

# 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 20 of them.**



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)