

Max's Magnificent Roman Numerals Guide

Master the Ancient Code: Decode the Numbers of the Past with Max!

■ The seven basic symbols are: I=1, V=5, X=10, L=50, C=100, D=500, and M=1,000.

These can be combined to create any number.

■ When a smaller symbol appears before a larger one, you subtract it. For example, IV is 5 minus 1, which equals 4.

■ When a smaller symbol appears after a larger one, you add it. For example, VI is 5 plus 1, which equals 6.

■ You can only repeat a symbol up to three times in a row (e.g., III is 3, but 4 is written as IV).

■ To write 2024, you break it into parts: 2000 (MM), 20 (XX), and 4 (IV), giving you MMXXIV.

Did you know? Did you know? Even though we use Arabic numerals today, Roman numerals are still used on clock faces, in film credits to show the year of production, and even on the base of some statues to mark historic dates! Because the Romans had no symbol for zero, their system works differently to our modern place-value system.

Key vocabulary: Numeral · Symbol · Additive · Subtractive · Value · Thousands · Hundreds · Tens · Units