in alf u ts̥ ɛ miya u ts̥ ɛ ud u ts̥ ɛ in	تَسْعَ مِئَةٍ وَ تَسْعُودَ وَ تَسْعِينَ أَلْفٍ وَ تَسْعَ مِئَةٍ وَ تَسْعُودَ وَ تَسْعِينَ

**Exact** multiples of 1000 can be combined with nouns in two ways:

**number + singular noun**

Or...

**number + d (د) + plural noun with definite article**

five thousand boys                      xms alaf wld                      خمس ألاف ولد

five thousand boys                      xms alaf d l-wlad                      خمس ألاف د الولاد

Numbers larger than 1000 that are **not** exact multiples of 1000 are combined with nouns according to the rules for the final digits, as you saw with numbers that were not exact multiples of 100.

## Larger Numbers

	Singular		Plural	
million(s)	mlyun	مليون	mlayn	ملايين
billion(s)	mlyar	مليار	mlayr	ملايير

**Exercise:** Correctly combine numbers with nouns by filling in the blanks using the following numbers and any necessary letters: 1, 3, 8, 13, 20, 400, or 1000. There may be more than one correct answer for each.

3 d l-bnat	(the girls)	البَنَات 3 د
_____ dar	(house)	دَار _____
_____ stilu	(pen)	سَنِيلُو _____
_____ drhm	(dirham)	دِرْهَم _____
_____ mutaṭawwiع	(volunteer)	مُتَطَوِّع _____
_____ rjal	(men)	رِجَال _____
_____ ustad	(teacher)	أُسْتَاذ _____
_____ oṭil	(hotel)	أَوْطِيل _____
_____ magana	(watch)	مِكَانَة _____
_____ l-عyalat	(the women)	العِيَالَات _____

## Ordinal Numbers / Fractions

### Ordinal Numbers

For numbers 1 thru 12, there is a separate form for cardinal and ordinal numbers. From 13 on there is no difference between the cardinal and ordinal number.

first	l-luwl	الْأَوَّل
second	t-teni	الثَّانِي
third	t-talt	الثَّالِث
fourth	r-rabع	الرَّابِع
fifth	l-xams	الخَامِس
sixth	s-sat / s-sads	الْسادس / السَّات
seventh	s-sabع	السَّابِع
eighth	t-tamn	الثَّامِن
ninth	t-tasع	التَّاسِع
tenth	l-عاšr	الْعَاشِر



eleventh	l-haḍš	الحاضش
twelfth	ṭ-ṭanš	الطانش

Ordinal numbers act like adjectives, and therefore must agree in gender and number with the noun they describe. Listed are the masculine singular forms. To make the feminine form, add **a** (ة) to the ordinal number. To make it plural, add **in** (ين).

	Masculine	Feminine	Plural
first	l-luwl اللول	l-luwla اللولة	l-luwlin اللولين
third	t-talt التالت	t-talta التالطة	t-taltin التالتين

## Fractions

half	nṣ	نص
third	tulut	ثلث
fourth	rubuع / rbع	رُبُع / رُبع

## Time

To express time, we use the demonstrative pronoun **hadi** and the appropriate number *with the definite article* (see page 160 for more info on the definite article). This means that for 1:00, 5:00, 10:00, and 11:00, we will use the letter **l** (ل) before the number, while for the others, we will double the first consonant.

one	l-whda	الوحدة	seven	s-sbعا	السبعة
two	j-juj	الجوج	eight	t-tmnya	الثمنية
three	t-tlata	الثلاثة	nine	t-tsعud	التسعود
four	r-rbعا	الرابعة	ten	l-عšra	العشرة
five	l-xmsa	الخمسة	eleven	l-hḍaš	الحضاش
six	s-stta	الستة	twelve	ṭ-ṭnaš	الطناش

Like in English, Arabic uses certain words to express things like “quarter to five,” “half past seven,” etc.

before	ql	قل	twenty minutes	tulut	ثلث
and	u	و	half	nṣ	نص
exactly	nišan	نیشان	quarter to	lla rob	لَا رُب
quarter	rbع	ربع	five minutes	qṣm	قصم

	ten minutes	qšmayn	قَصْمَيْن
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Some examples of asking and answering about time:

What time is it?	šhal hadi f s-saʕa?	شحال هدي ف الساعة؟
It is exactly one o'clock.	hadi l-whda nišan.	هدي الوحدة نيشان.
It is five minutes past two.	hadi j-juj u qšm.	هدي الجوج و قصم.
It is ten minutes past three.	hadi t-tlata u qšmayn.	هدي الثلاثة و قَصْمَيْن.
It is a quarter past four.	hadi r-rbʕa u rbʕ.	هدي الربعة و ربع.
It is twenty minutes past five.	hadi l-xmsa u tulut.	هدي الخمسة و تُلُت.
It is twenty-five minutes past six.	hadi s-stta u xmsa u ʕšrin.	هدي الستة و خمسة و عشرين.
It is seven thirty.	hadi s-sbʕa u nš.	هدي السبعة و نص.
It is eight thirty-five.	hadi tmnya u xmsa u tlatin.	هدي الثمانية و خمسة و ثلاثين.
It is twenty minutes to nine.	hadi t-tsʕud ql tulut.	هدي التسعود قل تُلُت.
It is a quarter to ten.	hadi l-ʕšra lla rob.	هدي العشرة لآ رب.
It is ten minutes to eleven	hadi l-ḥdaš ql qšmayn.	هدي الحضاش قل قَصْمَيْن.
It is five minutes to twelve.	hadi ʕ-ʕnaš ql qšm.	هدي الطناش قل قصم.
6:30 A.M.	s-stta u nš d š-šbah	الستة و نص د الصباح
5:15 P.M.	l-xmsa u rbʕ d l-ʕšiya	الخمسة و ربع د العشية.

### Exercise: Match the times with the correct Arabic translation.

10:30	l-whda u qšm	الوحدة و قصم
12:00	l-ḥdaš u qšmayn	الحضاش و قَصْمَيْن
1:05	ʕ-ʕnaš nišan	الطناش نيشان
2:20	l-ʕšra ql tulut	العشرة قل تُلُت
11:10	l-ʕšra u nš	العشرة و نص
9:40	j-juj u tulut	الجوج و تُلُت

Exercise: Give the time in Arabic for each clock or watch.

