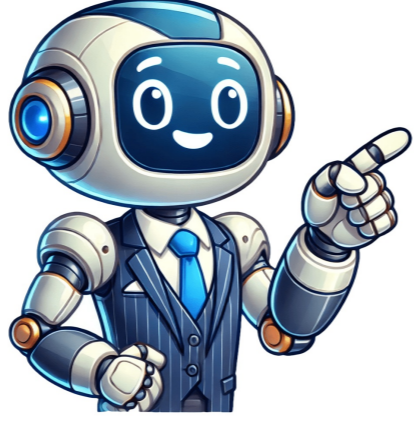


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Hello everybody. I have some problems when I want to say that something needs to be increased/decreased several times. I don't want to use "six,seven-fold" or something like that. I know that we can say it using "one, two, three, four times". But the problem is that I don't know how to say it correctly if I, for example, want to say "The incomes in the country decreased by eight times" or "You have to increase the capacity of that device by four times". And hence I have one more question: what we have when saying "by X times"? What would be the difference if we said that without "by", just "increased/decreased X times"? Thank you. Unfortunately English is ambiguous in this respect. People argue about it. Everyone thinks it's obvious that "four times bigger" means X and "four times as big" means Y, but they disagree about X and Y. If the budget was E1000 and it increased (by) eight times, or by a factor of eight, or by eight, is it now E8000 or E9000? We have previous threads about this, though I'm not sure how you would find them. Thank you. But is what I suggested correct? I mean my two sentences, "Decreased by 8 times" doesn't mean anything to me at all. "Decreased to an eighth of its former size or amount" is precise, and perhaps that's what some middle-headed innumerate meant by "decreased by 8 times," but I don't know, and I wouldn't trust the writer's arithmetic. Sometimes I read "decreased by" over 100%, which would produce a negative number as far as I can understand, but sometimes that's impossible. I think the best thing to do in these cases is to provide both numbers and let the reader draw his own conclusion about the relationship between them. Just say, "increased from 6 to 48" or "decreased from 48 to 6" and either leave it at that or, if you must give a proportion, add it. "From 1950 to 2000, the country's gross national product increased eight times, from 6 billion flinds* to 48 billion flinds." *The war years were an economic disaster. The gross national product fell from its prewar level of 48 billion flinds to 6 billion flinds. "The country's unit of currency is the flind of 100 urthals. Thank you too. But there's still a problem. What if I need to say: "You have to increase the capacity of that device by four times"? Or is it better to say that sentence using "fourfold"? I don't think "fourfold" is used much currently in AE; I don't know about BE. I've seen x-fold in older written material, but I especially wouldn't expect to see it in technical material. If you are dealing with engineers, "by four times" ought to mean "x 4" and you should be all right. If you are not, and the people you are speaking to might think "by four times" means to add an amount that is 4x the base amount (making the new total five times the base), then you had better say "to four times its current level" and give the numbers. Example: "Increase the capacity of the pump from 400 cc/min to 1600 cc/min." That's probably what the engineers would want anyway. Be specific and let them do their own math. Dear English speakers, could you help me decide whether I must use 'by' to specify how much times one number increased / decreased in relation to another number, as in the example below. To me, it looks like there is substantial difference in the meaning. The company's revenue increased two times in 2018 = the revenue doubled (eg from USD 1,000,000 in 2017 to USD 2,000,000 in 2018) The company's revenue increased by two times in 2018 = the 2018 revenue increased BY an amount exceeding the 2017 level twice (i.e. USD 1,000,000 + USD 2,000,000 = USD 3,000,000). Is this understanding correct or not? Thanks in advance to those who comment. "By" is normal after "increase" and "decrease". "By two times" isn't normal. Here is a normal use of "by": Sales increased by 17 percent arithmetic. The company's revenue increased twice/two times last year. This is an unusual thing to say, but the words and grammar are normal. The company's revenue increased by two times last year is this understanding correct or not? Thanks in advance to those who comment. Your understanding appears to be fine, inasmuch as the second sentence means anything. I strongly suggest only using "by" with percentages or fractions ("increased by 25%" or "increased by a quarter" for instance), and even then being a little cautious with percentages bigger than about 150%. Even "increase n