

Learning About Roman Numbers



Roman numerals are a system that ancient Romans used for writing numbers. This system uses only letters and their combinations to denote numbers.

Each letter in the system denotes a number as shown in the table.

I	V	X	L	C	D	M
1	5	10	50	100	500	1000

The bigger numbers are written as under.

X	XX	XXX	XL	L	LX	LXX	LXXX	XC
10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
C	CC	CCC	CD	D	DC	DCC	DCCC	CM
100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900

Instead of memorizing the symbols, students should learn rules of forming Roman numbers.

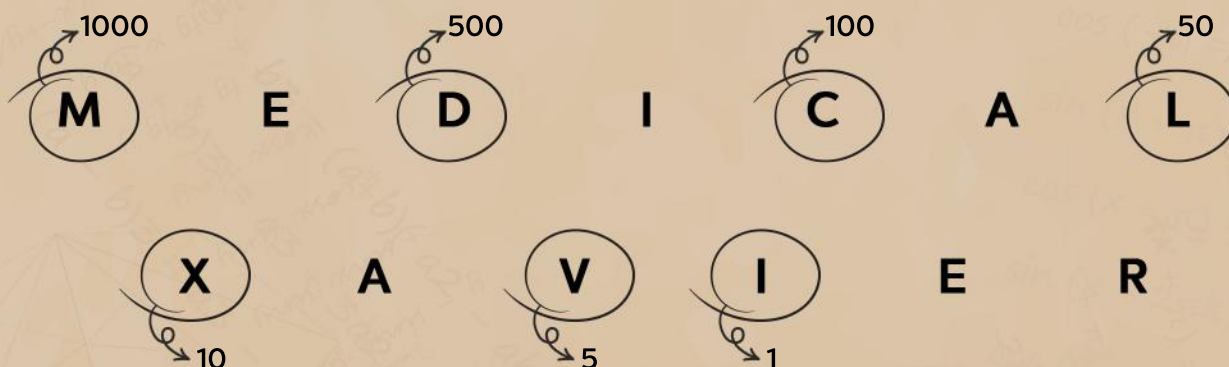
When a symbol appears after a larger (or equal) symbol, it is added.

- Example: VI = V + I = 5 + 1 = 6
- Example: LXX = L + X + X = 50 + 10 + 10 = 70

When a symbol appears before a larger symbol, it is subtracted.

- Example: IV = V - I = 5 - 1 = 4
- Example: IX = X - I = 10 - 1 = 9

There is a very interesting mnemonic to remember Roman numbers. It has all the Roman numbers in descending order from 1000 to 1.



The following simple method can help you easily convert any given number into a Roman number.

Example: Convert 1947 into a Roman numeral.

Break 1947 into 1000, 900, 40, and 7 to make it easy for you to convert.

- 1000 = M
- 900 = CM
- 40 = XL
- 7 = VII

Therefore, the Roman numerical representation of 1947 is **MCMXLVII**.

Write the following numbers as Roman numerals. The first is answered as an example for you.

9 = <u>IX</u>	15 = _____
29 = _____	31 = _____
40 = _____	78 = _____
91 = _____	100 = _____
85 = _____	63 = _____
88 = _____	53 = _____
38 = _____	99 = _____
14 = _____	44 = _____
35 = _____	27 = _____
23 = _____	65 = _____
60 = _____	55 = _____
25 = _____	13 = _____
59 = _____	78 = _____
17 = _____	71 = _____
82 = _____	57 = _____