Roman Numerals

Roman numerals are a numerical system that originated in ancient Rome. Roman numerals were adapted from Etruscan numerals. The system of Roman numerals that was used in classical antiquity was somewhat modified in the Middle Ages in order to produce the system that is used today. This system is based on certain letters which are given numerical value.

Roman numerals are still commonly used today. They are used in numbered lists (or outlines) and on clock faces. They are also used to number pages that precede the main body of a book and to number certain annual sporting events. There are many uses for Roman numerals.

The most common Roman numerals are:

Roman Numeral	Equal to
I	1
V	5
X	10
L	50
C	100
D	500
M	1000

As it is with regular numbering and math, Roman numerals can be added together to represent different numbers. For example, if the number being represented is 4, this would be represented as IV. Basically, in Roman numerals, if an I is before another numeral, it means that you should subtract 1 from the number appearing after the I. For example, IX would be equally to 9, since the Roman numeral is indicating 1 less than 10.

VL would be 5 less than 50, which is 45. Basically, whenever a smaller number precedes a larger number, you should subtract the smaller number from the larger one. The important thing to remember with Roman numerals is that they need to be as simple as possible. The Roman numeral should be in the easiest form possible. For example, if you want to say 6, you would say VI. You would not say IIIIX. VI is the easiest possible way of saying 6.

An easy rule to follow to help with Roman numerals is that you should never have more than 1 I before another numeral. For example, if you want to say 8, you would say VIII, not IIX. The only time you will see more than one I in a row is if they appear after the larger numeral. Another rule with Roman numerals is that you will never have more than three of the same letter in a row. For example, you can say XXX to represent 30, but you would have to say XL to represent 40 instead of XXXX.

Roman Numerals (Cont'd)

You can also add Roman numerals the same way that you would add regular numbers. For example, L + XXX + X + V = VC. You would solve this problem by converting your problem into regular numbers first: 50 + 30 + 10 + 5 = 95. Once you know that the numbers equal 95, you just need to convert 95 back into a Roman numeral. 95 is 5 less than 100, which is why you would say VC.

Name_____   Date_____

Roman Numerals Questions

Multiple Choice:

1. Roman numerals are still commonly used today to:
   - a. Outline and number lists
   - b. Number pages that precede a main body of a book
   - c. Number certain annual sporting events
   - d. All of the above

2. The Roman numeral 'D' is equal to:
   - a. 50
   - b. 100
   - c. 500
   - d. 1000

3. The correct Roman numeral that represents 40 is:
   - a. XXXX
   - b. XL
   - c. XLC
   - d. XXXVIIIII

4. In the Roman numeral system, whenever a smaller number precedes a larger number, this means one should:
   - a. Subtract the smaller number from the larger one
   - b. Add the smaller number to the larger one
   - c. Subtract the larger number from the smaller one
   - d. Divide the larger number by the smaller one

Matching:

_____ 5. X+XX+I+I =   a. XXXII

_____ 6. L+X+V =   b. VC

_____ 7. L + XXX + X + V =   c. LXV

True or False:

_____8. Roman numerals can be added together to represent different numbers.

_____9. There can be more than 1 'I' before a Roman numeral.

_____ 10. In the Roman numeral system, you will never have more than three of the same letter in a row.

Roman Numerals Answers

Multiple Choice:

1. Roman numerals are still commonly used today to:
    a. Outline and number lists
    b. Number pages that precede a main body of a book
    c. Number certain annual sporting events
    d. All of the above

2. The Roman numeral 'D' is equal to:
    a. 50
    b. 100
    c. 500
    d. 1000

3. The correct Roman numeral that represents 40 is:
    a. XXXX
    b. XL
    c. XLC
    d. XXXVIIIII

4. In the Roman numeral system, whenever a smaller number precedes a larger number, this means one should:
    a. Subtract the smaller number from the larger one
    b. Add the smaller number to the larger one
    c. Subtract the larger number from the smaller one
    d. Divide the larger number by the smaller one

Matching:

__a___ 5. X+XX+I+I =   a. XXXII

__c___ 6. L+X+V =   b. VC

__b___ 7. L + XXX + X + V =   c. LXV

True or False:

__T__8. Roman numerals can be added together to represent different numbers.

__F__9. There can be more than 1 'I' before a Roman numeral.

__T__ 10. In the Roman numeral system, you will never have more than three of the same letter in a row.