AMERICAN ENGLISH LEVEL A1 CORE GUIDE

Cardinal & Ordinal Numbers

Master reference guide comparing counting quantities (*How many?*) against sequential rankings & calendar dates (*Which order?*).

CARDINAL	ORDINAL
Quantity	**Sequence**

#	# CARDINAL (how many?)	ORDINAL (position / date)	ABBR.	KEY RULE / EXAM NOTE
1	one	first	1st	Irregular form.
2	two	second	2nd	Irregular form.
3	three	third	3rd	Irregular form.
4	four	fourth	4th	Regular rule: adds **-th**.
5	five	fifth	5th	Spelling: *ve* becomes *f* (not *fiveth*).
8	eight	eighth	8th	Only add **-h** (do not write double 't').
9	nine	ninth	9th	Drop the *e*: **n-i-n-t-h** (never *nineth*).
11	eleven	eleventh	11th	Regular: adds **-th**.
12	twelve	twelfth	12th	Spelling: *ve* becomes *f* + **th**.
13	thirteen	thirteenth	13th	Pronunciation: stress the ending: thir-**TEEN**.
15	fifteen	fifteenth	15th	Notice root: **fif-** (never *fiveteen*).
20	twenty	twentieth	20th	Tens rule: *-ty* changes to **-tieth**.
21	twenty-one	twenty-first	21st	✓ Always hyphenate; only final word is ordinal.

#	# CARDINAL (how many?)	ORDINAL (position / date)	ABBR.	KEY RULE / EXAM NOTE
22	twenty-two	twenty-second	22nd	Ends in -second (abbreviation: 22nd).
30	thirty	thirtieth	30th	*-ty* changes to **-tieth**.
31	thirty-one	thirty-first	31st	Standard calendar day: *October thirty-first*.
40	forty	fortieth	40th	⚠ #1 Exam Trap: No "u" (never write *fourty*).
100	one hundred	one hundredth	100th	Add **-th** to hundred.
125	one hundred twenty-five	one hundred twenty-fifth	125th	🇺🇸 American style: NO "and" after hundred.

1 **THE HYPHEN RULE (21 — 99)**

Always join compound numbers with a hyphen: **twenty-one**, **forty-five**, **ninety-ninth**.

2 **AMERICAN "NO AND"**

In standard US English, omit "and" after hundreds: say **one hundred twenty** (never *one hundred and twenty*).

3 **SPOKEN US DATES**

Formula is **Month + Ordinal**: *July 4th* is spoken as **"July fourth"** (not *the fourth of July* in casual talk).

4 **US BUILDING FLOORS**

In the US, ground level is the **1st floor**. The level above it is the **2nd floor**.

★ **TOP 3 SPELLING TRAPS FOR EXAMS**

forty	**ninth**	**twelfth**
No "u" in forty / fortieth	Drop the "e" from nine	Change "ve" to "f"