Name _____ Date _____

# Meet the Roman symbols

The Romans wrote numbers with five letters: I, V, X, L and C.

## 1 Learn



The Romans didn't have our digits 0 to 9. They used letters called **symbols**. Learn just five, and you can read numbers all the way to 100!

| I | V | X | L | C |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 5 | 10 | 50 | 100 |
|  |  |  | 5 tens | like a century |

**What number is this?**

**XVII**

**1.** The symbols go from **biggest to smallest**, so we add them.

**2.** Write the value of each one: **X** = 10, **V** = 5, **I** = 1, **I** = 1.

**3.** Add them up: 10 + 5 + 1 + 1 = **17**

**Flip's tip:** Roman symbols are not digits side by side. **XV** is not "10 and 5 = 105". It's **10 + 5 = 15**. Always add the values.

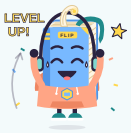
**Warm up:** write what each symbol is worth.

**X** = ____ **C** = ____ **V** = ____ **L** = ____ **I** = ____

**Grown-ups:** read Flip's words together, then cover the band and ask your child to say each symbol's value. In the worked example, let them point to each symbol and say its value before adding.

Name _____ Date _____

## 2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes




### The Roman market

**You need:** paper and a pen, and a big handful of small things to count (dry pasta, buttons or raisins).

1. Make symbol cards: tear paper into small pieces and write **I** on four, **V** on two, **X** on four, and **L** and **C** on one each.
2. The grown-up counts out some pasta (up to 30). The child counts it and builds the number with the cards, **biggest to smallest**.
3. Swap: the child builds a number with the cards, and the grown-up reads it out. Check by adding the values.
4. Write each number you made in the table.

| Round | What we counted | How many? | Roman numeral |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | | | |

**Grown-ups:** for now, choose numbers that don't need 4 or 9 in them (like 14, 19, 24 or 29): those use a new rule that comes in chapter 2. Ask "Why do we put the X first?"

## 3 Practise

**A.** Draw a line from each symbol to its value.

| | |
|---|---|
| I | 100 |
| L | 5 |
| X | 1 |
| C | 50 |
| V | 10 |

# Meet the Roman symbols

Scan to play this chapter in the game

Name _____ Date _____

**B.** Add up the symbols. Write the number.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| VII = _____ | XII = _____ | XXV = _____ |
| LXI = _____ | LXXVI = _____ | LXXXV = _____ |

**C.** Write each number in Roman numerals.

| Number | Roman numeral |
|---|---|
| 3 | |
| 8 | |
| 15 | |
| 20 | |
| 52 | |
| 100 | |

**D.** Draw a ring round the **bigger** number in each pair.

XV or XI

XXX or L

XXVI or XXXI

LXV or LVI

C or LXXX

## Challenge

Leo says **XV** means **105**, because X is 10 and V is 5. Is he right? Explain how to read it.

_____

_____

_____

## I can... Tick when you can.

- [ ] say what I, V, X, L and C are worth
- [ ] add up symbols written biggest to smallest
- [ ] write numbers like 8, 15 and 52 in Roman numerals