times" can be a little problematical in English. We almost invariably use "doubled" in your situation, and "trebled" and "quadrupled" where it increased three-fold and four-fold respectively. In general I would say we use terms like "increased five-fold" rather than "increased five times", because "five times" could mean on five separate occasions, rather than five being a multiplier. However, "fold" sounds odd with non-integers, so we use "times" instead, where something like "increased one and a half times" cannot possibly be mistaken for a number of occasions. Both replies are quite helpful - thanks a lot! The math in your second example does NOT follow the language; 1M + 2M = 3M might be expressed this way: Revenue growth in 2018 amounted to twice the revenue of 2017. 2018 revenue was equal to three times the 2017 revenue. For me, without a math term such as "equals", "two times" clearly means two occasions: I have watched this movie five times. I have visited New York ten times. We also hear "increased by a factor of x" which means the new amount equals the old amount multiplied by x. Such remarkable growth might be expressed like this: Revenue increased by a factor of 2.5 from 2017 to 2018. Today I meet the same problem as the poster mentioned. e.g. Output of coal increased fourfold last year. If the output of coal was 1,000 tons the year before last, How much was the output of coal last year? 4,000 tons or 5000 tons? The same problems also happen with these words "increase, decrease, raise, add, reduce". e.g. Output of coal decreased fourfold last year. If the output of coal was 1,000 tons the year before last, How much was the output of coal last year? 333 tons or 250 tons? Last edited: May 13, 2019 changweanbelievein said: Today I meet the same problem as the poster mentioned. e.g. Output of coal increased fourfold last year. If the output of coal was 1,000 tons the year before last, How much was the output of coal last year? 4,000 tons or 5000 tons? In ordinary English, "increased fourfold" means it is four times what it was, so 4,000 tons in this case. However as you are well aware this does not stand up to logical scrutiny, and the writer would have done far better to write "quadrupled", or use a different expression that did not involve "increased", such as "was four times as high last year", but here you need to add "as the year before", as without "increased" it is not clear what is being compared - it could be four times as high as this year. changweanbelievein said: The same problems also happen with these words "increase, decrease, raise, add, reduce". e.g. Output of coal decreased fourfold last year. If the output of coal was 1,000 tons the year before last, How much was the output of coal last year? 333 tons or 250 tons? Using "increased" is understandable, even if it may not be technically correct. Using "decreased" with anything other than a numerical value or a proportion less than one is meaningless. It could be 200 tons, of course: Starting with 200 tons and treating "increased fourfold" as additive would give 1,000 tons, so "decreased fourfold" could mean the same calculation in reverse. How did you get 333 tons as an option? In ordinary English, "increased fourfold" means it is four times what it was, so 4,000 tons in this case. However as you are well aware this does not stand up to logical scrutiny, and the writer would have done far better to write "quadrupled", or use a different expression that did not involve "increased", such as "was four times as high last year", but here you need to add "as the year before", as without "increased" it is not clear what is being compared - it could be four times as high as this year. Using "increased" is understandable, even if it may not be technically correct. Using "decreased" with anything other than a numerical value or a proportion less than one is meaningless. It could be 200 tons, of course: Starting with 200 tons and treating "increased fourfold" as additive would give 1,000 tons, so "decreased fourfold" could mean the same calculation in reverse. How did you get 333 tons as an option? For the second example, Thank you for showing me the usage of "decrease". Now I know this word can only be used with a numerical value or a proportion less than one. But how should I express the reduction of output from 1000 tons to 250 tons with "xxx times/fold"? I mean that the output from 200 to 1000 means five times/fold, not four times or quadrupled. So I think 200 tons