

2012

# Conversational English. Session 3: Facts and Figures



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## Session 3: “Facts and Figures”

This session is intended to be a fun activity practising talking about general knowledge and facts and figures using English only. There will be some continuing practice of pronunciation, and questions and answers. The game of “Bingo!” is included to add interest and engagement.

### Objectives

Participants will:

- Practise pronouncing and stating large numbers correctly.
- Practise speaking about countries of the world and related facts.
- Improve listening and speaking accuracy through playing “Bingo!”

### Materials:

Trainer needs:

- PowerPoint presentation about numbers and pronunciation.
- PDF files with maps showing countries of the world – 4 different arrangements.
- List of clues for Country Facts Bingo! game, (and/or callers cards listing each country and the clue facts).
- PDF file with flags to show on LCD and/or coloured flash cards with flags.
- “Bingo!” cards for each participant for 3 separate games, and caller’s cards for each game. (With the two numbers games, every card has the same words but in a different arrangement. With the countries cards, there are 34 countries but only 25 on each card.)
- “Bingo!” markers – some sort of counters to place on cards as words are called, enough for each participant to have at least 20. (Sunflower seeds work well, as long as participants do not drop husks on the floor and keep enough husks to use as markers.)
- Prizes for the winners of the Sentence Auction activity.

Participants need:

- Participant’s notes for this session.
- Writing materials.

Participants need to be able to sit at a desk or table to write notes, place their “Bingo!” markers on the card on a level surface, and also to work in a group or team with other participants.



## Procedures:

Even people who have gained some proficiency in a second language will habitually use their own language to count. So initially we are going to have some practice in using numbers in English.

***Use the PowerPoint presentation to teach the following points:***

1. In speaking and listening English numbers there is often some difficulty in distinguishing between (for example) “fifteen” and “fifty”. Speakers of Bahasa Malaysia particularly tend to swallow (or just not pronounce) the final ‘n’ of ‘fifteen’ and the other cue – the stress on the final syllable – is also problematic for speakers of Bahasa Malaysia. The difference should be clearly heard:

THIR-ty	thir-TEEN
FOR-ty	four-TEEN
FIF-ty	fif-TEEN
SIX-ty	six-TEEN
SEV-en-ty	sev-en-TEEN
EIGHT-ty	eigh-TEEN
NINE-ty	nine-TEEN

2. When saying a longer number, such as the year-date, the Malaysian tendency is to simply read it as a series of digits.

*For example:* 2010 is commonly read as ‘two zero one zero’.

- The names of the years in the last (20<sup>th</sup>) century are said as “nineteen \_\_\_”.

*For example:* 1957 is “nineteen fifty-seven”  
1901 is “nineteen oh-one”

- The names of the dates in this (21<sup>st</sup>) century after 2010 can be read in some cases either as “twenty \_\_\_” or as “two thousand and \_\_\_”, but before that are generally read as “two thousand and \_\_\_”

*For example:* 2001 is “two thousand and one”  
2011 is “two thousand and eleven” OR “twenty eleven”



3. With numbers over a hundred, there should be the word '**and**' after the word **hundred** (or after the thousand if there are no hundreds).

*For example:* 239 is said as 'two **hundred and** thirty nine'.

3 045 is said as 'three thousand, **and** forty-five'.

*(Note: this is not always so in American English ... but this is Malaysia where British English is practised!)*

4. 'Round' numbers in thousands are often read as hundreds.

*For example:* 1100 can be read as 'one thousand, one hundred', or 'eleven hundred'

3500 can be read as 'three thousand, five hundred', or 'thirty-five hundred'.

If the number is not 'round', then it is more likely to be said as thousands, hundreds etc.

*For example:* 3246 would be read as 'three thousand, two hundred and forty-six'.

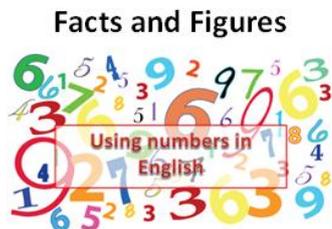
5. The number '1' is commonly pronounced as 'a' when it is the first digit.

*For example:* The number 150 is commonly pronounced as 'a hundred and fifty' rather than 'one hundred and fifty'.



Here are the notes for the PowerPoint presentation:

Slide 1



Even people who have gained some proficiency in a second language will habitually use their own language to count. So initially we are going to have some practice in using numbers in English.

Slide 2



In speaking and listening English numbers there is often some difficulty in distinguishing between (for example) “fifteen” and “fifty”. Speakers of Bahasa Malaysia particularly tend to swallow (or just not pronounce) the final ‘n’ of ‘fifteen’ and the other cue – the stress on the final syllable – is also problematic for speakers of Bahasa Malaysia. The difference should be clearly heard.

