

## Big numbers glossary

Here are some of the words you may come across to do with big numbers.

### Place value

A figure has a **different value** when used in **different places**. For example, in these three numbers, the 4 stands for a different value:

- 45 The number 4 has a value of 40 (4 tens)
- 405 The number 4 has a value of 400 (4 hundreds)
- 54 The number 4 has a value of 4 (4 units)

### Digit

A figure or a number. 45 is a two-digit number whereas 405 is a three-digit number.

### Billion

When we talk about a billion we mean a **thousand million** or 1,000,000,000. If you see a billion in a news story it is referring to a thousand million. Such big numbers can be difficult to imagine.

Have a look at this bag of money.

Think of a million pounds as being the bag of money.

If you had a billion pounds,  
you would have a thousand of these bags!



### Numerical order

The order that you would write numbers if you were counting from the lowest up. 405, 406 and 407 are in numerical order.

### Unit

The word unit means one. It is the smallest number and is always on the right-hand side of a whole number:

- 5 This number has 5 units
- 72 This number has 2 units
- 591 This number has 1 unit

You'll find more maths words explained in the **Skillswise Glossary**.