

Max's Magnificent Roman Numeral Guide

Master the ancient code with Max the Maths Monkey!

- The symbol 'I' always represents the number 1, while 'V' stands for 5 and 'X' stands for 10.
- When a smaller numeral is placed before a larger one, you subtract it. For example, 'IV' is 4 because 5 minus 1 is 4.
- When a smaller numeral is placed after a larger one, you add them together. 'VI' is 6 because 5 plus 1 is 6.
- The letter 'L' represents 50, and the letter 'C' represents 100 in the Roman system.
- Roman numerals do not use place value columns like our modern system; the value stays the same wherever the letter is placed.

Did you know? Did you know? The Romans did not have a symbol for zero! Because they used their numbers mostly for counting things they could see and hold—like bags of grain or soldiers in a line—they simply didn't need a way to write 'nothing'.

Key vocabulary: Numeral · Symbol · Value · Addition · Subtraction · Ascending