

Thirty Days Hath September. . .

and Other Phrases, Titles, Product Names, and Exaggerations Constructed with Numbers

Numbers are a vital commodity. Our lives are constructed around them. They are at the heart of buying and selling, skyscraper building, schedules, and properly fitting shoes. The list is enormous!

In addition to their counting and measuring jobs, numbers have also created careers for themselves as part of our everyday language where they take on whole new personalities.

Some add volume to our *figures of speech*,
(Instead of, "It doesn't matter," we quip,
"It's **six** of one and **half a dozen** of another.")

Others appear in titles of *stories* and in children's *counting rhymes*,
(**Thirty** days hath September, April, June, and November.)

Business-minded digits serve as important parts of *product names*,
(**7-Up**)

Some numbers bolster the human tendency to *exaggerate*.
(There must be a **million** examples!)

Here are 40 of them.



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Use the clues to identify the missing numbers. Write them in the blanks to the left.

- _____ 1. _____ **Dalmatians** (the title of a book and a movie)
- _____ 2. You're _____ in a million! (very special; hard to find; rare)
- _____ 3. in _____ heaven (really happy)
- _____ 4. One potato, two potato, three potato, _____. (counting rhyme)
- _____ 5. _____ o'clock shadow (late-in-the-day beard growth)
- _____ 6. He has a _____ excuses! (an exceedingly high number of excuses)
- _____ 7. _____ shakes of a lamb's tail (in no time at all; quickly)
- _____ 8. This old man, he played _____. He played knick-knack on my gate. (counting rhyme)
- _____ 9. back to square _____ (start over)
- _____ 10. **Snow White and the** _____ **Dwarfs** (classic children's story)
- _____ 11. the _____ hour (approaching the final time or chance to get something done)
- _____ 12. _____ left feet (descriptive of a clumsy person, especially one with dancing difficulties)
- _____ 13. Friday the _____ (a superstition that grew into a series of movies)
- _____ 14. I have _____ a mind to. . . (a thought to do something foolish or dangerous in reaction to anger or frustration.)