

## Use of Numerals With Units Quiz

by Laura King, MA, MFA, ELS

### ANSWER KEY

**Directions:** Edit the following sentences for appropriate usage of numerals with units based on your understanding of section §17.4, Use of Numerals With Units Quiz of the *AMA Manual of Style*.

1. In our meta-analysis, we included 151 articles reporting on 123 studies for a total of 22,803 participants.

**ANSWER: In our meta-analysis, we included 1512 articles reporting on 123 studies for a total of 22 803 participants.**

**Editor's Note:** By SI convention, the decimal point is the only punctuation mark permitted in numerals, and it is used to separate the integer and decimal parts of the number. The SI does not use commas in numbers in particular because the comma is used in some countries as the decimal sign. Integers (whole numbers) with more than 4 digits are separated into groups of 3 (using a thin space, a space character that is usually 1/5 or 1/6 the width of an em dash; to insert a thin space using Unicode in Microsoft Word, type the code 2009 where the thin space should appear, set the cursor after “9,” and press Alt + X on the keyboard) with respect to the decimal point. Four-digit integers are closed up (without a space). Decimal digits also are grouped in sets of 3 digits beginning at the decimal sign, with the same closed-up spacing for 4-digit groups (§17.4.3, Number Spacing; see also §18.1.1, Numbers of 4 or More Digits to Either Side of the Decimal Point).

2. The study patients were moderately obese, with a body mass index of 30.0 to 34.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

**ANSWER: The study patients were moderately obese, with a body mass index (measure of weight in kilograms divided by the height in meters squared) of 30.0 to 34.9.**

**Editor's Note:** At first mention in the text, the formula used to calculate the index should be described; thereafter, the numerical value for the index may be given without units attached to it. For figures or tables, the formula should be included in legends or in footnotes, respectively. However, the formula used to calculate an index need not be included in the abstract of an article (§17.4.5, Indexes).

3. A statistically significant mean difference in weight loss of 15½ kg was found between the 2 groups.

**ANSWER: A statistically significant mean difference in weight loss of 15.5 kg was found between the 2 groups.**

**Editor's Note:** Fractions should not be used with SI units (§17.4.2, Decimal Format).

4. Adjusted regional use was positively correlated among 5 of 6 categories of low-value services (mean  $r$  for pairwise, between-category correlations, .33; range, .14-.54).

**ANSWER: Adjusted regional use was positively correlated among 5 of 6 categories of low-value services (mean  $r$  for pairwise, between-category correlations, 0.33; range, 0.14-0.54).**

**Editor's Note:** The decimal format is recommended for numbers used with units of measure. Numerical values less than 1 require placement of 0 before the decimal marker (§17.4.2, Decimal Format).

5. From the lowest to the highest quartile of baseline total urinary resveratrol metabolites, the proportion of participants who died from all causes was 34.4%, 31.6%, 33.5%, and 37.4%, respectively ( $P=0.67$ ).

**ANSWER: From the lowest to the highest quartile of baseline total urinary resveratrol metabolites, the proportion of participants who died from all causes was 34.4%, 31.6%, 33.5%, and 37.4%, respectively ( $P=.67$ ).**

**Editor's Note:** Certain statistical values, such as  $\alpha$  levels and  $P$  values, should be reported without the use of 0 before the decimal marker (§17.4.2, Decimal Format and §19.5, Glossary of Statistical Terms).

6. This work was supported by National Institutes of Health grants R01 AG027,012 and R01 HL094,507.

**ANSWER: This work was supported by National Institutes of Health grants R01 AG027012 and R01 HL094507.**

**Editor's Note:** Certain types of numerals that have more than 4 digits are expressed without spacing, such as street addresses, postal codes, page numbers, and numerals combined with letters, including trial registration identifiers (§17.4.3, Number Spacing).

7. Cartilage was harvested from the septum and was trimmed to measure 20 by 2 by 2 mm.

**ANSWER: Cartilage was harvested from the septum and was trimmed to measure 20 × 2 × 2 mm.**

**Editor's Note:** Multiplication of numbers should be indicated by the multiplication sign ( $\times$ ) and may be used to express area (eg, a 15 × 35-cm<sup>2</sup> burn), volume (eg, a 5.2 × 3.7 × 6.9-m<sup>3</sup> cube), matrixes (eg, 2 × 2 table), magnification ( $\times 30\,000$ ), or scientific notation (eg, 3.6 × 10<sup>9</sup>/L) (§17.4.4, Multiplication of Numbers). Note the thin space around the multiplication symbol.

8. Patients seeking emergency treatment at the intensive care unit were seen by a physician within  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 hours.

**ANSWER: Correct as is.**

**Editor's Note:** Mixed fractions occasionally are used in text to indicate less precise measurements and most commonly involve units of measure representing time (§17.4.2, Decimal Format).

9. Mean weight of patients at the time of kidney transplant was 11 200 g.

**ANSWER: Mean weight of patients at the time of kidney transplant was 11.2 kg.**

**Editor's Note:** Arabic numerals are used for quantities with units of measure. By SI convention, it is preferable to use only numbers between 0.1 and 1000 and to use the appropriate prefix for expressing quantities. For example, 0.003 mL is expressed as 3  $\mu$ L and 15 000 g is expressed as 15 kg (§17.4.1, Expressing Quantities).

10. The electric discharge of the power plant reaches 70 000 000 amperes.

**ANSWER: The electric discharge of the power plant reaches 70 million amperes [ $7 \times 10^7$  A].**

**Editor's Note:** Some clinical measurements are expressed in quantities and units that may have numbers outside this preferred range. For such values, the use of scientific notation is acceptable (§17.4.1, Expressing Quantities).