

Roman Numerals

Prior to the development of our number system, there have been many other civilizations who have had their own unique way of handling mathematics and arithmetic. The one system that has survived to this day and is still in wide use is the Roman Numeral System.

The Roman Numeral System

A few major things to realize about the Roman Numeral System

There is no zero

It uses what we think of as letters (I, V, X, L, C, M)

Placing a lower value to the left of a higher value subtracts

Placing a lower value to the right of a higher value adds

I = 1

V = 5

X = 10

L = 50

C = 100

D = 500

M = 1000

Notice the significance of 5 in this system (like 10 in our system)

See a pattern

1 = I

2 = II

3 = III

4 = IV 5 - 1 you add through three higher then for 4 you subtract

6 = VI

7 = VII

8 = VIII

9 = IX 10 - 1

LX = 60 50 + 10

XL = 40 50 - 10

Starting on the left you build the value

MCMLXVI

M = 1000

CM = 900 1000-100

LX = 60 50 + 10

VI = 6 5 + 1

1000 + 900 + 60 + 6 = 1966 you see these type of things on movie dates.

Let's go from our system to Roman

2121

2000 = MM

100 = C

20 = XX

1 = I

MMCXXI