is wrong for "four times/fold". My opinion is, "The output of last year is 4 times less than that of the year before last. What I want to tell the readers is "output of last year was 250, output of the year before last was 1,000". changweanbelievein said: But how should I express the reduction of output from 1000 tons to 250 tons with "xxx times/fold"? I mean that the output from 200 to 1000 means five times/fold, not four times or quadrupled. So I think 200 tons is wrong for "four times/fold". The output last year was 0.25 times the output of the year before. The output last year was 25% of the output of the year before. You can use "fell by" or "decreased by" (with "from" rather than "to") if you quantify the difference between the two values: The output last year fell by 75% from the output of the year before. The output last year decreased by three-quarters from the output of the year before. Last edited: May 14, 2019 Hi, 1) Adult fishers weigh between 3 to 7 kgs. 2) Adult fishers weigh between 3 and 7 kgs. It seems that "to" and "and" are interchangeable in this case, but I'm not sure about it. Can anyone help me with this? I'm not sure if there is a grammar rule for that or not, but I said each sentence aloud to myself and both sound ok to me. One thing though, did you mean "fish" instead of "fishers"? There are two constructions in my world. Between... and. From... to. Adult fishers weigh between 3 and 7 kilograms. Adult fishers weigh from 3 to 7 kilograms. Having said that, I've certainly heard "between...to" versions. There are two constructions in my world. Between... and. From... to. Adult fishers weigh between 3 and 7 kilograms. Adult fishers weigh from 3 to 7 kilograms. Having said that, I've certainly heard "between...to" versions. I'm with Copyright. "Between...to..." doesn't really make much sense to me, although I suppose some people probably say it. "Between" is setting a limit in this type of context, in my opinion. "Run between this post and that post" means run in the space that is delimited by those two posts. "Run between this post to that post" doesn't make much sense. Even though the context supplied is weight and not distance I think the same imagery applies. Hi Copyright, How about we use them this way: 1) This fisher weighs between 3 and 7 kilos. No, sorry. In #1, if you have one fisher, I'm going to assume you're weighing him or her. Or can at least guess his weight a little closer than that. And in #2, all three fishers together weigh between 3 and 7 kilos. And remember my world? You don't use "between...to" constructions, so I'm not likely to approve anything like that no matter how much they weigh. Plus, in these examples, you've gone completely away from your original sentences where you had "adult" fishers -- now you have fishers of all ages, including babies. When you have a weight range, you're talking in generalities, so if that's what you mean, I would suggest you use my previous examples. Thank you, JamesM&Copyright! Hello there, I'm sure this question has been asked before, but I couldn't find any link relating to my question in the search engine. Ok, this is the way I understood things: I took a week's holiday. I took two weeks' holiday. Are these three sentences correct? How about the following examples: I went on a week's trip I went on a one-week trip. From what I understood, "a week's trip" is a genitive, week is a noun here "a one-week trip", here week is an adjective! Could you please tell me if I understood the rule rightly? Thank you very much in advance! Thank you very much, this link helped a lot! Just another question: is it possible to say "three weeks of holiday"? or would that be entirely wrong? What's the difference between 3-year experience and 3 years' experience: 10-day vacation and 10 days' vacation: 4-week training and 4 weeks' training: 100-year history and 100 years' history? I think they are all used, right? I know some exceptions such as "2 weeks' notice"--maybe, it's idiomatic but you wouldn't say "2 week notice," would you? Please help. Many thanks in advance. Could you please create some sentences using these phrases, Jakartaman? A "3-year experience" could mean something other than "3 years' experience". Please provide some context. You say, "This position requires 3 years' experience." but you wouldn't say "This position requires (a) 3-year experience." right? Why is that? But I think it's possible to say, "The company needs workers with a minimum of 3-year