Max’s Magnificent Roman Numerals Guide

Master the Ancient Code: Join Max the Monkey on a journey through history!

■ The basic building blocks are I=1, V=5, and X=10. When a smaller numeral is placed after a larger one, you add them together. For example, VI is 5 + 1 = 6.

■ If a smaller numeral comes before a larger one, you subtract it. For example, IV is 5 - 1 = 4.

■ The symbol L represents the number 50. If you see LX, it means 50 + 10, which equals 60.

■ The symbol C stands for 100. It comes from the Latin word 'centum', which is why we have 100 centimetres in a meter!

■ Remember the pattern: I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X. Once you reach 10, you start again: XI is 11, XII is 12, and so on.

Did you know? Did you know? The Romans did not have a symbol for zero! Because they used their numerals mostly for counting objects and trading goods, they didn't need to write down 'nothing' using a number.

Key vocabulary: Numeral · Symbol · Value · Addition · Subtraction · I (1) · V (5) · X (10) · L (50) · C (100)