

A Dozenal Nomenclature

by Owen G. Clayton, Ph.D.

The following is a consideration of the nomenclature necessary to a dozenal counting system in English, which is, by now, pretty much the *lingua franca* of the world. Much of this nomenclature is traditional, with only slight modifications to the cardinal numerals. All numeration herein is dozenal unless otherwise stated. To distinguish dozenal quantities from decimal quantities, they are always quoted accurate to at least one fractional place, with the period as decimal radix point and the semicolon as dozenal radix point. (See facing page.)

Names of Digits: All the digit-names are reducible to monosyllables. In the case of zero, we simply adopt the British “null”; “sem” and “lem” are shortened forms of seven and eleven respectively, and the well-known linguistic process of lazy-mouth will help insure that these two new words will be adopted.

There is nothing particularly problematic in retaining ten as a digit-name. Twelve, on the other hand, while it is monosyllabic, derives from “two left over (ten),” and the use of the word dozen for it is common enough to admit that word or a shortened form thereof; hence, doz.

The names for base-multiples are fairly straightforward; “sidoz” for six-dozen and “eighdoz” for eight-dozen are logical simplifications. Names for the base-powers, however, present a problem because the first grocers were not high-volume dealers, and seem to me not to have commonly used “great gross” to mean “twelve cubed.” I have chosen to resolve this problem by adopting two terms commonly used in commercial inventory: batch for the third and lot for the sixth power of the dozen.

To give some examples: there are “three batch eighdoz” feet ($3080;0 = 5280.0$) in a statute mile. The population of the United States is over “eighdoz four lot, five gross semdoz sem batch, one gross fordoz” ($84\ 577\ 140;0 = 300,000,000.0$).

Symbology: My preference for the digit-symbols for ten and lem is based on their representability in a typical 7-segment LCD/LED grid. The symbol for ten would resemble the symbol 5, but reversed on its vertical axis, and minus its top. The symbol for lem would be the symbol “F” reversed on its horizontal axis (upside-down), which is quite close to one of the more preferred suggestions for “lem.”

Editor’s Note: The Editor added a table at the lower right which summarizes the author’s suggested symbology. The symbols are similar to Mr. Don Hammond’s proposal available at <http://www.dozenalsociety.org.uk/basicstuff/hammond.html>. ☒☒☒

~ ➔ Got something dozenal to say? ↵ ~

Send your proposals and dozenal doings to Editor@Dozenal.org. We’re always delighted to hear from our Members. Include a description or drawing of your symbols, and we’ll attempt to set them to print within your article.

The Owen G. Clayton System of Dozenal Nomenclature and Symbology

NOMENCLATURE OF THE COUNTING SYSTEM

Number	Cardinal	Ordinal	Partative	Multiplicative	Iterative
0	0 null	nullth			
1	1 one	first	whole	single	once
2	2 two	second	half	double	twice
3	3 three	third		triple	thrice
4	4 four	fourth		quadruple	
5	5 five	fifth		quintuple	
6	6 six	sixth		sextuple	
7	7 sem	semth		septuple	
8	8 eight	eighth		octuple	
9	9 nine	ninth		nonople	
Ϸ	Ϸ ten	tenth		tenople	
£	£ lem	lemth		lemptuple	
10	10 doz	dozth		dozuple	

NOMENCLATURE OF THE BASE-MULTIPLES, ETC.

Multiple	Cardinal	Ordinal/Partative
20	20 twodoz	twodozth
30	30 thridoz	thridozth
40	40 fordoz	fordozth
50	50 fivdoz	fivdozth
60	60 sidoz	sidozth
70	70 semdoz	semdozth
80	80 eighdoz	eighdozth
90	90 nindo	nindo
Ϸ0	Ϸ0 tendoz	tendozth
£0	£0 lemdoz	lemdozth
100	100 gross	grosth

SYMBOLGY		
Clayton/ Hammond		DSA
null	0	0
one	1	1
two	2	2
three	3	3
four	4	4
five	5	5
six	6	6
sem	7	7
eight	8	8
nine	9	9
ten	Ϸ	χ
lem	£	£

NOMENCLATURE OF THE BASE POWERS

Power	Cardinal	Ordinal/Partative
1	1 doz(en)	doz(en)th
2	2 gross	grosth
3	3 batch	batchth
4	4 dozen batch	dozen batchth
5	5 gross batch	gross batchth
6	6 lot	loth
...		
9	9 bilot	biloth
...		
10	10 trilot	triloth