

I'm not a robot



The question of using 8, eighth, or 8th came up, and I quickly referenced the following information found on . ===== When writing dates and times, it's best to simply use 8. The meeting is scheduled for June 30. The meeting is scheduled for the 30th of June. We've had tricks played on us on April 1. The 1st of April can put some people on edge. There's a rule: When expressing decades, you may spell them out and lowercase them. For example, During the eighties and nineties, the American economy grew. There's another rule: Whether you express decades using incomplete or complete numerals, do not use an apostrophe between the year and the s. When using an incomplete numeral, use an apostrophe to replace the first two numbers. The correct usage is 'eighth' instead of 8st. Rule: Spell out the time of day in text even with half and quarter hours. With o'clock, the number is always spelled out. An example is "She gets up at four thirty before the baby wakes up." Rule: Use numerals with the time of day when exact times are being emphasized. An example is "Her flight leaves at 6:22 a.m." Rule: Use noon and midnight rather than 12:00 p.m. or 12:00 a.m. Quiz: 1. The last outbreak of smallpox occurred in the late 1970s. 2. Can you get here by 12:00 midnight? 3. Please deliver the package by August 1st, 2009. The correct answers are: 1. 1970s, 2. midnight (leave out 12:00), and 3. August 1, 2009. Advertisement: When it comes to expressing ordinal numbers in English, there can often be confusion over whether to use "8th" or "8st". To clarify, the general rule for forming ordinal numbers is to add "-th" to the cardinal number. For example, we say "first" for 1st, "second" for 2nd, "third" for 3rd, and so forth. However, there's an exception when it comes to numbers ending in "8". To maintain consistency and ease of pronunciation, the suffix "-th" is added. For example, we say "eighth" instead of 8st.Using Numbers with Ordinal Forms: Understanding the Patterns and Exceptions ===== You can see that 1st, 2nd, and 3rd use -st, -nd, and -rd, but 4th-20th use -th. Follow this pattern for the numbers moving forward: 21st, 31st, 41st, etc., all use -st like 1st. 22nd, 32nd, 42nd, etc., all use -nd like 2nd. 23rd, 33rd, 43rd, etc., all use -rd like 3rd. All the rest use -th (24th, 37th, 49th, 50th, 68th, 126th...). I hope this helps. You can read more articles in the archive. When you're learning English, you might come across a lot of small details that seem confusing at first. Particularly when it comes to writing numbers in word form combined with abbreviations for ordering. Should you say "8th" or "8st"? Let's break it down in a simple way that's easy to grasp. The correct form is 8th. In English, ordinal numbers (which tell the position of something in a list) are formed by adding -th, -st, -nd, or -rd to the cardinal numbers (like 1, 2, 3). However, -st is used only with the first, -nd with the second, and -rd with the third. All other numbers use -th. For example, when you want to talk about someone finishing in the eighth position in a race, you would say, "She finished 8th." This rule helps keep your English clear and correct. What Are Ordinal Numbers? First, let's talk about ordinal numbers. What are they? You've mostly used them before, even if you didn't know the official name. Ordinal numbers tell the position of something in a list. For example, first, second, and third. They are different from cardinal numbers, which tell you about quantity, like one, two, three. How to Use Ordinal Numbers When writing dates or rankings, we use ordinal numbers. Imagine you're telling someone about your position in a race. You wouldn't say, "I finished number three." You would say, "I finished third." Learning English Patterns English is full of patterns. By understanding these, you can easily remember how to use numbers in their ordinal form. Let's see how this works with the number 8. If you count from one to ten, saying them as ordinals, they would be: first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth. Did you notice how eight changes? It becomes eighth. Why Not '8st'? Now, why do we say "eighth" and not "eightst" or something else? English follows specific spelling rules. For most numbers, just add 'th' at the end of the cardinal number, but there are always a few exceptions that you need to memorize. Eight is one of these exceptions. It does not follow the regular pattern and changes from "eight" to "eighth." Turning this into a simpler analogy, think of these exceptions like your quirky friends who always wear a different