

# Roman Numerals

A smaller number preceding a larger number subtracts from the larger number's value while a smaller number following a larger number adds to the larger number's value. A bar over a letter multiplies its value by one thousand.

ARABIC = ROMAN	ARABIC = ROMAN	ARABIC = ROMAN
1 = I	16 = XVI	90 = XC
2 = II	17 = XVII	100 = C
3 = III	18 = XVIII	200 = CC
4 = IV	19 = XIX	300 = CCC
5 = V	20 = XX	400 = CD
6 = VI	21 = XXI	500 = D
7 = VII	22 = XXII	600 = DC
8 = VIII	23 = XXIII	700 = DCC
9 = IX	24 = XXIV	800 = DCCC
10 = X	30 = XXX	900 = CM
11 = XI	40 = XL	1,000 = M
12 = XII	50 = L	2,000 = MM
13 = XIII	60 = LX	3,000 = MMM
14 = XIV	70 = LXX	4,000 = $\overline{\text{IV}}$
15 = XV	80 = LXXX	5,000 = $\overline{\text{V}}$

## The early alphabet

The letters *j* and *u* did not exist before the 16th century. The *v* was used for the *u*, and the *i* for the *j*. Because the *i* could easily be confused with the strokes of adjoining letters, it was gradually elongated and curved when used to represent the *j* pronunciation; the dot on today's lowercase *j* is a legacy of its origin as an *i*. For the past three centuries the standard wood "job cases" used to store fonts of metal type had the compartments for the capital letters *J* and *U* after the capital *Z*, as it would have been too inconvenient to retrain the many printers who were proficient setting type from the "standard" type case layout.