

Spanish for Beginners

Although Spanish numbers can be memorized in a straightforward way, their use can be confusing for persons new to Spanish. Numbers made up of more than one part are often formed differently than they are in English, and some Spanish numbers change according to the gender of the nouns they apply to.

Following are the basic Spanish numbers and patterns in which they are formed. Those that are in italics are forms that change according to gender, while the non-italic forms are fixed.

1. *uno*
2. dos
3. tres
4. cuatro
5. cinco
6. seis
7. siete
8. ocho
9. nueve
10. diez
11. once
12. doce
13. trece
14. catorce
15. quince
16. dieciséis
17. diecisiete
18. dieciocho
19. diecinueve
20. veinte
21. *veintiuno*
22. veintidós
23. veintitrés
24. veinticuatro
25. veinticinco
26. veintiséis
27. veintisiete
28. veintiocho
29. veintinueve
30. treinta
31. *treinta y uno*
32. treinta y dos
33. treinta y tres
40. cuarenta
41. *cuarenta y uno*
42. cuarenta y dos
50. cincuenta
60. sesenta
70. setenta
80. ochenta
90. noventa
100. ciento
101. ciento *uno*
102. ciento dos
103. ciento tres
110. ciento diez
199. ciento noventa y nueve
200. *doscientos*
201. *doscientos uno*

202. *doscientos dos*
 203. *doscientos tres*
 251. *doscientos cincuenta y uno*
 252. *doscientos cincuenta y dos*
 300. *trescientos*
 400. *cuatrocientos*
 500. *quinientos*
 600. *seiscientos*
 700. *setecientos*
 800. *ochocientos*
 900. *novcientos*
 1.000. *mil*
 2.000. *dos mil*
 3.000. *tres mil*
 3.333. *tres mil trescientos treinta y tres*
 1,000,000. *un millón*
 1,000,000,000. *mil millones*

Shortening *uno* and *ciento*: *Uno* and numbers ending in *-uno* are shortened to *un* when they immediately precede a masculine noun. When standing alone (that is, being 100 exactly) *ciento* is shortened to *cien* before preceding a noun of either gender; the longer form is used within longer numbers (except when preceding *mil*).

Examples: *un lápiz* (1 pencil), *una pluma* (1 pen), *cincuenta y un lápices* (51 pencils), *cincuenta y una plumas* (51 pens), *cien lápices* (100 pencils), *cien plumas* (100 pens), *ciento tres lápices* (103 pencils), *ciento tres plumas* (103 pens), *cien mil lápices* (100,000 pencils), *cien mil plumas* (100,000 pens)

Gender: As indicated above, the italicized portions of numbers vary according to gender. When a number ends in *-uno* ("one"), the form *-un* is used before masculine nouns, and *-una* before feminine nouns. The *uno* form is used only in counting. Accent marks are used where needed to maintain the correct pronunciation. The hundreds portions of numbers change in gender even when other parts of the number intervene before the noun.

Examples: *un coche* (1 car), *una casa* (1 house), *veintiún coches* (21 cars), *veintiuna casas* (21 houses), *doscientos coches* (200 cars), *doscientas casas* (200 houses), *doscientos dos coches* (202 cars), *doscientas dos casas* (202 houses).

Punctuation: In most of the Spanish-speaking world, periods and commas within numbers are reversed from what they are in U.S. English. Thus in Spain *1.234,567* would be the way of writing *mil doscientos treinta y cuatro coma quinientos sesenta y siete*, or what would be written in the United States as 1,234.567. In Mexico, Central America and Puerto Rico, numbers usually are punctuated as they are in the United States.

Source: http://spanish.about.com/cs/forbeginners/a/cardinalnum_beg.htm