experience on computer programming." Maybe, I'm wrong. What do you say, Dimc? You say, "This position requires 3 years' experience." but you wouldn't say "This position requires (a) 3-year experience." right? Why is that? But I think it's possible to say, "The company needs workers with a minimum of 3-year experience on computer programming." Maybe, I'm wrong. What do you say, Dimc? The meaning of "experience" is different in your first two sentences. A "three-year experience" means that you had an experience that lasted three years. For example: "I lived in France in the 1990s. It was a wonderful three-year experience". "This position requires three years' experience" means, as you know, work experience. Frankly, I dislike this shortening of the proper phrase which is, in my mind "three years of experience". To make "years" possessive never made sense to me although there are others who would disagree with me. Your second sentence isn't correct. It would be ""The company needs workers with a minimum of three years of experience on computer programming." By the way - the general rule is that when referring to numbers less than 10, you write them out in full (one, two, three). 10 and over can be referred to by their numerals (10, 20, 30). I just read this thread again after all these years. I don't think I really understood what you were talking about back then. After 6 (long) years, it totally makes sense. I'd just like to say a much belated "Thank you!" Thank you for your helpful explanation Hi to all, I am wondering if you could help me with the following: Which of the two is correct? it's a quarter to/past two OR it's quarter to/past two Does it have to do anything with British or American English? Some school books present it in one way and some others in another way. Thank you in advance. Veeka Speaking for my version of BE, the "a" is required. I am wondering if you could help me with the following: Which of the two is correct? it's a quarter to/past two OR it's quarter to/past two Does it have to do anything with British or American English? Some school books present it in one way and some others in another way. In US English, we normally include the "a"-but not necessarily always, and omitting the "a" would not be considered incorrect. Probably the best-known instance of its omission is the song "One For My Baby", by Johnny Mercer and Harold Arlen (the most famous recording was by Frank Sinatra). It's a "story song" and the singer, whose girlfriend has just left him, is sitting in a bar at 2:45 a.m. In the opening lines, he addresses the bartender: "It's quarter to three. There's no one in the place except you and me. So set 'em up, Joe . . ." Last edited: Nov 16, 2010 BE listeners, modelled on me, hear FS smooth an "a" in that line. It's a quarter to three. . . . It may not be there, of course if you ask me what time it is I say 'Quarter past one'. If you forced me to use four or five words when three would do, I'd say 'It's quarter past one'. Rover Hi everyone, I want to ask how to write currency amount of money. I was making invoice, and it had a place where I need to put in words instead of figures; for example, if the total is US 23 dollars, I have to put it as SAY TOTAL U.S. DOLLARS TWENTY THREE ONLY. But when the figures are large and contains cents, I don't know how to express it and where to put "and." I want to know how to translate the following figures into capitalized forms: 1.USD 1,609.23 2.USD 10,699.23 3.USD 10,009.23 4.USD 103,109.004 (I know USD 0.04 is 4 cent, but how about 0.004?) Thank you for your help in advance. I was making invoice, and it had a place where I need to put in words instead of figures; for example, if the total is US 23 dollars, I have to put it as SAY TOTAL U.S. DOLLARS TWENTY THREE ONLY. This is not a normal way to express that sum; instead, most Americans would write "twenty-three dollars." Why are you required to use this unusual and unfamiliar style that puts the name of the currency first? I want to know how to translate the following figures into capitalized forms: Why "capitalized"? If I were writing these totals as words (such as on a check), I would write: 1.USD \$1,609.23 = One thousand six hundred nine dollars and twenty-three cents 2.USD \$ 10,699.23 = Ten thousand six hundred ninety-nine dollars and twenty-three cents 3.USD \$10,009.23 = Ten thousand nine dollars and twenty-three cents [/QUOTE] 4.USD 103,109.004 (I know USD 0.04 is 4 cent, but how about 0.004?) Since 1857, the