

THE LATIN ALPHABET AND NUMERALS

Like Greek, Latin belongs to the Indo-European language family. The Latin alphabet was adopted from the Greek alphabet by way of the Etruscans. Our own alphabet is directly derived from the Latin alphabet. The Latin alphabet consisted of 23 letters. The letters J, U, and W were added later to our alphabet. In Latin, the letters I and V were used both as vowels and consonants and were used to write and pronounce the letters J, U, and W. The Romans used only capital letters to write their language. Lower-case letters did not appear until the Middle Ages. The Latin alphabet is:

A B C D E F G H I K L M N O P Q R S T V X Y Z

The Romans wrote numbers by using seven signs of the alphabet:

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

The numbers are written next to each other in descending order and are added up.

For example: II = 2; VI = 6; LXVIII = 68.

However, if a smaller number is written in front of a larger number, the smaller number is subtracted from the larger number.

For example: IX = 9; IV = 4; XC = 90.

The year 1995 is written MCMXCV.

Translate the following Roman numerals into Arabic numerals (the numerals we use today).

1. LXXXVIII _____

6. XVIII _____

2. MMIX _____

7. XLIV _____

3. DCCII _____

8. CCCLXXIII _____

4. DCLXI _____

9. CDLVI _____

5. CMXXX _____

10. LXXXIX _____

Write the following years in Roman numerals:

1. 1971 _____

2. 1066 _____

3. 1494 _____

4. 1838 _____

5. 988 _____

6. 2000 _____

7. 1365 _____

8. 1776 _____

9. 333 _____

10. 83 _____

Do the math in Roman and Arabic numerals (the numbers we use!):

1. DCCLXIV
- DLIII .

2. CDI
+ CCXXVIII

3. LI
+ XLIX