

PLAYING THE NUMBERS GAME

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The joys of word play abound all around, even in numbers. We often view figures as coldly symbolic rather than vibrantly verbal, but numerals really can be a lot of fun when we look at them logologically.

Here are thirty questions to test your verbal virtuosity with "figurative" language. We'll be surprised if this quiz dozen tickle your fancy. After doing a number on the English language, you'll exclaim, "How do I count thee? Let me love the ways!"

1. What is the next letter in the sequence OTTFSS?
2. What is the only number with a quantity of letters that matches its value?
3. How high do you have to count to reach a one-word number with the letter A in it?
4. When you count from one to one hundred, how many nines will you encounter?
5. What is the only number consisting of letters that spell a common word backwards?
6. When spelled out, what three sequential numbers yield an unbroken string of alternating consonants and vowels?
7. What common mathematical term is heteronymic? (Heteronyms are words spelled the same but pronounced differently)
8. Of all the letters used to spell out the numbers from one to one hundred, which two letters appear only twice?
9. What five numbers in a row appear in alphabetical sequence?
10. What are the only two numbers between one and one hundred that contain a letter that appears four times?
11. What are the next two letters in the sequence CDILM?
12. What numbers yield two additional homophones? (Homophones are words sounded alike but having different spellings)
13. What is the only fraction that has a synonym?
14. What is the only fractional prefix that has three synonyms that differ by only the first letter?
15. What is the shortest word that represents a specific mathematical quantity?
16. What is mathematical about the following sentence: now I make a clear statement to dazzle minds?
17. What number consists entirely of letters in alphabetical sequence?
18. What number consists entirely of letters in reverse alphabetic sequence?

19. What are the only three numbers that can be beheaded to yield a new word?
20. What are the only two numbers that can be curtailed to yield a new word?
21. Two numbers add up to an unlucky total, and another pair of numbers add up to the same sum. Each pair is an anagram of the other; what are the four numbers?
22. Which number can be anagrammed to make a word that means an immeasurably long period of time?
23. To what eight-letter word meaning immeasurably large, can you add five letters to create a word meaning immeasurably small?
24. To what five-letter word that describes a mathematical function can you add four letters to create a word meaning immeasurably small?
25. J.A. Lindon asks you to translate the following balanced equation into a limerick:

$$\frac{12 + 144 + 20 + 3\sqrt{4}}{7} + 5(11) = 9^2 + 0$$

26. What two numbers from one to twenty add a syllable when they are converted from cardinals (one, two, three...) to ordinals (first, second, third...)?
27. What are the only two ordinal numbers that contain the same quantity of letters as their value?
28. What ordinal number consists entirely of letters in alphabetical sequence?
29. What ordinal number from one to twenty contains an unbroken string of four consonants?
30. What is the only ordinal number that can be curtailed to yield a cardinal number?

Answers can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of next issue.