



That's right. When most monsters talk about digits, they mean these ten symbols.

Digit:	Stands for:
0	zero
1	one
2	two
3	three
4	four
5	five
6	six
7	seven
8	eight
9	nine

That's a lot of symbols. Pirates only used three. Why do we need so many?

Using ten symbols, we can write even big numbers using only a few digits.

Let's look at Alex's coin count, for example. It takes three X's and seven dots to stand for thirty-seven coins.

Using digits, we can write a 3 and a 7 to mean the same thing.

That is a lot shorter.

What do the 3 and the 7 in 37 stand for?

Coins:
XXX : : : :
37

What do the 3 and the 7 stand for?

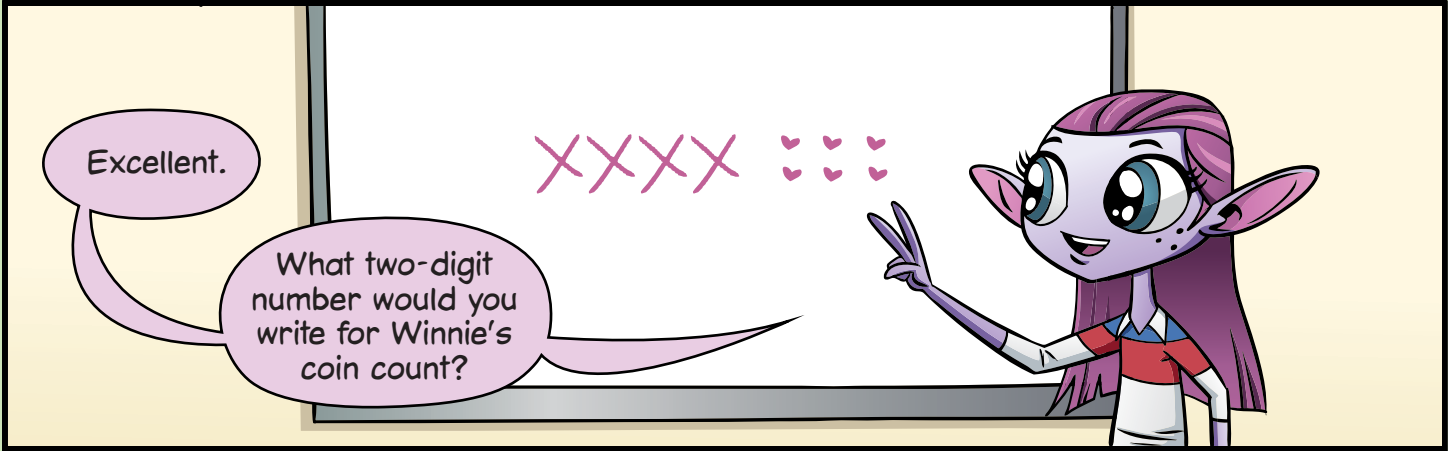


In pirate numbers, three X's stand for three groups of ten coins.

With digits, we just write a 3 for three tens.

In pirate numbers, seven dots stand for seven coins. But with digits, we can just write a 7.

So, 37 means 3 groups of ten, plus 7 more.



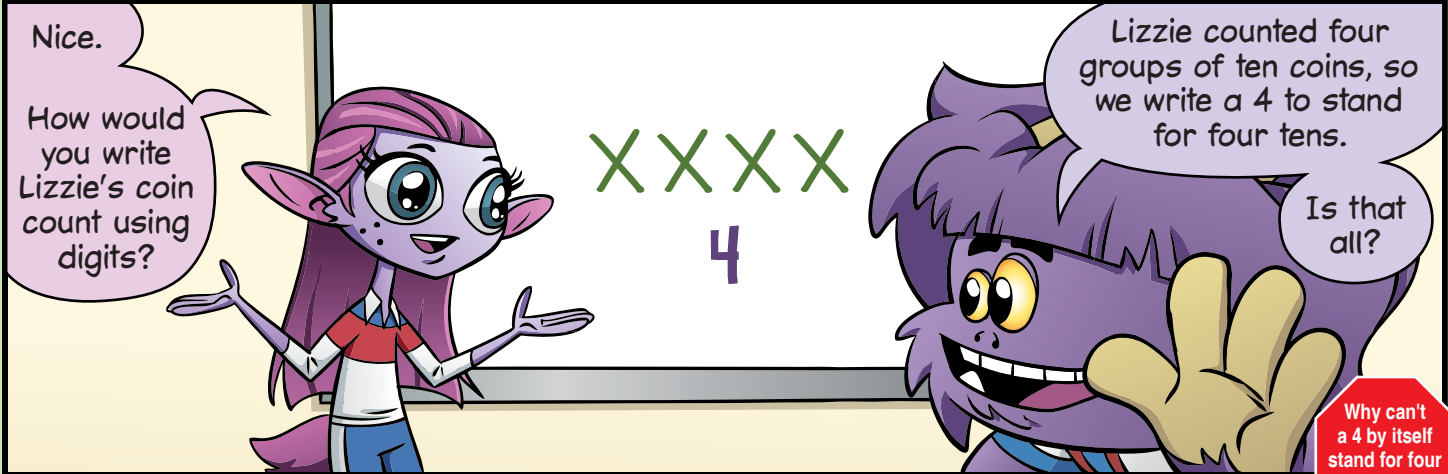
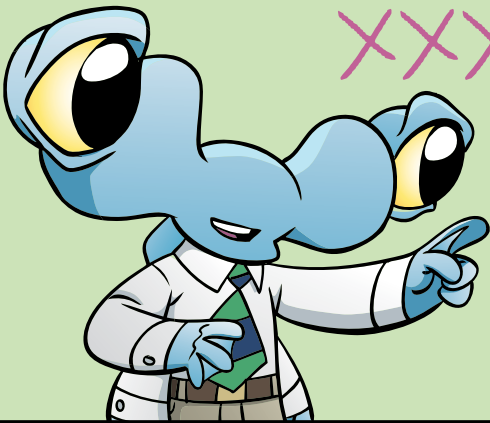
Excellent.

What two-digit number would you write for Winnie's coin count?



Winnie counted four groups of ten coins and six more coins.

So, we write a 4 and a 6 for forty-six.



Nice. How would you write Lizzie's coin count using digits?



Lizzie counted four groups of ten coins, so we write a 4 to stand for four tens.

Is that all?

Why can't a 4 by itself stand for four tens?



tens	ones
XXXX	
4	0

That's right. Two-digit numbers have a **tens digit** and a **ones digit**.

Lizzie's coin count has 4 tens and 0 ones.

So, we write Lizzie's coin count with a 4 and a 0.

tens	ones
XXXXX	..
5	2

To write my coin count as a two-digit number, I write a 5 for five tens...

...and a 2 for two ones.

Great. In our number system, each digit has a **place value**.

In 52, the 5 is in the tens place and the 2 is in the ones place.

What is the largest two-digit number you can write?

