



## One vs 1 Quiz

by Laura King, MA, ELS

**Directions:** Determining whether to use *one* or *1* is often difficult for the editor. The [AMA Manual of Style](#) recommends, “Spell out numbers for generally accepted usage, such as idiomatic expressions. *One* frequently appears in running text without referring to a quantity per se and may appear awkward if expressed as a numeral. When *one* may be replaced by *a* or *a single* without changing the meaning, the word *one* rather than the numeral is usually appropriate.” Applying this guideline, however, can be difficult. In consultation with a small group of [JAMA and Archives Journals](#) editors, the following guidelines are offered to assist the reader in determining whether to use *one* or *1*.

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1. When no other numerals appear in the sentence and no particular emphasis is being placed on counting, use the word *one*.
2. When the emphasis *is* on counting (even if no denominator or other numerals appear in the sentence), use the numeral *1*.
3. When a specific denominator appears in the sentence, use the numeral *1*.

## LEARNING RESOURCES

Edit the following sentences for the correct use of *one* vs *1*. Refer to section [19.2.4](#) of [AMA Manual of Style](#), which provides an explanation of the style rule and usage examples. Remember that even experienced editors may differ on whether *one* or *1* is appropriate for the context. The answers given in this quiz are based on the views of a small group of [JAMA and Archives Journals](#) editors, who recognize that other choices might be defensible.

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1. The ethmoid bone is *one* or *1* of the bones that form the medial orbital wall.
2. There is extensive literature on the discovery of the clinical utility of the deep tendon reflexes on the *one* or *1* hand and on the development of 19th-century experimental neurophysiologic concepts and early scientific concepts of reflexology on the other.
3. The physician listed only *one* or *1* of a number of symptoms the patient was experiencing.
4. Only *one* or *1* case of AIDS was reported in 2008 in the urban assisted living center.
5. Cystic fibrosis affects *one* or *1* in 3000 people.
6. In the published article, *one* or *1* of the authors revealed that she worked for a pharmaceutical company.



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## LEARNING RESOURCES

7. We studied 37 patients with multiple endocrine neoplasia type 1 who underwent *one or 1* or more surgical procedures from January 1, 1973, to April 30, 2004.

8. Current recommendations for the surgical treatment of multiple endocrine neoplasia type 1–associated hyperparathyroidism include subtotal parathyroidectomy, in which all or part of *one or 1* parathyroid gland is left in the neck.

9. The frontal bone features 2 foramina, *one or 1* above each orbit or eye socket.

10. Correction of the aesthetically short nose is one or 1 of the most challenging problems in facial plastic surgery.

11. The researchers performed a *1- or one-*time assessment of triglyceride levels after initiation of highly active antiretroviral therapy.

12. Let us hope that *one or 1* of these days health insurance will be affordable for all Americans.



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