

Super Bowl Numerals



This year's Super Bowl will be in Atlanta, GA and is called **Super Bowl LIII**. Ever wonder about those Super Bowl numerals? Actually they're not Super Bowl numerals, they are Roman numerals.

A lot of people have trouble deciphering Roman numerals. Do you?

1. What number Super Bowl will this be? (In Hindu-Arabic¹ numbers ... like 425) _____

The basic characters of Roman Numerals are;

I	one
V	five
X	ten
L	fifty
C	one hundred
D	five hundred
M	one thousand

For very large numbers, a bar above the symbol means that this represents thousands. For instance, \overline{V} means 5,000.

Roman numerals are ordinarily written in descending order of quantity.

For example:

MCCLVI is written with the thousands first on the left (M) then there are two one hundreds (CC), then a fifty (L), then a five (V), and finally a one (I). When the smaller symbols follow larger symbols you simply add their values to find the Hindu-Arabic equivalent.

MCCLVI means $1000+100+100+50+5+1 = 1256$.

VII is $5 + 2 = 7$

LV is $50 + 5 = 55$

MDCLXVI is $1,000 + 500 + 100 + 50 + 10 + 5 + 1 = 1,666$

2. What number do these Roman numerals represent?

LXXVIII _____

MCCCXIII _____

When a larger symbol is written to the right of smaller symbols then you must subtract the smaller value from the larger to calculate their meaning.

IV is $5 - 1 = 4$

XL is $50 - 10 = 40$

3. What number do these Roman numerals represent?

CMXCIX _____

MMMCCCXLIX _____

4. So, what is year 2019 written in Roman numerals? _____

Roman numerals are used for numbering the Olympics, numbering the Super Bowls, writing outlines and often for copyright dates. Usually the pages before Chapter 1 in a book are written in lower case Roman numerals. (i, ii, iii, iv, etc.)

The Olympics are numbered for every 4 years of an Olympic cycle. The next Olympic cycle will begin with the Summer Olympics in Tokyo in 2020. This will be the 32nd Olympic cycle.

- a. What number Olympics will start in 2020 (in Roman numerals)? _____
- b. My copy of Catcher in the Rye has the copyright date of MCMLI. When was my book written? (Answer in Hindu-Arabic notation) _____
- c. The movie King Kong was made in MCMXXXIII. When was that? _____

5. Wicked weird Roman numeral math. See if you can do this math thinking only Roman numerally.

a.
$$\begin{array}{r} XXXVII \\ - XXV \\ \hline \end{array}$$

b.
$$\begin{array}{r} CLX \\ + XXI \\ \hline \end{array}$$

c.
$$\begin{array}{r} MMCCCLXXXII \\ - MCLXXI \\ \hline \end{array}$$

6. Now translate the previous addition and subtraction problems into Hindu-Arabic notation and do the math again.

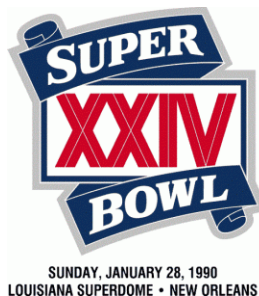
a.

b.

c.

7. Was doing the arithmetic in Roman numerals easier than doing the math in Hindu-Arabic numbers? Why do you think that is so?

8. What are the Hindu-Arabic values of these Super Bowl Logos?



9. What will next year's Super Bowl number be in Roman numerals?

¹Hindu-Arabic numbers were first developed in India. The number system was adopted and used in trade with Arab countries and from there the numbers were adopted by Europe in the middle ages. Leonardo Pisano (Fibonacci) introduced the numbers to Europe in his book *Liber Abaci* (1202)

* What is the date 1202 in Roman numerals? _____