There are four basic principles for reading and writing Roman numerals:

* 1. A letter repeats its value that many times (XXX = 30, CC = 200, etc.). A letter can only be repeated three times.
* 2. If one or more letters are placed after another letter of greater value, add that amount.

VI = 6 (5 + 1 = 6)

LXX = 70 (50 + 10 + 10 = 70)

MCC = 1200 (1000 + 100 + 100 = 1200)

3. If a letter is placed before another letter of greater value, subtract that amount.

IV = 4 (5 – 1 = 4)

XC = 90 (100 – 10 = 90)

CM = 900 (1000 – 100 = 900)

Several rules apply for subtracting amounts from Roman numerals:

* + a. Only subtract powers of ten (I, X, or C, but not V or L)

For 95, do NOT write VC (100 – 5).
DO write XCV (XC + V or 90 + 5)

* + b. Only subtract one number from another.

For 13, do NOT write IIXV (15 – 1 - 1).
DO write XIII (X + I + I + I or 10 + 3)

* + c. Do not subtract a number from one that is more than 10 times greater (that is, you can subtract 1 from 10 [IX] but not 1 from 20—there is no such number as IXX.)

For 99, do NOT write IC (C – I or 100 - 1).
DO write XCIX (XC + IX or 90 + 9)

* 4. A bar placed on top of a letter or string of letters increases the numeral's value by 1,000 times.

XV = 15, = 15,000

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| One  | I  | Eleven  | XI  | Thirty  | XXX |
| Two  | II  | Twelve  | XII  | Forty  | XL |
| Three  | III  | Thirteen  | XIII  | Fifty  | L |
| Four  | IV  | Fourteen  | XIV  | Sixty  | LX |
| Five  | V  | Fifteen  | XV  | Seventy  | LXX |
| Six  | VI  | Sixteen  | XVI  | Eighty  | LXXX |
| Seven  | VII  | Seventeen  | XVII  | Ninety  | XC |
| Eight  | VIII  | Eighteen  | XVIII  | One hundred  | C |
| Nine  | IX  | Nineteen  | XIX  | Five hundred  | D |
| Ten  | X  | Twenty  | XX  | One thousand  | M |