

NUMERI ROMANI

Roman numerals are still used today in many places; the copyright year for films and television shows, the number of the Super Bowl (this season is L!) and other places in the media as a way to legitimize an event (see Final Fantasies I-XIV).

The process of reading Roman numerals is simple, with a few tricky exceptions, and consists of combinations of adding and subtracting the basic numerals:

Basic Numerals:

I = 1

V = 5

X = 10

L = 50

C = 100

D = 500

M = 1000

Adding Method:

From here, you can make more complex numbers by adding these symbols together, starting with the larger number:

e.g. VII = 7, XIII = 13, LXVI = 66 etc.

***n.b.** You may not use more than three of the same characters in a row (4 ≠ IIII, for the correct formation, see below)*

Subtraction Method:

*You'll notice that some numbers are not possible using solely the additive method (like 40, which is NOT XXXX). For these numbers, **subtract** from a larger number by putting a smaller number before it.*

e.g. XL = 40, IX = 9, IV = 4 etc.

***n.b.** There are a few notable exceptions to these rules:*

1. The number that you are subtracting from cannot be more than **10 times greater** than its subtractor.
e.g. IL ≠ 49, use XLIX instead
2. You may only subtract **one** character from another
e.g. IXL ≠ 41, use XLI instead
3. You may only subtract powers of 10 (I, X, C) and **not** V or L
4. You may not use more than 4 numbers in a row (XXXX etc.)