



## Plural Cardinal Numbers

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English is one of the few languages where numbers are not plural.

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The number **6,000** is *six thousand* NOT six thousands<sub>s</sub>, even though we're talking about a plural number of thousands.

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However, this changes sometimes in English.

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Take a look at these two examples;

*There are 6,000 people in my town.*

*There are thousands of people in my town.*

# Plural Cardinal Numbers

*There are 6,000 people in my town.*

In this sentence, we follow the normal rule: NO  
PLURALS IN ENGLISH CARDINAL NUMBERS.

# Plural Cardinal Numbers

*There are **thousands** of people in my town.*

But in this sentence, the word “thousands” is plural with an extra S.

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When we talk about a non-specific quantity,  
then we must use the plural form.



# Plural Cardinal Numbers

*There are **thousands** of people in my town.*

In this sentence, we don't know the exact quantity of people, it's a nonspecific number.

This means we need the plural form.

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Let's take a look at a few more examples.

# Plural Cardinal Numbers

## SPECIFIC NUMBER

Four hundred people  
complained about her  
behaviour.

## NONSPECIFIC NUMBER

Hundreds of people  
complained about her  
behaviour.

# Plural Cardinal Numbers

## SPECIFIC NUMBER

Three million people  
liked my post.

## NONSPECIFIC NUMBER

Millions of people  
liked my post.

# Plural Cardinal Numbers

## SPECIFIC NUMBER

Five hundred  
thousand people live  
in poverty.

## NONSPECIFIC NUMBER

Hundreds of  
thousands of people  
live in poverty.

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One fun fact: Another word for *sprinkles* in English is *hundreds and thousands*.

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These doughnuts and cakes are decorated with hundreds and thousands.



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## EXERCISE

Look at the following pictures then describe them. You will be told whether to use a specific or nonspecific number.



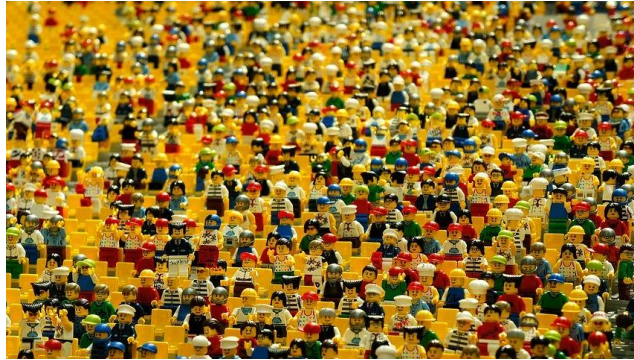
# Plural Cardinal Numbers

LEGO FIGURES > specific (8,000)



# Plural Cardinal Numbers

LEGO FIGURES > specific (8,000)



There are eight thousand lego figures

# Plural Cardinal Numbers

PEOPLE> nonspecific



# Plural Cardinal Numbers

PEOPLE> nonspecific

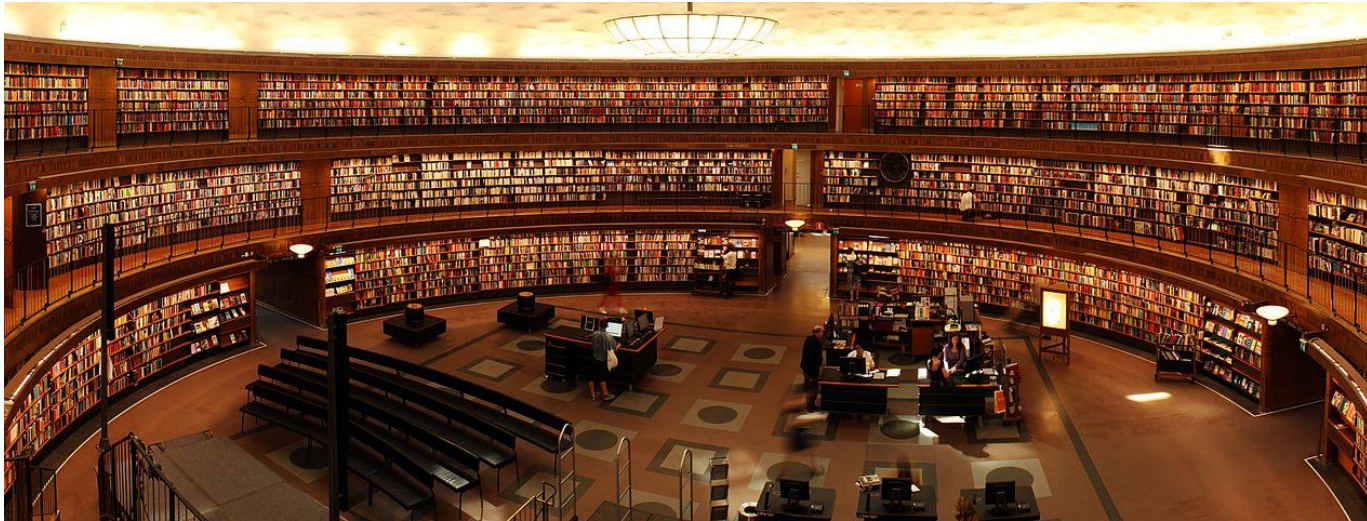


There are hundreds of people



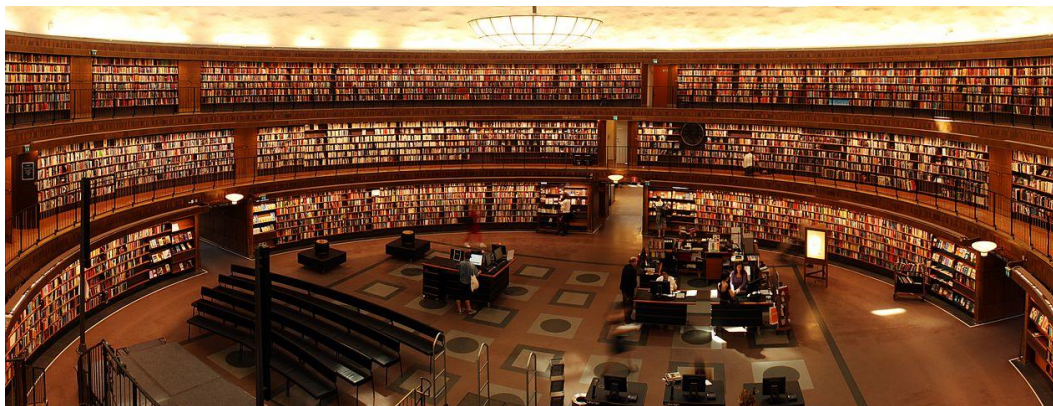
# Plural Cardinal Numbers

BOOKS> nonspecific



# Plural Cardinal Numbers

BOOKS> nonspecific



There are thousands of books