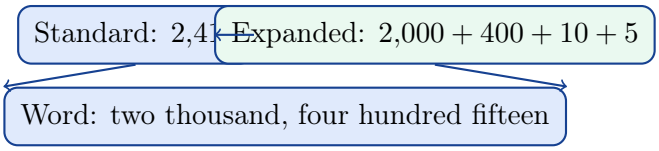
Reading and Writing Whole Numbers

One number can show up in three different outfits — digits, expanded sum, and words. Learning to slide between them is what this lesson is about.

Form	**Example** (5,309)
Standard form	5,309
Expanded form	$5{,}000 + 300 + 9$
Word form	five thousand, three hundred nine



Key Concepts

1. *Standard form* is the number written in digits, the way you usually see it: 7,042.

2. *Expanded form* pulls each digit apart and shows the value it really stands for: $7{,}000 + 40 + 2$.

3. *Word form* writes the number out using words, the way you would read it aloud: seven thousand, forty-two.

4. A 0 inside a number is a placeholder. It adds nothing, but it has to stay there or every other digit would shift to the wrong place.

Worked Examples

① Write 3,508 in expanded form.

Take the number one place at a time, starting from the left. The 3 is in the thousands, so it stands for 3,000. The 5 is in the hundreds, so it is 500. The 0 is in the tens — that place holds nothing, so we skip it. The 8 is in the ones. Now add the non-zero pieces together: $3{,}000 + 500 + 8$.

Answer: $3{,}000 + 500 + 8$

② Write "four thousand, two hundred six" in standard form.

Word form translates piece by piece. "Four thousand" means 4,000. "Two hundred" is 200. "Six" is 6. Watch out: there is no tens word in the phrase, so the tens place gets a 0 to hold its spot. Now stack them together: $4{,}000 + 200 + 0 + 6$, which writes as 4,206.

Answer: 4,206

③ Write $6{,}000 + 100 + 70 + 3$ in standard form and word form.

Each piece already tells you exactly which digit goes where: thousands 6, hundreds 1, tens 7, ones 3. Slide them into place to get 6,173. To say it out loud, read in groups: "six thousand, one hundred seventy-three." Notice how the comma between 6 and 173 in the digits matches the pause between "thousand" and "one hundred" when you read it.

Answer: 6,173

✎ Practice Problems

Write each number in the requested form.

1. Expanded form of 2,750 _____

2. Standard form of 1,000 + 600 + 80 + 5 _____

3. Word form of 4,019 _____

4. Standard: "three thousand, nine hundred" _____

5. Expanded form of 8,006 _____

6. Standard form of 5,000 + 400 + 30 _____

7. Word form of 7,214 _____

8. Standard: "six thousand, fifty-one" _____

9. 3,000 + 200 + 9 = _____

10. Expanded form of 9,999 _____

11. Standard: "one thousand, eight hundred" _____

12. Word form of 5,060 _____

Study Tips

- ☞ Always put a comma after the thousands group when writing big numbers in digits — it tells the reader where to pause.
- ☞ Zeros are placeholders. Keep them in standard form, but you can skip them when writing expanded form.
- ☞ The fastest way to get fluent is to practice going *both directions*: digits to words, words to digits, and back to expanded form.

✍ Word Problems

1. A town has "two thousand, three hundred fifteen" people. Write this number in standard form and expanded form.

Answer: _____

2. The odometer on a car reads 8,507 miles. Write this number in word form.

Answer: _____

Answer Key — with Friendly Explanations

Practice Problems

1. Each place value contributes a piece: 2 thousands = 2,000, 7 hundreds = 700, 5 tens = 50. There is no ones digit other than 0, so skip it.

Answer: $2{,}000 + 700 + 50$

2. Each piece names a digit: thousands 1, hundreds 6, tens 8, ones 5. Slide them into place.

Answer: $1{,}685$

3. Read the digits in groups: 4 before the comma is "four thousand," then 019 is "nineteen" (because the 0 silently holds the hundreds spot).

Answer: *four thousand, nineteen*

4. "Three thousand" is 3,000, "nine hundred" is 900. There are no tens or ones words, so those places are zeros.

Answer: $3{,}900$

5. Pull the digits apart: thousands 8, hundreds 0, tens 0, ones 6. Skip the zeros when writing expanded form — they add nothing.

Answer: $8{,}000 + 6$

6. Each piece tells you a digit: thousands 5, hundreds 4, tens 3. The ones place is missing, so put 0 there. Result: 5,430.

Answer: $5{,}430$

7. Read in groups: 7 before the comma is "seven thousand," then 214 is "two hundred fourteen."

Answer: *seven thousand, two hundred fourteen*

8. "Six thousand" is 6,000. "Fifty-one" is 51, which is 5 tens and 1 one. The hundreds place has no word, so it must be 0.

Answer: $6{,}051$

9. Each piece is the value of one place: thousands 3, hundreds 2, ones 9. The missing piece is tens, so use 0.

Answer: $3{,}209$

10. The number 9,999 has a 9 in every single place. Multiply each by its place value and add them up.

Answer: $9{,}000 + 900 + 90 + 9$

11. "One thousand" is 1,000 and "eight hundred" is 800. The tens and ones places have no words, so they are zeros.

Answer: $1{,}800$

12. Read 5,060 in groups: 5 before the comma is "five thousand," then 060 is "sixty" (the zero in the hundreds spot is silent in speech).

Answer: *five thousand, sixty*

Word Problems

1. Translate piece by piece: "two thousand" is 2,000, "three hundred" is 300, "fifteen" is 15. Combine for standard form: 2,315. Expanded form lists every non-zero piece: $2{,}000 + 300 + 10 + 5$.

Answer: $2{,}315$; $2{,}000 + 300 + 10 + 5$

2. Read 8,507 in chunks: the 8 becomes "eight thousand," and 507 reads as "five hundred seven." The 0 in the tens place is silent.

Answer: *eight thousand, five hundred seven*

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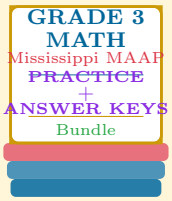

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