style of clothes to parties. They don't follow the usual fashion rules! How to Write 'Eighth' in Numbers So, when you need to write 'eighth' using numbers, it should be written as "8th." Related: Trys or Tries - Which is Correct? Here are some examples where "8th" is used correctly: Today is the 8th of September. She finished in the 8th place. My birthday is on the 8th. This shows that whenever you're dealing with the number eight in an ordinal form, "8th" is the way to go. Common Mistakes A common mistake learners might make is trying to write ordinals by just adding 'st', 'nd', 'rd', or 'th' to the last digit of the number. This rule works sometimes but not always. It's crucial to learn the exceptions. Like our earlier example, remember the quirky friend at a party? Keep that in mind. Practice Makes Perfect The best way to get these right is by reading a lot and practicing. Every time you write the date or talk about a position, pause and think about the correct form. Write it out. See how it fits into what you're saying. Quick Recap Remember, "8th" is correct and "8st" is not. Ordinal numbers can be tricky, but they follow certain rules. Once you understand the pattern and the few exceptions, like "eighth," it becomes much easier. Learning anything new can seem like a puzzle at first. Imagine each new rule as a piece of the puzzle. The more pieces you put together, the easier and more rewarding it gets. Keep at it, and soon you'll handle ordinals without a second thought! This sums up our look at how to correctly use "8th." Just like putting together a simple puzzle, understanding and applying the rules of ordinal numbers just takes a bit of practice and attention to detail. Ordinal numbers are numbers that show position or order in a sequence. For example, the words first and twentieth are ordinal numbers, as are numerals Ordinal numbers show position in a series: their sequential order, ranking, or place in a list. There are two forms: words without numerals (first, second) and numerals with lettered suffixes (1st, 2nd). Ordinals can be determiners (not my first choice) or nouns (the first to arrive), often used as adverbs indicating order, like a chronological sequence of events. For instance: First, grab a flashlight; second, go into the basement. Cats make great pets: they're fluffy, purr, and playful. Cardinal numbers depict quantities or amounts, typically depicted as Arabic numerals (1, 2), but can also be written as words (one, two) if you know when to spell out numbers. Ordinal numbers are only used for organization and lists, not quantities; cardinal numbers answer "How many?" while ordinal numbers answer "Which position?" To use ordinal numbers correctly: * Use them in sequential lists: chronological order of events, points to discuss, or numbered lists. * Keep track of ranking in competitive events or tiered brackets: first-class ticket, second in the shot put. * Use ordinals for location or position in context: second in line for ice cream, fourth spotlight. * When mentioning informal dates, use ordinals if the day comes before the month: On the third of July. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting tomorrow and discussing our strategies in a new way. ===== We also use English to describe fractions, often using ordinal numbers for clarity in speech. This includes saying one-fourth instead of quarter. However, some common fractions like half are simply called half or one half—using second is incorrect. If the top number is more than one, the fraction becomes plural. For example, one-eighth can be said as one-eighth. When writing ordinal numbers, it's essential to pay attention to both spelling and punctuation. Ordinals are written differently than their cardinal counterparts, so you may need to learn new rules. Let's start with the suffixes. The ordinal suffixes follow a consistent pattern, so once you master 1-20, you can apply them to any ordinal number, no matter how high. The correct suffix for numbers ending in 1 is -st, while those ending in 2 have -nd, and those ending in 3 have -rd. Numbers between 4 and 9 use -th, with the exception of multiples of ten. The numbers 11-19 also follow this rule. Additionally, some ordinal numbers like 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, and 12 have irregular spellings. When writing ordinal numbers, it's crucial to remember the right suffixes. Most numbers use -th, except for 1 (first), 2 (second), and 3 (third). Be careful with numbers over 20, as they often use the suffix of the last number. For instance, the ordinal for 53 is fifty-third.