

## Numeration

1. One of the best intellectual achievements of a baby is learning how to talk to a person, and the next is learning how to count numbers and play with them. From childhood days, we get so attached to the numbers and the numeration system. It is considered a feat of pure imaginative thinking to look at the problems encountered by humans who did not invent this kind of luxury. After a thorough observation of our self-made numeration system, it is clear that it takes us to the conviction that, instead of being a luxury that is inbuilt in a person, it is one of the best and incomparable achievements of the human tribe.
2. It is not correct to learn the series of things that happened that made us develop the idea of number, number system, etc. Let's assume that our ancestors developed a system of numeration that, if not advanced, was good enough to perform tasks they had during that time. Our earliest tribal men and women had very limited usage of actual numbers. Is this sufficient? Instead of how many? For instance, when they indulged in hunting and food gathering. On the other hand, when early tribal communities initially started to present on the nature of invariable things surrounded by them, they found out that they required a concept of numbers and number system just to think in an orderly manner. As they started to stop shifting from one place to another, plant trees, and feed animals, the requirement for an advanced number system became inevitable. It will become an unknown fact how and when this numeration skill came to life, however it is clear that certain numeration was developed correctly when we as humans settled for even semi-permanent lives.
3. There are many proofs and evidence of initial stages of arithmetic and numeration found in some parts of the world. Even now, many tribal people from Tasmania and other parts of Africa were only able to count numbers like one, two, many; in some parts of South Africa counted one, two, two and one, two twos, two twos and one, etc. Now, the number and words are mostly accompanied by physical gestures to avoid unnecessary confusion. For instance, while counting the numbers like one, two, many types of system, the word many would seem to be, Follow my hands and follow the number of fingers I am showing you. This fundamental step is used only in the variety of numbers which it can express, but this will normally diminish while facing the easier components of mere existence.
4. The deprivation of skills of some ethnicity to face large numbers is not astonishing. When we look back to the earlier version of European languages, it is found that the words, expressions and numbers are very poor in standards. In the ancient Gothic word, the word for teon, tachund tachund, was represented as the number 100 as tachund tachund. Similarly, in the seventh century, the word toen was interchangeable with the tachund or hund of the Anglo-Saxon language, and so 100 was denoted as hund teontig, or ten times ten. A typical individual from the seventh century in Europe did not know anything about numbers as we use them in this modern era. In the previous days, when a person needed to be produced as a witness in a court of law, they must be able to count numbers from one to nine.

5. In this case the most basic action to develop a sense of number is definitely not how to count but rather to understand that the concept of number is an abstract idea. It is not a simple attachment to a group of specific subjects. The earliest human race must have been able to predict and understand that four birds are different from two birds. But, it is not that basic to count the number 4, as it is associated with four birds, to the number 4, as it is associated with four rocks. Connecting to a number as one of the qualities of a specific object causes great difficulty to the imagination and development of a true number system. If the number 4 is able to register in the mind in terms of a specific word, then the person can easily take the next step to develop a notational system for numbers. Once that is done, they can shift to arithmetic concepts.
6. There are many traces identified in the early stages of the development of numeration. It can be witnessed in many currently speaking languages. In British Columbia, the Tsimshian language has approximately seven different forms of words, especially for numbers based on the class of the item counted. For example, to count flat objects, materials and animals, to count round objects, time, to count the number of people, to count the long objects like trees, to count canoes, to measure something, and to count any particular item which is not being numerated. It is found that the last was a new development from the humans' side, where the first six groups reveal the order system used. When we look at the Japanese language, we can find this diversity of names for each number.
7. Interconnected with the number sense development is nothing but the development of a skill to count. Here, the process of counting is not directly associated with the information of a number concept mainly because it is fine to do counting by comparing the items that are counted against a set of pebble stones, corn grains, or the fingers. These support systems might be inevitable to the ancient society, who might have considered this process impossible. This does not require any mechanical support as well. These support systems, though they are different, are in use by literate people as it seems to be convenient. It is very clear that whatever is counted obviously refers to something other than the object that counted. Previously, it was seen as grains, pebbles, etc. Now it is a memorised series of words that are assigned to each number counted.

## Numeration Reading Questions

### Questions 1 - 7

Complete the summary below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** from the passage for each answer.

Similarly, in the seventh century, the word 1. \_\_\_\_\_ was interchangeable with the tachund or 2. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Anglo-Saxon language, and so 100 was denoted as hund teontig, or ten times ten. A typical individual from the 3. \_\_\_\_\_ in Europe did not know anything about numbers as we use them in this modern era. In the previous days, when a person needed to be produced as a 4. \_\_\_\_\_ in a court of law, they must be able to 5. \_\_\_\_\_ numbers from one to nine. In this case the most basic action to develop a sense of number is definitely not how to count but rather to 6. \_\_\_\_\_ that the concept of number is an 7. \_\_\_\_\_. It is not a simple attachment to a group of specific subjects.

## Questions 8 - 10

Match the correct statement with the letter

8. Our earliest tribal men and women had
9. The earlier version of European languages had poor standards in
10. Self-made numeration system is a

1. Numbers, words, and expressions
2. Extraordinary achievement
3. minimum use of actual numbers

## Questions 11 - 13

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the reading passage?

Write

**TRUE**, if the statement agrees with the information

**FALSE**, if the statement contradicts the information

**NOT GIVEN**, if there is no information on this in the passage

11. The Tsimshian language in British Columbia has more letters than other languages
12. A person from Europe during the seventh century knows something about numbers
13. In the Anglo-Saxon language, the word toen was interchangeable with tachund

## Numeration Reading Answers Key

The '**numeration reading answers**' for the newly-created passage are as follows.

**(Note: The text in italics is from the reading passage and shows the location from where the answer is taken or inferred. The text in the regular font explains the answer in detail.)**

1. *Toen*

**Explanation** - Similarly, in the seventh century, the word *toen* was interchangeable with the *tachund* or *hund* of the Anglo-Saxon language.

2. *Hund*

**Explanation** - Similarly, in the seventh century, the word *toen* was interchangeable with the *tachund* or *hund* of the Anglo-Saxon language.

3. *Seventh century*

**Explanation** - A typical individual from the seventh century in Europe did not know anything about numbers as we use them in this modern era.

4. *Witness*

**Explanation** - In the previous days, when a person needed to be produced as a witness in a court of law.

5. *Count*

**Explanation** - In the previous days, when a person needed to be produced as a witness in a court of law, they must be able to count numbers from one to nine.

6. *Understand*

**Explanation** - In this case the most basic action to develop a sense of number is definitely not how to count but rather to understand that the concept of number is an abstract idea.

7. *Abstract idea*

**Explanation** - In this case the most basic action to develop a sense of number is definitely not how to count but rather to understand that the concept of number is an abstract idea.

8. *C*

**Explanation** - Our earliest tribal men and women had very limited usage of actual numbers.

9. *A*

**Explanation** - When we look back to the earlier version of European languages, it is found that the words, expressions and numbers are very poor in standards.

10. *B*

**Explanation** - After a thorough observation of our self-made numeration system, it is clear that it takes us to the conviction that, instead of being a luxury that is inbuilt in a person, it is one of the best and incomparable achievements of the human tribe.

11. *Not Given*

**Explanation** - The given statement is not found in the passage.

12. *False*

**Explanation** - A typical individual from the seventh century in Europe did not know anything about numbers as we use them in this modern era.

13. *True*

**Explanation** - In the seventh century, the word *toen* was interchangeable with the *tachund* or *hund* of the Anglo-Saxon language.