

AMA Manual of Style

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Use of Numerals

Stephen J. Lurie and Margaret A. Winker

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Item type: section

In scientific writing, numerals are used to express numbers in most circumstances. Exceptions are the following: # Numbers that begin a sentence, title, subtitle, or heading # Common fractions # Accepted usage such as idiomatic expressions and numbers used as pronouns # Other uses of “one” in running text # Ordinals first through ninth # Numbers spelled out in quotes or published titles. (See , Spelling Out Numbers.) Note the following examples of numerals in text: The relative risk of exposed individuals was nearly 3 times that of the controls. In the second phase of the study, 3 of the

Numbers of 4 or More Digits to Either Side of the Decimal Point

Stephen J. Lurie and Margaret A. Winker

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Commas are not used in large numbers. In 4-digit numbers, the digits are set closed up. For numbers of 10000 or greater, a half-space or thin space is used to separate every 3 digits starting from the right-most integer (or, in numbers with decimals, from the left of the decimal point). For numbers with 5 or more digits to the right of the decimal point, a half-space is used between every 3 digits starting from the right of the decimal point (see also , Units of Measure, Use of Numerals With Units).The exact weight of the salt was 8.45398 g,

Mixed Fractions

Stephen J. Lurie and Margaret A. Winker

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For less precise measurements, mixed fractions may be used instead of decimals. These expressions usually involve time. Common fractions are typically spelled out (see , Spelling Out Numbers, Common Fractions).The surgery lasted 3¼ hours. The patient was

hospitalized for 5½ days. Of the patients returning for a second visit, half received the intervention. |

Measures of Time

Stephen J. Lurie and Margaret A. Winker

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Measures of time usually are expressed as numerals (see also , Abbreviations, Days of the Week, Months, Eras). When dates are provided, numerals should be used for day and year; the month should be spelled out unless listed in a table. Conventional form for time and dates (11:30 pm on February 25, 1961) is preferred to European or military form (2330 on 25 February 1961). However, use of military time may clarify the time course in figures that depict a 24-hour experiment, times of drug dosing, and the like. For time, if the hour of the day is given, am

Measures of Temperature

Stephen J. Lurie and Margaret A. Winker

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Use the degree symbol with Celsius or Fahrenheit measures of temperature. The degree symbol should be closed up (see , Units of Measure, Format, Style, and Punctuation, Spacing).The plates were cultured at 17°C, 3°C lower than usual. |

Measures of Currency

Stephen J. Lurie and Margaret A. Winker

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For sums of money, use the appropriate symbol to indicate the type of currency (eg, \$, €, £; see also , Units of Measure, Conventional Units and SI Units in JAMA and the Archives Journals, Currency).His charge for the medication was \$55.60 plus \$0.95 for shipping. The equivalent sum in euros was €30. |