



Common Mistakes

Common Mistakes

Cardinal numbers are used on a daily basis by English learners. Here are some of the most common mistakes that we hear from English learners.

1

Common Mistakes

Using plurals

A lot of learners tend to use the words “hundred” “thousand” and “million” in their plural form. This is incorrect!

1

Common Mistakes

6,000

Six thousand



Six thousands



2

Common Mistakes

Forgetting “and”

Cardinal numbers follow a specific structure and we must remember all the words in the correct order.

2

Common Mistakes

3,489

Three thousand, four hundred and eighty-nine



Three thousand, four hundred, eighty-nine



2

Common Mistakes

American English speakers also tend to forget the “and” in numbers, but British speakers will generally use it correctly.

3

Common Mistakes

Using commas and full stops incorrectly

Many other languages use commas (,) and full stops (.) in the opposite way to English, so this causes mistakes.

3

Common Mistakes

Two thousand and fifty-six

2,056



2.056



4

Common Mistakes

The number 1,000,000,000

Many English learners start to use the expression
“a thousand million” instead of “a billion”.

4

Common Mistakes

2,500,600,000

Two billion, five hundred million, six hundred thousand



Two thousand five hundred million, six hundred thousand





Common Mistakes

Writing numbers as digits

Academics have created a very specific way of writing numbers in English.



Common Mistakes

Any number between 0-9 should be written as a word and numbers that are 10 or larger should be written as digits.



Common Mistakes

There are nine people in my class



There are 9 people in my class





Common Mistakes

There are 15 books on my shelf



There are fifteen books on my shelf





Common Mistakes

There are a few additional special rules though.



If the number starts the sentence it should always be written as a word

Sixteen people have registered for the course.



Common Mistakes



Statistics (percentages, decimals, money etc..) are always written as digits

95% of respondents enjoyed this course.



Common Mistakes



When there are two numbers next to each other, one must be written as a word

There are nineteen 6-figure salary earners in my company