Slide 3



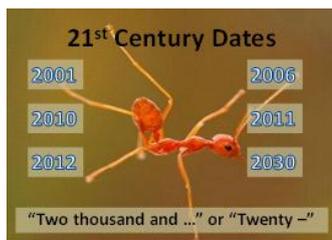
When saying a longer number, such as the year-date, the Malaysian tendency is to simply read it as a series of digits. *For example:* 2010 is commonly read as ‘two zero one zero’. The names of the years in the last (20<sup>th</sup>) century are said as “nineteen \_\_\_”.  
*For example:* 1957 is “nineteen fifty-seven”  
1901 is “nineteen oh-one”

Slide 4



These are all dates in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and they all start with ‘nineteen’:  
Nineteen ninety-six  
Nineteen-oh-one – notice the ‘oh’ rather than ‘zero’.  
Nineteen forty  
Nineteen twenty-eight  
Nineteen-oh-eight (another ‘oh’)  
Nineteen nineTEEN  
Nineteen NINE-ty  
Nineteen thirteen

Slide 5



The names of the dates in this (21<sup>st</sup>) century after 2010 can be read in some cases either as “twenty \_\_\_” or as “two thousand and \_\_\_”, but before that are generally read as “two thousand and \_\_\_”  
*For example:*  
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Slide 6



With numbers over a hundred, there should be the word **'and'** after the word **hundred** (or after the thousand if there are no hundreds).

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Slide 7



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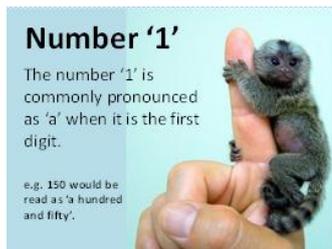
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If the number is not 'round', then it is more likely to be said as thousands, hundreds etc.

*For example:* 3246 would be read as 'three thousand, two hundred and forty-six'.

Slide 8



The number '1' is commonly pronounced as 'a' when it is the first digit.

*For example:* The number 150 is commonly pronounced as 'a hundred and fifty' rather than 'one hundred and fifty'.

Slide 9



We are going to play a few different games of "Bingo!" I hope you enjoy it!

Slide 10



You will be given a "Bingo!" card – do not write on it because the same card will be used for several games, and we would like you to swap cards sometimes with other players.

You will be given some Sunflower seeds to use as markers.

You are free to nibble but if you choose to eat the seeds

- Please do so quietly
- Please don't drop husks
- Please make sure you keep the husks to use as markers.



Slide  
11

1901			2006	
2001	2010	2020	99	2800
2	1985			1
2000		118	19	8214
6210		5321	2004	1400

Look carefully at your card. When you hear a number called place a seed on the correct number.  
NOTE: with the first game, all of the numbers are somewhere on your card. *(With a later game there are more answers than places on your card.)*

Slide  
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**FIVE-IN-A-ROW = BINGO!**


When you have five markers in a row in any direction, call “Bingo!”  
Note: you may be asked to verify the answers in your line of five.



## 1. Practice Numbers with “Bingo!”

*Instructions for numbers “Bingo!” game:*

### **Firstly**

- Distribute “Bingo!” cards with numbers written as words. Note: Each card is different, but they all contain the same words.
- Explain that the participants are NOT to write on the cards. Distribute markers (sunflower seeds) and explain that participants may eat them, but must not drop husks and must maintain enough husks to continue to use them as markers.
- Explain that participants are to place markers on numbers as they hear them, and when they have five-in-a-row in any direction (horizontal, vertical or diagonal) they can call “Bingo!”
- Using the call cards (well shuffled), call out the numbers – call each one 2 or 3 times only, and hold up the card showing the digits for participants to see. Lay them carefully on a desk for checking later if necessary.
- When a participant calls “Bingo!” ask them to call out the five in the row and check with the ones on the desk. Award a small prize, and then ask the winner to be the next caller. Participants remove their markers and start a new game.
- Participants should be encouraged to swap cards between games.

### **Secondly**

After several rounds of playing this game, change to cards with to numbers expressed in digits.

Continue playing with caller reading out numbers from cards containing numbers as words.

*NOTE: the Caller’s Cards with this set has the numbers stated in words the way the Caller is to say them.*



## 2. General Knowledge “Bingo!”

There are two “Bingo!” games to practice talking about the countries of the world.

### A. Country Placement

Display a map of the world with country names missing on the LCD.

The following countries are listed on the Bingo! cards and the PowerPoint game:

1. Afghanistan
2. Australia
3. Burma
4. Cambodia
5. Denmark
6. Egypt
7. France
8. Germany
9. Greece
10. Haiti
11. India
12. Indonesia
13. Italy
14. Japan
15. Kuwait
16. Madagascar
17. Malaysia
18. New Zealand
19. Nigeria
20. Oman
21. Philippines
22. Qatar
23. Russia
24. Saudi Arabia
25. Singapore
26. Spain
27. Switzerland
28. Syria
29. Turkey
30. United Kingdom
31. United States of America
32. Vietnam
33. Yemen
34. Zimbabwe

Give participants “Bingo!” cards with names of the countries. Point out that there are 34 country names listed (don’t show them the list!) but only 25 names on their card. Therefore they won’t necessarily be able to place a mark for every call.

Show the country slides one by one, and participants place markers – if necessary discussing with the group which country is displayed.

