+49 511 4739339
james@englisch-lehrer.com · www.englisch-lehrer.com

A2 · NUMBERS & DATA · ≈ 27 MIN

Big Numbers: Million vs Billion — *practice on paper*

You have built the lesson — now lock the mapping in, in black and white. New figures, same zero rule.

English climbs in steps of a thousand: **billion** = Milliarde (9 zeros) · German Billion = **trillion** (12 zeros)

NAME _____ DATE _____

YOUR BUILD: 1 · SORTING ○ | 2 · FILL-IN ○ | 3 · CORRECT ○ | 4 · WRITE ○

BRICK 1 · SORT: MILLIARDE OR BILLION? · APPROX. 4 MIN ●○○

Each expression stands for one big number. Decide: does it mean the German **Milliarde** (a 1 with 9 zeros) or the German **Billion** (a 1 with 12 zeros)? Write it into the matching column. When in doubt, count the zeros!

`billion` `trillion` `1,000,000,000,000` `a thousand million` `tn`
`milliard (historical English)` `1,000,000,000` `a thousand billion` `$7.5B`
`a million million` `bn` `a one with twelve zeros`

= GERMAN MILLIARDE	= GERMAN BILLION

BRICK 2 · FILL IN THE NUMBER WORD · APPROX. 6 MIN ●●○

Fill in the word in brackets in its correct English form — with or without a plural -s, with or without "of". Remember the mapping: Milliarde = **billion**, German Billion = **trillion**.

01 Last year the group's revenue rose to seven _____ euros. (Milliarden)
02 German TV reports „2 Billionen Dollar“ — an English newsreader says two _____ dollars. (Billionen)
03 The airport handled sixty _____ passengers in 2025. (million)
04 Investors have poured _____ euros into green energy — nobody is counting any more. (million)
05 Together, the two data centres cost three _____ euros. (billion)
06 Tech giants spend _____ dollars on AI chips every single year. (billion)
07 About two _____ people worldwide use messaging apps every day. (billion)
08 The region counts five million commuters, and two _____ them drive to work. (million)

YOUR BUILD · 1 · SORTING · 2 · FILL-IN · 3 · CORRECT · 4 · WRITE

BRICK 3 · FIND AND CORRECT THE MISTAKE · APPROX. 7 MIN

Each sentence hides exactly one number mistake — a plural -s, an "of", a point or comma, or a wrong word. Underline it and write the whole sentence correctly.

01 The merger created a company worth three billions euros.

02 Millions people have downloaded the banking app.

03 The startup raised 2,4 billion dollars in its latest round.

04 Their yearly budget is exactly 3.750.000 euros.

05 The government spent a milliard euros on the new rail line.

06 The factory produces two million of cars per year.

BRICK 4 · WRITE YOUR OWN NUMBERS · APPROX. 8 MIN

Write one sentence with a big number for each prompt. Check every time: correct mapping, no plural -s after the numeral, point as the decimal marker.

01 Your market: "Our market is worth roughly … ." — use million or billion with a number.

02 Your country: "… has about … million inhabitants." — also write the figure in digits with commas.

03 Your headline: write an English headline with a billion-euro sum: "… invests … in … ."

04 Your estimate: "The project will cost just under / just over … ." — pick a big sum.

MINI-CHECK – CAN I DO THIS YET?

- ☐ I always translate the Milliarde as "billion" — and the German Billion as "trillion".
- ☐ After a numeral I write million/billion with no plural -s and no "of": "three million customers".
- ☐ I swap the punctuation: decimal point instead of comma (2.5 billion) and commas to group thousands (4,300,000).
- ☐ I know the abbreviations m, bn, and tn, and I read the decimal point aloud as "point".

Not every box ticked? Build the lesson once more and try this sheet again tomorrow.

Answer key

Check only when you have finished. Every answer comes with the **why** — the rule matters more than the result.

BRICK 1 · SORTING

01 billion → **Milliarde**
A 1 with nine zeros — the English billion is the German Milliarde.

02 trillion → **Billion**
Twelve zeros — trillion equals the German Billion.

03 1,000,000,000,000 → **Billion**
Count the zeros: twelve.

04 a thousand million → **Milliarde**
A thousand million makes a 1 with nine zeros.

05 tn → **Billion**
tn abbreviates trillion — twelve zeros.

06 milliard (historical English) → **Milliarde**
The rare, historical milliard meant the nine-zero number — today it is billion.

07 1,000,000,000 → **Milliarde**
Nine zeros — the commas just group the thousands.

08 a thousand billion → **Billion**
A thousand billion = a 1 with twelve zeros = trillion.

09 $7.5B → **Milliarde**
The US-style capital B stands for billion — nine zeros.

10 a million million → **Billion**
A million million is a 1 with twelve zeros.

11 bn → **Milliarde**
bn is the financial shorthand for billion.

12 a one with twelve zeros → **Billion**
Twelve zeros — trillion in English.

BRICK 2 · FILL-IN

01 seven **billion** euros
Milliarden = billion; no plural -s after the numeral.

02 two **trillion** dollars
The German Billion (twelve zeros) is trillion in English.

03 sixty **million** passengers
After a numeral, million stays in its base form.

04 **millions of** euros
No specific number: plural -s plus "of".

05 three **billion** euros
Numeral + base form + counted noun — no -s, no "of".

06 **billions of** dollars
No number in front — so "billions of".

07 two **billion** people
Even with "about" in front: no ending after the numeral.

08 two **million of** them
Before a pronoun, "of" returns.

BRICK 3 · CORRECT

01 The merger created a company worth three **billion** euros.
No plural -s after a numeral.

02 **Millions of** people have downloaded the banking app.
Without a number in front, millions needs "of".

03 The startup raised **2.4** billion dollars in its latest round.
The English decimal marker is the point — read aloud as "point".

04 Their yearly budget is exactly **3,750,000** euros.
English groups thousands with commas, not dots.

05 The government spent **a billion** euros on the new rail line.
Milliard has disappeared from modern English — the Milliarde is billion.

06 The factory produces two **million** cars per year.
No "of" directly before the counted noun.

BRICK 4 · WRITE

Your sentences may differ — just check the zeros, the plural -s, and the decimal point.

01 "Our market is worth roughly **two billion** euros."
Approximation "roughly" + numeral + base form without -s.

02 "Germany has about **84 million** inhabitants — 84,000,000."
In digits, commas group the thousands.

03 "Carmaker invests **2.5 billion** in new battery plant."
Decimal point, not comma — spoken "two point five billion".

04 "The new data centre will cost just under **half a billion** euros."
Business approximation: "just under half a billion" sounds fluent and is precise enough.

NEXT BRICKS — KEEP BUILDING FREE ONLINE

PREREQUISITE
Numbers and Dates
englisch-lehrer.com/en/lessons/numbers-dates-english

NEXT STEP
Describing Charts and Graphs
englisch-lehrer.com/en/lessons/describing-charts-graphs

ALL LESSONS
45+ free lessons
englisch-lehrer.com/en/lessons

HANOVER
Schaufelder Straße 11 · 30167
englisch-lehrer.com/hannover

BERLIN
Kurfürstendamm 30 · 10719
englisch-lehrer.com/berlin

ONLINE COURSES
englisch-lehrer.com/online
worldwide on Zoom

CONTACT
+49 511 4739339
james@englisch-lehrer.com