ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSE: MATHEMATIC

Text: Numerical data

We all know that numbers are an important part of our lives. Now we are going to learn how to talk about numbers in charts, tables and graphs and how to differentiate the way we express decimals, fractions and percentages.

First let's give numbers their complete names:

Cardinal Numbers:
1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 - and so on.

Ordinal Numbers:
1st (first) – 2nd (second) – 3rd (third) – 4th (fourth) - and so on.

Even numbers:
The ones that can be divided by 2 such as 2, 4, 6, 8, ...

Odd numbers:
The ones not divisible by 2.

When speaking of hundreds, thousands and millions, we have to remember that there is a difference between British and American English; for example, in British English you use the word "and" between hundred and tens. Thus, **759** is read seven hundred and fifty-nine, **425** is read four hundred and twenty-five, **1368** is read one thousand, three hundred and sixty-eight. In American English you don't use the word "and".

Another important difference is the word "billion". In <u>British English</u>, a billion used to be twelve zeros after the number, that is to say: **1,000,000,000,000.** In many countries we say that a billion is ten to the power of twelve (10^{12}). But now, due to business transactions and globalisation in general, it is very common to think of billion in the American usage, that is, ten to the power of nine (10^9), thus 12 billion is **12,000,000,000.**

In some cases, numerical information is easier to be understood if it is given in a graphic representation, as in:

A BAR GRAPH   **A LINE GRAPH**   **A TABLE**   **A PIER CHART**