When someone gets five-in-a-row and calls “Bingo!” get them to call out the names of countries they have marked and check that they were there.

*NOTE: There are 4 Bingo World Map Quiz PDF files (they are smaller files than PowerPoint) with a different order of the countries, so that the game can be played four times. PDF files can be displayed easily and clearly on the LCD.*

*Here are the notes for the WorldMap Quiz. (The countries are not in the same order as the Bingo PDFs!)*



Yemen



Australia



Singapore



Italy



Germany



India



Malaysia



New Zealand



Haiti



United Kingdom



Zimbabwe



Spain



Madagascar



Burma



Syria



Qatar  
(Qatar and Kuwait look similar. Kuwait is higher up.)



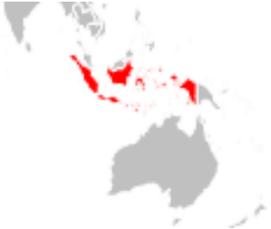
Afghanistan



Egypt



Nigeria



Indonesia



Oman



Cambodia



Denmark



United States of America



Philippines



Saudi Arabia



Japan



Greece



Turkey



Russia



Vietnam



**Kuwait**  
(Qatar and Kuwait  
look similar. Qatar is  
lower down.)



**Switzerland**

## **B. Country Facts**

Participants can swap cards between games – they should be encouraged to do so.

Play “Bingo!” again using the same cards, but with Country Facts.

Call out the facts from the Country Facts cards as clues for country names. Preferably only give one clue, and supply the others slowly if people are very unsure. (The second and third time the game is played, a different fact can be used as the clue.)

The winner of a round could then be asked to be the next caller.

*The Country Facts list is below. Use the Country Facts Caller Cards to play the game.*

**Country Facts for “Bingo!” Game**

Country	Fact 1	Fact 2	Fact 3
Afghanistan	Capital Kabul	Languages Dari, Pashto	War on Terror
Australia	Capital Canberra	Land Down Under	Great Barrier Reef
Burma	Capital Rangoon/Yangon	Military Coup 1962	Irrawaddy River Valley
Cambodia	Capital Phnom Penh	Language Khmer	Angkor Wat
Denmark	Capital Copenhagen	Viking Empire	Hans Christian Anderson
Egypt	Capital Cairo	Pyramids	Arid desert
France	Capital Paris	Mona Lisa	Eiffel Tower
Germany	Capital Berlin	Oktoberfest	Black Forest
Greece	Capital Athens	Olympics	Over 200 islands
Haiti	Capital Port-au-Prince	Earthquake 2010	2/3 of country mountainous
India	Capital New Delhi	Language Hindi	Producer of Dairy Prod.
Indonesia	Capital Jakarta	More Facebook (except USA)	Over 18000 islands
Italy	Capital Rome	Espresso Coffee	Shape like boot
Japan	Capital Tokyo	Sushi	Mount Fuji
Kuwait	Capital Kuwait City	Oil wells fires	Highway 80 to Iraq
Madagascar	Capital Antananarivo	Language Malagasy	Vanilla export
Malaysia	Capital Kuala Lumpur	Best snorkelling	Head-hunters
New Zealand	Capital Wellington	More sheep than people	Rotorua hot springs
Nigeria	Capital Abuja	Most populous in Africa	Oil pipe explosions
Oman	Capital Muscat	Frankincense route	Fireworks championships
Philippines	Capital Manilla	Dish 'bayawak' (lizard)	7000+ Islands incl. Boracay
Qatar	Capital Doha	Mostly sand & barren plain	World cup 2022
Russia	Capital Moscow	8 time-zones, 1/7 world	Hermitage Museum
Saudi Arabia	Capital Riyadh	2 <sup>nd</sup> largest oil reserves	No taxes
Singapore	Capital Singapur	City-state	One of best healthcare
Spain	Capital Madrid	Bullfighting	Flamenco dance, song, guitar
Switzerland	Capital Berne	Landlocked, Alps	Neutral, peacekeeping
Syria	Capital Damascus	Symbol - hawk	Now on brink civil war
Turkey	Capital Ankara	Asia and Europe	Ataturk
United Kingdom	Capital London	Channel Tunnel	Stone Henge
United States of America	Capital Washington	50 states	Freedom and democracy
Vietnam	Capital Hanoi	Mekong river	Independent from China 939
Yemen	Capital San'a'	Poorest Arabic country	Mocha coffee from here
Zimbabwe	Capital Harare	'Rhodesia' before	Victoria Falls

Recommendation for “Facts and Figures” Activity Session:



*Each of the games can be played at least 2 or 3 times. Participants can be encouraged to swap cards between games.*

- ❖ *Numbers written in words Bingo*
- ❖ *Big numbers (digits) Bingo*
- ❖ *World Map Bingo*
- ❖ *Country Facts Bingo*

*For the numbers games and the Country Facts Game, winning participants can become callers. For the World Map game there are 3 versions of PDF that can be displayed on the LCD.*

*For the numbers games, every card has the same information rearranged. For the Country games, only 25 of the mentioned 34 countries are mentioned on each card – so the game will tend to run longer.*