

3 Numbers

3.1 Cardinal numbers 0–100

0 null	13 dreizehn	26 sechszwanzig
1 eins	14 vierzehn	27 siebenundzwanzig
2 zwei	15 fünfzehn	28 achtundzwanzig
3 drei	16 sechzehn	29 neunundzwanzig
4 vier	17 siebzehn	30 dreißig
5 fünf	18 achtzehn	31 einunddreißig
6 sechs	19 neunzehn	40 vierzig
7 sieben	20 zwanzig	50 fünfzig
8 acht	21 einundzwanzig	60 sechzig
9 neun	22 zweiundzwanzig	70 siebzig
10 zehn	23 dreiundzwanzig	80 achtzig
11 elf	24 vierundzwanzig	90 neunzig
12 zwölf	25 fünfundzwanzig	100 einhundert
		or: hundert

- Numbers above 20 are written as one word, unlike English.
- **Null** translates as *zero, nought, nil*, as well as '0' in telephone numbers.
- The numbers 31–99 repeat the pattern of 21–29.
- Note the omission of *s* in the spelling of **sechzehn**, **sechzig** and of **-en** in **siebzehn**, **siebzig**.
- On the telephone **zwei** is often spoken as **zwo**, to avoid confusion with **drei**.

■ **3.1.1** The form **eins** is generally used in isolation:
 Der Patient liegt auf Station *The patient is on ward*
eins. *one.*

It loses the *s* at the beginning of a compound number:
 Sie wird morgen *She'll be 21 tomorrow.*
einundzwanzig.

Cardinal numbers do not normally have endings. However, the number **ein(s)** changes to agree with a noun. It has the same forms as the indefinite article **ein** (*a, an*) – see 5.1.3:

Sie hat **einen** Bruder und *She has one brother and*
 eine Schwester. *one sister.*

Note that **ein** has no ending in **ein Uhr** (*one o'clock*).

■ **3.1.2** In formal German **zwei** and **drei** have endings when used in the genitive:

Bei dem Zusammenstoß *Nobody was hurt in the*
zweier/dreier Autos wurde *collision involving*
 niemand verletzt. *two/three cars.*

In informal language and for larger numbers a dative construction with **von** is used:

Bei dem Zusammenstoß *Nobody was hurt in the*
von drei/vier Autos *collision involving three/four*
 wurde niemand verletzt. *cars.*

■ **3.1.3** To indicate a particular year or decade, **-er** is added to the cardinal numbers. Note that this ending does not decline. It is often added to the figure rather than being written out in full:

In den 50er (fünfziger) *The economic miracle began*
 Jahren begann das *in the fifties.*
 Wirtschaftswunder.
 Die 68er-Bewegung *The '68 movement began as a*
 begann als politisch *politically motivated protest.*
 motivierter Protest.