smallest unit of American currency is the one-cent coin. Since there is nothing smaller than \$ 01, there is no commonly-used name for any amount that is smaller. Technically, one-tenth of a cent is a "mill", but this term is not in common use. I suspect that if anyone needed to express the idea of \$ 0.04, he would say "four-tenths of a one cent." However, this is not anything most people will encounter in everyday life; the only reason you might normally come across this is if you were -- for example -- calculating an interest rate, or otherwise multiplying using fractions. Once you found such an amount, you would normally round it off to the nearest cent. However, if you insisted on writing this odd sum, you could call it one of two things: One hundred three thousand one hundred nine dollars and four mills (although almost no one would understand what a "mill" was) OR One hundred three thousand one hundred nine dollars and four-tenths of one cent. As well as thinking about how the amount is usually written in the U.S., we should also consider international contexts. The '\$' sign is used for several different currencies, of widely differing values. Putting USD (or GBP, JPY, EUR, etc) before the figures is not unusual in appropriate contexts. In an old fashioned style of writing cheques, the currency can come before the figures (US dollars one thousand, six hundred and twenty-three and cents twenty-three). This style is still used here in Singapore, but elsewhere the normal style is for the currency to come after the figures. Our cheques force us to do this in any case by printing the currency at the start of the line. Here is the recommended style from DBS, a major bank here. Putting USD (or GBP, JPY, EUR, etc) before the figures is not unusual in appropriate contexts. The description of currencies and amounts can be confusing and far from unique, as shown above by multiple uses of the '\$' glyph. This is not a problem as long as you only deal one currency in one country, but is unworkable, especially where computers are concerned, when multiple currencies are involved. Thus, the international Organization for Standardization (ISO) has the ISO 4217 standard defining currencies. See: ISO 4217 - Wikipedia or Some examples: USD = U.S. Dollar GBP = UK pound, AUD = Australian dollar Since the OP has not shared more information with us as to the use of the invoice, I would not hazard suggesting a solution. Hi everybody, We can tell the time this way: It's one fifteen. It's one twenty. But: It's one oh five. When to add "oh"? I am wondering whether it's one oh ten or one ten --< Thank you very much in advance for your help. Regards, Linh (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam) The "oh" would be spoken before any number of minutes smaller than ten. Wouldn't this be written as "0" or "o" for "zero" instead of "oh" as in "Oh, my gosh"? This is the common pronunciation of radio stations: (105.9) one-oh-five point nine. And if I'm not mistaken it's the colloquial version of "zero". Here's a tip: just read the time aloud. Whenever there's a zero in the minutes part (01, 02, 04, etc.) say "oh". 6:08 (six oh eight) 3:02 (three oh two) etc. But 6:15 (six fifteen) 9:38 (nine thirty-eight) Wouldn't this be written as "0" or "o" for "zero" instead of "oh," as in "Oh, my gosh"? This is the common pronunciation of radio stations: (105.9) one-oh-five point nine. Oh, sure. You're right. I'm just assuming that Linh is asking about when to say it aloud. Hi everybody, It's one oh five. When to add "oh"? I am wondering whether it's one oh ten or one ten --< Linh (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam) The number zero or ought is very frequently read as oh The year 2006 can be read as twenty-oh-six, two thousand [and] six. The time 9:05 can be read as nine-oh-five, or five past nine. The telephone number 821 9010 can be read eight two one nine oh one oh, or eight twenty-one ninety ten or various other combinations. Room number 106 could be read as one-oh-six, or ten-six, or one hundred and six (BE), or one hundred six (AE) The "one oh one" tower in downtown Taipei, Taiwan. Can I omit "oh" and just say "It's three five." meaning 03:05? It's two seven, something like this. Thanks in advance--^^ Can I omit "oh" and just say "It's three five." meaning 03:05? It's two seven, something like this. Thanks in advance--^^ If you don't like 'oh', you need to say 'It's five minutes past three' and 'It's seven minutes past two'.