

Unit 2

From Generation to Generation



Warm Up

Learning to explain **data** in English, particularly the pronunciation of commonly used numbers, is an essential foundational skill. **Tables** are commonly used tools for presenting data. By making effective use of some common English expressions, we can accurately refer to the data in tables and highlight key information.

In Unit 2, we will learn to:

- Practice the pronunciation of commonly used numbers in English;
- Master techniques for referring to data presented in tables.

Useful Strategies and Language

1 Numbers with Easily Confused Pronunciations

In English, the pronunciation of some numbers can be easily confused, such as 13 (thirteen) and 30 (thirty). The former is stressed on the second syllable, while the latter is stressed on the first syllable. If the stress is pronounced incorrectly, it may lead to misunderstanding. Please pay attention to the words below. The bolded and underlined parts indicate the stressed syllables.

13 thir<u>teen</u>	30 th<u>ir</u>ty	17 sevent<u>een</u>	70 se<u>ven</u>ty
14 four<u>teen</u>	40 for<u>t</u>ty	18 eight<u>teen</u>	80 ei<u>gh</u>ty
15 fif<u>teen</u>	50 fi<u>f</u>ty	19 nin<u>eteen</u>	90 ni<u>n</u>ety
16 six<u>teen</u>	60 six<u>ty</u>		

2 Pronunciation of Larger Numbers

100	one hundred; a hundred
1,000	one thousand; a thousand
10,000	ten thousand
100,000	one hundred thousand; a hundred thousand
1,000,000	one million; a million
10,000,000	ten million
100,000,000	one hundred million; a hundred million
1,000,000,000	one billion; a billion

Useful Techniques:

Larger numbers involving million and billion are often expressed using **decimals**. For example, 1,200,000 is commonly written as 1.2 million, pronounced **one point two million**; 3,600,000,000 is written as 3.6 billion, pronounced **three point six billion**.

3 Pronunciation of Years

2000	two thousand
2024	twenty twenty-four
2002	twenty oh two
1492	fourteen ninety-two
the 15th c.	the fifteenth century
1500–1599	the fifteen hundreds
the 1980s	the nineteen eighties

4 Fractions and Decimals

$\frac{1}{2}$	one-half
$\frac{1}{3}$	one-third
$\frac{2}{3}$	two-thirds
$\frac{3}{5}$	three-fifths
$7\frac{1}{6}$	seven and one-sixth
0.9	zero point nine; point nine
7.6	seven point six
10.14	ten point one four
10.04	ten point oh four

5 Percentages and Proportions

25%	twenty-five percent; a quarter
30%	thirty percent; three in ten; three out of ten
50%	fifty percent; a half

Useful Techniques:

(1) When describing the concept of “proportion,” we often use the phrasal verbs **account for** or **make up**, as in the examples below:

- Basketball is the most popular team sport among Hushan University students. It **accounts for** over half (52%) of their preferred activities.
- International students **make up** a quarter (25%) of the university’s enrollment.

(2) We often place adverbs such as **exactly**, **nearly**, or **approximately** before numbers to add variety to descriptions. For example, 48% can be expressed in the following ways:

{ *Exactly* 48 percent
Nearly half
Approximately 50 percent } of the new employees this year are over thirty years old.

6 Explaining Data Presented in the Columns and Rows of a Table

Table 1 Most popular drink choices among Jin Tai University students

	Brand A	Brand B	Brand C
2020	45%	30%	25%
2022	44%	21%	35%

Useful Sample Sentences

- Looking at **the second column from the left**, we can see that Brand A was the most popular drink among students who participated in the survey in 2020 and 2022.
- The results of the survey conducted in 2020 are presented **in the second row from the bottom**. It is obvious that in both 2020 and 2022, over 40 percent of the survey respondents chose Brand A as their favorite drink.

Speaking Task

1 Task Content

The table below shows the results of a study conducted by students at Jintai University regarding the characteristics of Generations X, Y, and Z.

Characteristics	Generation X	Generation Y	Generation Z
Year of birth	1965–1980	1981–1996	1997–2012
Number of people worldwide	1.5 to 1.7 billion	1.8 to 2 billion	1.9 to 2.1 billion
% of world population	19–22%	23–25%	24–26%
Signature products	Personal computers 	Mobile devices (e.g., mobile phones) 	Wearable devices (e.g., smart watches) 

2 Task Requirements

You have 2 minutes to answer the following 2 questions based on the information presented in the table above.

- (1) Provide a definition of **Generation Z** based on the **numbers** presented in the table. You can start the definition with “Generation Z refers to ...”
- (2) Look at the **signature products** listed in the table. These products are closely related to the lifestyle of each generation. Explain how they reflect the technological development over time.

Writing Task

Challenge

1 Task Content

In class today, your teacher discussed the concept of annual household expenditure. This is the amount of money a family spends in a year. She presented data collected from the government's statistical yearbook in 2022 and asked you to compare three types of household expenditures in Taiwan over the decades from 2001 to 2021. Table 1 shows the data your teacher presented.

Table 1 Household expenditures in Taiwan for 2001, 2011 and 2021

Year	Total Expenditure (NT\$)	Food and Beverages		Health		Recreation, culture, and education	
		Expenditure (NT\$)	%	Expenditure (NT\$)	%	Expenditure (NT\$)	%
2001	657,872	113,755	17%	75,223	11%	79,179	12%
2011	729,010	118,263	16%	106,607	15%	75,697	10%
2021	815,442	129,023	16%	144,966	18%	51,718	6%

Source: *Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in 2022*, p.87.

2 Task Requirements

Based on the information presented in Table 1, write an essay to discuss the following topic:

Changes in Household Expenditures from 2001 to 2021 in Taiwan

In your essay, you should:

(1) Summarize the key information presented in the table:

- Provide an overview of the changes in total expenditure; food and beverages expenditure; health expenditure; and recreation, culture, and education expenditure over the decades from 2001 to 2021.

(2) Explain the possible reasons for the changes:

- Compare the information presented in the table with your own experiences and observations.
- Discuss factors such as economic growth, inflation, aging population, technological advancements, and any other relevant influences that might have caused the observed changes in household expenditures.

Your essay should be 120–150 words in length.

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