

Three approaches to teaching large (and small) numbers in English

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How do you write and say this number 955835765645425 in English? In English this large number is written as: 955,835,765,645,425

In English this large number is spoken as: nine hundred (and*) fifty-five **trillion**, eight hundred (and) thirty-five **billion**, seven hundred (and) sixty-five **million**, six hundred (and) forty five **thousand**, four hundred (and) twenty-five.

*Note: Saying “and” is optional

Approach One

This large number looks like a difficult number to remember and learn. Let’s change how it is written so it is easier to understand.

nine **hundred (and)** fifty-five **trillion**,
 eight **hundred (and)** thirty-five **billion**,
 seven **hundred (and)** sixty-five **million**,
 six **hundred (and)** forty five **thousand**,
 four **hundred (and)** twenty-five

Written this way we can recognize some patterns and make a chart. Begin at “a” and read left to right down to the bottom of the chart.

	1~9	hundred	(and)	1~99	
<i>a</i>	nine	hundred	(and)	fifty-five	trillion,
<i>b</i>	eight	hundred	(and)	thirty-five	billion,
<i>c</i>	seven	hundred	(and)	sixty-five	million,
<i>d</i>	six	hundred	(and)	forty five	thousand,
<i>e</i>	four	hundred	(and)	twenty-five	

Exercise 1

1. Write numbers in the blank spaces and practice saying the large number.

	1~9	hundred	(and)	1~99	
<i>a</i>		hundred	(and)		trillion,
<i>b</i>		hundred	(and)		billion,
<i>c</i>		hundred	(and)		million,
<i>d</i>		hundred	(and)		thousand,
<i>e</i>		hundred	(and)		

2. Say your number and your partner writes down the number. Do not let your partner see your number. After you are finished, check to see if your partner wrote the same number.

Write your partner’s number here _____

Approach Two

This chart is another way of looking at the same large number.

hundred	(tens)	trillion	hundred	(tens)	billion	hundred	(tens)	million	hundred	(tens)	thousand	hundred	(tens)	(ones)
9	5	5,	8	3	5,	7	6	5,	6	4	5,	4	2	5
nine	fifty	five	eight	thirty	five	four	sixty	five	six	forty	five	two	twenty	five
hundred (and)	---	trillion,	hundred (and)	---	billion,	hundred (and)	---	million,	hundred (and)	---	thousand,	hundred (and)	---	---

Exercise 2

1. Write a large number in the blank spaces and practice saying the large number.

hundred (and)	---	trillion,	hundred (and)	---	billion,	hundred (and)	---	million,	hundred (and)	---	thousand,	hundred (and)	---	---

2. Say your number and your partner writes down the number. Do not let your partner see your number. After you are finished, check to see if your partner wrote the same number.

Write your partner's number here _____

Approach Three

Japanese and Arabic Number Chart														
hundred	(tens)	trillion	hundred	(tens)	billion	hundred	(tens)	million	hundred	(tens)	thousand	hundred	(tens)	(ones)
9	5	5	8	3	5	7	6	5	6	4	5	4	2	5
百	十	兆	千	百	十	億	千	百	十	万	千	百	十	(一)
hyaku	jyu	cho	sen	hyaku	jyu	oku	sen	hyaku	jyu	man	sen	hyaku	jyu	(ichi)

Exercise 3

Write **your numbers** in this chart.

Practice Japanese and Arabic Number Chart														
hundred	(tens)	trillion	hundred	(tens)	billion	hundred	(tens)	million	hundred	(tens)	thousand	hundred	(tens)	(ones)
百	十	兆	千	百	十	億	千	百	十	万	千	百	十	(一)
hyaku	jyu	cho	sen	hyaku	jyu	oku	sen	hyaku	jyu	man	sen	hyaku	jyu	(ichi)

Listen to your partner and write **her/his numbers** in this chart.

Practice Japanese and Arabic Number Chart														
hundred	(tens)	trillion	hundred	(tens)	billion	hundred	(tens)	million	hundred	(tens)	thousand	hundred	(tens)	(ones)
百	十	兆	千	百	十	億	千	百	十	万	千	百	十	(一)
hyaku	jyu	cho	sen	hyaku	jyu	oku	sen	hyaku	jyu	man	sen	hyaku	jyu	(ichi)