

DUTCH NUMBER-NAMES ARE INTERESTING TOO

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Editor's note: In the November 1998 Word Ways, Dave Morice defined unique properties for each of the first 99 number-names. The following is a translation of Getalnamen on page gn of Battus Opperlans! Taal- & letterkunde (Querido, 2003). Analogous English-language records, if they exist, are given in brackets at the end.

- 1 [een] most vowels per consonant [1]
- 2 [twee] only number-name written on the upper typewriter row [2]
- 3 [drie] largest number-name with a row of consonants followed by a row of vowels [3]
- 4 [vier] only number-name that specifies its length [4]
- 5 [vijf] only number-name that starts with the same Roman number
- 6 [zes] smallest number-name that is a multiple of its length [6]
- 7 [zeven] smallest number-name in which all letters appear in smaller number-names [7]
- 8 [acht] largest number-name with all letters in alphabetical order [40]
- 9 [negen] only palindromic number-name
- 10 [tien] only number-name written with the same number of straight lines [29]
- 11 [elf] largest number-name with letters all from first half of alphabet
- 12 [twaalf] smallest number-name with five different letters [8]
- 13 [dertien] the number-name equals the length of its 3-multiple, 4-multiple and 7-multiple
[the 4-multiple, 5-multiple, 6-multiple and 9-multiple of nine each have 9 letters]
- 14 [veertien] smallest number-name containing three Es--in fact, containing three of any letter [11]
- 15 [vijftien] the first half of this number-name (5) is one-half of the second half (10)
- 16 [zestien] the first syllable specifies the number of different letters in the number-name [16]
- 17 [zeventien] the largest number-name that has no letter in the middle typewriter row [99]
- 18 [achttien] the smallest number-name in which the first half specifies its length
- 19 [negentien] the smallest number-name containing the same letters as its reversal, 91 [67]
- 20 [twintig] the largest and longest number-name in which all vowels are the same [77]
- 21 [eenentwintig] the number of letters in the number-name is equal to its reversal, 12
- 22 [tweeëntwintig] the number-name is the sum of its Roman numbers (setting $W=VV$)
- 23 [drieëntwintig] smallest prime number-name with a diaeresis to avoid ambiguity
- 24 [vierentwintig] number of different ways the letters in the first syllable can be rearranged
- 25 [vijfentwintig] the smallest multisyllabic number-name in which the first syllable is its square root
- 26 [zesentwintig] the number-name equals the number of letters in the alphabet [26]
- 27 [zevenentwintig] the smallest number-name with five syllables [77]
- 28 [achtentwintig] the smallest number-name with three different vowels in alphabetic order [24]
- 29 [negenentwintig] the smallest number-name in which a letter appears four times [17]
- 30 [dertig] the largest number-name containing six letters [90]
- 31 [eenendertig] the smallest number-name containing three three-letter syllables [101]
- 32 [tweeëndertig] the number-name that is the fifth power of its first syllable

- 33 [drieëndertig] the smallest number-name that contains the letters of 3 twice [303]
 34 [vierendertig] anagrams to "grievend riet" *also the smallest number-name that is a transdeletion of another number-name* (43) [64 transdeletes to 46]
 35 [vijfendertig] smallest number-name with ten different letters [84]
 36 [zesendertig] the largest number-name in which the first syllable is its square root
 37 [zevenendertig] smallest number-name that is one-third of a ten-letter number name (111, honderdelf) [13, one-third of thirty-nine]
 38 [achtendertig] the next-to-smallest number-name with ten different letters [105]
 39 [negenendertig] the smallest number-name with a value three times its length [33]
 40 [veertig] smallest number-name in which half (20) and double (80) have the same number of letters as it does
- 41 [eenenveertig] the smallest number-name in which a letter appears five times [111]
 42 [tweeënveertig] smallest number-name that is the product of the length of the first two syllables (6) and of the last two syllables (7)
 43 [drieënveertig] anagrams to "grievende riet" *also the smallest number-name that is a transaddition of another number-name* (34) [46 transadds to 64]
 44 [vierenveertig] the smallest number-name that contains the letters of 4 twice [404]

On page hg Corstius shows that the number-name 91 is even more remarkable.

Write the thirteen letters of the Dutch number-name eenennegentig (91) in seven rows, one under the other, so that there is a vertical column consisting solely of the letter n. Then in another vertical column one has the seven-letter word nittien, the Norwegian number-name for 91. 7×13 , by the way, is equal to 91.

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E E N E N N E G E N T I G
N T I G E E N E N N E G E
E N T I G E E N E N N E G
E N T I G E E M E N N E G
N T I G E E N E N N E G E
E G E N T I G E E N E N N
E E N E N N E G E N E N N

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On page gq Corstius notes that the number-name 91 has considerable mathematical interest as well, for it is the first integer (other than the trivial example of one) that is simultaneously the sum of the first n integers (1,3,6,10,...,91...), the sum of the first n squares (1,5,14,30,55,91...) and a honeycomb tiling (1,7,19,37,61,91...).