

| Name | Short scale (US, modern British) | Long scale (Europe, modern British) |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| million | 10^6 | 10^6 |
| billion | 10^9 | 10^{12} |
| trillion | 10^{12} | 10^{18} |
| quadrillion | 10^{15} | 10^{24} |
| quintillion | 10^{18} | 10^{30} |
| sextillion | 10^{21} | 10^{36} |
| septillion | 10^{24} | 10^{42} |
| octillion | 10^{27} | 10^{48} |
| nonillion | 10^{30} | 10^{54} |
| decillion | 10^{33} | 10^{60} |

Consider these points for discussion:

- There is confusion over some amounts. For example, one billion is usually understood to be one thousand million (10^9), but in some contexts one billion is one million million (10^{12}).
- The names of big numbers (like smaller numbers) go in threes. These are ones, tens and hundreds. For example one trillion, ten trillion or one hundred trillion.
- Adding an extra zero to any whole number means the amount gets ten times bigger. When we are working with already large numbers an extra zero can mean that the difference is huge.
- Countries may talk about their national budgets, or the amounts of money that they work with, in trillions. However contexts for using bigger numbers than this are not found in day-to-day life. They are often found in other contexts such as science, for example, distances in the universe.
- We should be careful of the way we talk about and use big numbers. We are often casual and imprecise in our reference to them and what we say becomes meaningless.