

Place value

All numbers use one or more of these ten **digits**:

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

For example, **816** is a **three-digit number**. It has three digits. You might also call it a three-figure number.



We can use digits on their own to give us small numbers like **2** and **4**. And we can use them together to make bigger numbers, like **27**, **431** and **2,146**.

Look at the digit 4 in these numbers:

4 40 400 4,000

Whether a 4 stands for four, forty, four hundred or four thousand depends on the **position of the digit in the number** - its place value.

Understanding place value tells us whether we've been given a bill for four pounds, forty pounds or four hundred pounds: £4, £40, £400.

Place value is vital. It means putting digits into columns. These columns are always in the same order.

thousands	hundreds	tens	units (ones)
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The value of a digit depends on which column it's in - units, hundreds, tens, thousands, etc.

Let's look at the number **4,444**. There are four **4s**, but each **4** means something different.

thousands	hundreds	tens	units (ones)
4	4	4	4

4,444 is worth **four thousand four hundred and forty four**.