

# Reading Roman Numerals

## World History and Geography to 1500 A.D. (C.E.)

Have you ever had difficulty understanding how to read the Roman numerals for a monarch, pope, or even the year of the Super Bowl? If so, this how to resource will help you become more proficient in reading Roman numerals both in this online course and in the modern world.

The table below details foundational Roman numerals.

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

To determine the value of Roman numerals that fall between each of the ones in the above table, remember the general rules below. Please note that exceptions exist to these rules, but the listed information will be sufficient for you to succeed when taking this online course.

1. When a letter of the Roman numeral is repeated, add its value the given number of times. Take note that a Roman numeral cannot be repeated more than three times.

Examples:

$$II = 1 + 1 = 2$$

Pope Gregory II = Pope Gregory the Second

$$XXX = 10 + 10 + 10 = 30$$

Super Bowl XXX = Super Bowl 30

2. When a Roman numeral comes after another Roman numeral of higher value, add the indicated amount.

Examples:

$$VIII = 5 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 8$$

Queen Elizabeth VIII = Queen Elizabeth the Eighth

$$CLX = 100 + 50 + 10 = 160$$

CLX Main Street = 160 Main Street

3. When a Roman numeral comes before another Roman numeral of higher value, subtract the indicated amount.

Examples:

$$IX = 10 - 1 = 9$$

King James IX = King James the Ninth

$$IV = 5 - 1 = 4$$

IV on a clock = 4:00

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The quick references below will help you determine Roman numerals throughout this course without performing any calculations. The rows highlighted in gray represent the foundational Roman numerals that were featured in the previous table.

Roman Numeral	Number Equivalent
I	1
II	2
III	3
IV	4
V	5
VI	6
VII	7
VIII	8
IX	9
X	10
XI	11
XII	12
XIII	13
XIV	14
XV	15
XVI	16
XVII	17
XVIII	18
XIX	19
XX	20
XXX	30
XL	40
L	50
LX	60
LXX	70
LXXX	80
XC	90
C	100
D	500
M	1000