

Roman Numerals: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to Roman numerals can help you support your child's learning at home. The subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when exploring Roman numerals together, either as part of homework or if you decide to give your child some extra support. Whether your child is only just beginning to explore what Roman numerals are or they are gaining confidence with Roman numerals and want to find out more, you will find a step that matches where your child is at, then have ideas for where to go next.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.

We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

Roman Numerals

What Are Roman Numerals?

Roman numerals form part of a numeral system that originated in ancient Rome more than 2000 years ago. Instead of writing numbers, the Romans used symbols to represent numbers, for example:

$$1 = I \quad 5 = V \quad 10 = X \quad 50 = L \quad 100 = C$$

You can still see Roman numerals today, for example on old buildings and monuments to show when they were built, on clock faces and at the end of TV programmes to show what year they were made.

In year 4, your child will start to learn about Roman numerals and will be taught to read them up to 100 (C). They will also learn that, over time, the numeral system changed to include the concept of 0 and place value. In year 5, your child will go on to learn how to recognise and read Roman numerals up until 1000 (M) as well as to interpret years written using Roman numerals.

You can use the resources in this category and the keyword searches to help your child with Roman numerals. A few ideas for games and activities to help your child learn how to practise and become familiar with recognising Roman numerals and the numbers they represent are also outlined below.

Roman Numeral Trail

Go on a walk of your local area. See if you can find any examples of Roman numerals, for example on buildings and churches. What are they being used for? How many different examples can you find?

Play Snap

Download this **Roman numeral matching card snap game** and cut out the cards. See if your child can match the Roman numerals with their correct values. Alternatively, shuffle the cards and place them face down on the table. Can your child use their memory to match the cards together?

Spaghetti Numerals

Use dried spaghetti and snap them into smaller pieces. Encourage your child to use the spaghetti to create Roman numerals when you tell them a number. For example, for 5, they would create a 'V' with their spaghetti, for 8, they make 'VIII' etc.

Roman Numeral Hundred Square

Download this **100 Number Square**. Challenge your child to fill in the squares using the main Roman numerals, such as 1 (I), 5 (V), 10 (X), 50 (L), 100 (C). Can they fill in the rest of the number square using Roman numerals?



Step 1

Exploring Roman Numerals to 100

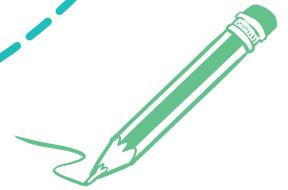
From year 4, your child will begin to learn about and recognise Roman numerals up to 100. They will look at the similarities and differences with our current number system, for example the fact that there isn't a symbol for zero in the Roman numeral system and therefore there are no placeholders. Zero is a placeholder – while it isn't worth anything on its own, it changes the value of other digits, e.g. 2, 20, 200. You can encourage your child to build on their knowledge of Roman numerals with this PowerPoint designed to consolidate learning in this area.



Exploring Roman Numerals to 1000

In year 5, your child will consolidate and build on their knowledge of Roman numerals by learning the Roman numeral symbols for numbers up to 1000. Playing games and solving puzzles, such as this jigsaw, can be a fun and visual way to explore this.

Step 2



Step 3

Combining Roman Numerals to Form Other Numbers

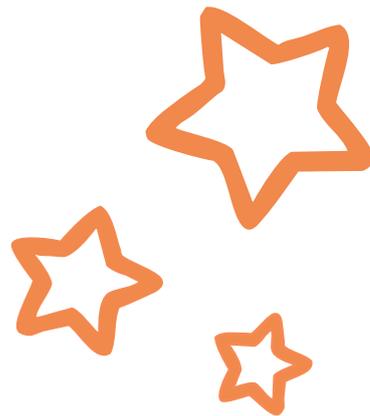
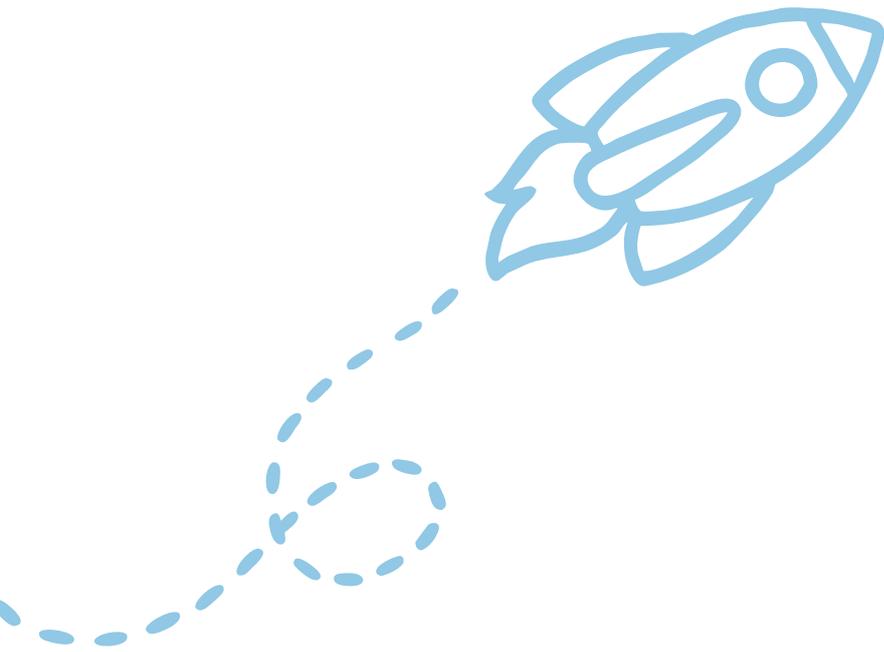
At this stage, your child will combine different Roman numerals to form other numbers, for example when a symbol appears after a larger or equal figure, they are added together, so VII = 5 + 1 + 1 = 7. When a symbol appears before another figure it is subtracted, so IX = 10 – 1 = 9. Your child will go on to use this knowledge to write years in Roman numerals, for example MMV denotes the year 2005, as well as to convert between Roman numerals and our current number system and back again. This worksheet can help your child practise this skill.



Step 4

Roman Numerals Mastery Activities

Once your child is confident with how Roman numerals work, mastery activities can help them consolidate and stretch their knowledge. These challenge cards encourage your child to think at greater depth in this area.



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Twinkl Book Club is our book subscription service. Enjoy our original works of fiction in beautiful printed form, delivered to you each half-term and yours to keep!



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Boost

Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



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imagine

Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.



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ORIGINALS

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire children from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



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KIDS' TV

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!