

Reference 2.1: Counting to Infinity

Memorization vs. Pattern: In order to count to infinity, you will have to memorize your basic numbers and values. Once you memorize your basic numbers and values, there is an overall pattern with a few rules in order to help you count to infinity. Although it seems intimidating to count to infinity, it can be done in a short amount of time if you take the proper steps. Furthermore, it is important to remember that although you know how to use large numbers in your own language, you do not count to an extreme amount when you speak your native language.

Zero to Twenty-Nine: These numbers are the first set of numbers that you will have to memorize. They are the most important numbers in the language, because we use them for expressing time, the calendar and most other things that involve numbers.

- zero cero
- one uno
- two dos
- three tres
- four cuatro
- five cinco
- six seis
- seven siete
- eight ocho
- nine nueve
- ten diez
- eleven once
- twelve doce
- thirteen trece
- fourteen catorce
- fifteen quince
- sixteen dieciséis
- seventeen diecisiete
- eighteen dieciocho
- nineteen diecinueve
- twenty veinte
- twenty-one veintiuno
- twenty-two veintidós
- twenty-three veintitrés
- twenty-four veinticuatro
- twenty-five veinticinco
- twenty-six veintiséis

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- twenty-seven veintisiete
- twenty-eight veintiocho
- twenty-nine veintinueve

Thirty to Ninety: Once we get to thirty, this is when we have to start applying a pattern. In order to do so, it is important to know your tens values.

- thirty treinta
- forty cuarenta
- fifty cincuenta
- sixty sesenta
- seventy setenta
- eighty ochenta
- ninety noventa

Rule: To count past thirty, you must divide the tens value with the ones value by the word “y”, which literally means “and” in English. Only the tens and ones value are divided with the word “y”.

Example 1:

- seventy-five
 - seventy = setenta
 - five = cinco
 - seventy-five = setenta y cinco

Example 2:

- forty-four
 - forty – cuarenta
 - four – cuatro
 - forty-four – cuarenta y cuatro

One-Hundred: The hundreds value works similarly to the tens value; however, the number one-hundred itself is special.

- one-hundred cien
- one-hundred one ciento uno
- one-hundred two ciento dos
- one-hundred three ciento tres

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- thousand = mil
- five thousand = cinco mil
 - **Note:** The word “mil” did not change at all, meaning we didn’t need to make it plural.

Example 2:

- 414,000
 - four-hundred = cuatrocientos
 - fourteen = catorce
 - thousand = mil
 - four-hundred fourteen thousand = cuatrocientos catorce mil

Millions and Billions:

Rule: This is the highest form of counting. Unlike the word “thousand” (mil), these do need to agree. If the millions or billions value is singular, then it stays as “un millón” or “un billón”. If the millions or billions value is plural, you will have to drop the accent mark and add “es”, making the words “millones” and “billones”.

Example:

- one-million = un millón
- two-million = dos millones
- three-million = tres millones
- four-million = cuatro millones
- five-million = cinco millones
- 329-million = trescientos veintinueve millones
 - **Note:** All of the examples above use the word “millones”, except “one-million” and that’s because the phrase “one-million” is the only time the millions value is singular.

Rule: This leads to the conclusion of counting to infinity. At this point, you simply need to change the prefix as you would in English; however, the rules still apply.

- one-million, two million = un millón, dos millones
- one-billion, two billion = un billón, dos billones
- one-trillion, two trillion = un trillón, dos trillones
- one-quadrillion, two quadrillion = un cuadrillón, dos cuadrillones

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