



Numbers Quiz by Laura King, MA, ELS

Directions: Identify and correct any number problems in the following sentences based on the information outlined in chapter 19 of the *AMA Manual of Style*. For further explanation of the correct answers, refer to the cited section of the online or print version of the *AMA Manual of Style*.

1. The hospital budget for the next fiscal year was estimated to be between \$30 and \$40 million.

ANSWER:

The hospital budget for the next fiscal year was estimated to be between \$30 million and \$40 million.

Editor's Note: Rounded large numbers, such as those starting with *million*, should be expressed with numerals and words. In this example, the word *million* is needed after \$30 to avoid ambiguity (§[19.3.1](#), Rounded Large Numbers, p 826 in print).

2. According to the patient poll, symptoms of disease are the number one reason patients seek advice from physicians.

ANSWER:

According to the patient poll, symptoms of disease are the No. 1 reason patients seek advice from physicians.

Editor's Note: The word *number* may be abbreviated *No.* in the text when used as a specific designator (§[19.6](#), Abbreviating *Number*, p 829 in print).

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3. The patients were in the eighth, ninth, and 10th grades.

ANSWER:

The patients were in the 8th, 9th, and 10th grades.

Editor's Note: Although ordinals *first* through *ninth* are conventionally spelled out, if a sentence contains 2 or more ordinals, at least 1 of which is greater than *ninth*, all should be expressed in numeric form (§[19.2.5](#), Ordinals, pp 825-826 in print).

4. The anesthesiologist planned to administer propofol at 8:00 AM.

ANSWER:

The anesthesiologist planned to administer propofol at 8 AM.

Editor's Note: When referring to time on the hour, minutes may be omitted (§[19.1.3](#), Measures of Time, pp 822-823 in print).

5. The procedure lasted approximately 3.25 hours.

ANSWER:

The procedure lasted approximately 3¼ hours.

Editor's Note: For less precise measurements, mixed fractions may be used instead of decimals. These expressions usually involve time (§[19.1.2](#), Mixed Fractions, p 822 in print).

6. The article on presidential disability cited the 25th Amendment.

ANSWER:

The article on presidential disability cited the Twenty-fifth Amendment.

Editor's Note: Although ordinals greater than *ninth* conventionally take the numeric form (eg, 10th, 11th, 12th), some forms are spelled out by convention (eg, Twenty-fifth Amendment) (§[19.2.5](#), Ordinals, pp 825-826 in print).



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7. Our results were derived from data from the 1994-98 National Infant Sleep Position Study.

ANSWER:

Our results were derived from data from the 1994-1998 National Infant Sleep Position Study.

Editor's Note: Digits should not be omitted when indicating a span of years or page numbers in the text. Hyphens may be used in text when a year span is used as the identifying characteristic of a study, but only when the actual dates of the study have been defined previously in the text; if the dates are not defined in the text, the hyphen is ambiguous and may or may not mean that the dates indicated are inclusive (§[19.4](#), Use of Digit Spans and Hyphens, pp 827-828 in print).

8. The surgeon general called for a 0-tolerance policy regarding tobacco use by minors.

ANSWER:

The surgeon general called for a zero-tolerance policy regarding tobacco use by minors.

Editor's Note: Spell out numbers for generally accepted usage, such as idiomatic expressions. Numbers such as *zero*, *one*, *two*, and large rounded numbers may be written as words in circumstances in which use of the numeral would place an unintended emphasis on a precise quantity or would be confusing (§[19.2.4](#), Accepted Usage, pp 824-825 in print).

9. Two thousand six was a record-breaking year for motor vehicle crashes.

ANSWER:

The year 2006 was a record-breaking year for motor vehicle crashes.

Editor's Note: Numerals may be used in sentences that begin with a specific year, but avoid beginning sentences with years if possible (§[19.2.1](#), Beginning a Sentence, Title, Subtitle, or Heading, pp 823-824 in print).



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10. The study was divided into 3 periods: 2000 to 2002, 2003 to 2005, and 2006 to 2008.

ANSWER:

The study was divided into 3 periods: 2000 through 2002, 2003 through 2005, and 2006 through 2008.

Editor's Note: Use of *to* may introduce ambiguity; *to* should be used rather than *through* only when the final digit is not included in the span and *through* instead of *to* when the final digit is included in the span. Time spans may be referred to by means of hyphens between years once the meaning has been made clear at the first mention (§[19.4](#), Use of Digit Spans and Hyphens, pp 827-828 in print).

11. In the Framingham Heart Study, among those who have coronary artery disease, women had only $\frac{1}{4}$ the risk of sudden cardiac death compared with men.

ANSWER:

In the Framingham Heart Study, among those who have coronary artery disease, women had only one-fourth the risk of sudden cardiac death compared with men.

Editor's Note: Common fractions are expressed with hyphenated words, whether the fraction is used as an adjective or a noun (§[19.2.2](#), Common Fractions, p 824 in print).

12. The study examined 10 5-year-old boys and 12 5-year-old girls.

ANSWER:

The study examined ten 5-year-old boys and twelve 5-year-old girls.

Editor's Note: When 2 numbers appear consecutively in a sentence, either reword the sentence or spell out 1 of the numbers for clarity (§[19.3.2](#), Consecutive Numerical Expressions, pp 826-827 in print).



13. Adverse events occurred in 18 (9%) of the 200 patients.

ANSWER:

Adverse events occurred in 18 of the 200 patients (9%).

Editor's Note: For clarity, when a numerator and denominator are accompanied by a resulting proportion or percentage, the proportion or percentage should not intervene between the numerator and denominator (§[19.7.3](#), Reporting Proportions and Percentages, pp 831-832 in print).

14. The authors determined the α level to be less than 0.11.

ANSWER:

The authors determined the α level to be less than .11.

Editor's Note: Place a zero before the decimal point in numbers less than 1, except when expressing the 3 values related to probability: P , α , and β . However, note that α and β may sometimes be used to indicate other statistics, and in some of these cases their values may be 1 or greater (eg, Cronbach α) (§[19.7.1](#), Decimals, p 830 in print).

15. Few studies have compared the incidence of type II diabetes mellitus in African American and white populations.

ANSWER:

Few studies have compared the incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus in African American and white populations.

Editor's Note: Arabic numerals should be used as designators unless roman numerals are part of formally established nomenclature (eg, Step I diet, level I trauma center, schedule II drug, and Axis I diagnosis) (§[19.7.5](#), Roman Numerals, pp 832-833 in print).