

Working with Roman Numerals – Teacher’s Notes

SUMMARY

Roman numerals depend on a high-low sequence, which goes M, D, C, L, X, V, I.

As long as the numerals are **in sequence order**, from large to small, from left to right, you keep adding up:

$$XXVII = 10 + 10 + 5 + 1 + 1 = 27$$

If a numeral appears **out of sequence**, with a small numeral appearing before a big one, you should stop, bracket both off as a pair, and treat that pair as a separate digit:

$$\begin{aligned} XXIV &\longrightarrow XX(IV) = 10 + 10 + 4 = 24 \\ XCIX &\longrightarrow (XC)(IX) = 90 + 9 = 99 \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 1:

- a) 20
- b) 15
- c) 70
- d) 3
- e) 2,000
- f) 7
- g) 17
- h) 161
- i) 222
- j) 1666

Exercise 2:

- a) 105 = CV (don't count the guests!)
- b) 3 = III (the master + 11 guests = 12 diners)
- c) 6 = VI
- d) 13 = XIII
- e) 35 = XXXV

Exercise 3:

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	XIII	XIV	XV	XVI	XVII	XVIII	XIX	XX
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

Exercise 4:

- a) 9
- b) 14
- c) 19
- d) 104
- e) 109
- f) 900
- g) 40
- h) 44
- i) 59
- j) 1569

Exercise 5:

- a) VIII
- b) XXIV
- c) XXXVIII
- d) XL
- e) XLV
- f) CIX
- g) CXXXIX
- h) DXXII
- i) MI
- j) CMXCIX