

ENGLISH 3AC · SEMESTER 1

Dates and ordinal numbers: English 3AC

Read dates and ordinal numbers in English 3AC. Learn first, second, third, on and in, with school-calendar examples and exercises with answers.

Key points

- First, second and third are irregular ordinal forms.
- 11th, 12th and 13th all end in th.
- Use on with a day or full date; use in with a month or year.

Learning goals

- Write common ordinal numbers.
- Read a date without confusing day and month.
- Choose on or in for calendar information.

What is an ordinal number?

A cardinal number counts: one, two, three books. An ordinal number gives a position: the first, second or third book. Dates use ordinal readings. Learn first, second and third, then fourth. Notice the spelling changes in fifth, eighth, ninth and twelfth.

Use st with 1st, nd with 2nd and rd with 3rd, but learn the exceptions 11th, 12th and 13th. After twenty, change the final part: twenty-one becomes twenty-first, written 21st; twenty-two becomes twenty-second, written 22nd.



A calendar tells you when an event happens; an ordered row tells you its position.

How do you read a date in English?

In a common British form, 6 November is read the sixth of November. You may see 6th November in writing. November 6 is also used, especially in American English, and is read November sixth. Choose one form and keep it consistent in your school writing.

Write the month in words when numbers could be confusing. The date 04/05 has different readings in different countries. 4 May is clear. Days and months start with capital letters: Monday, June, September. The names of seasons usually do not: spring, summer, autumn and winter.

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COUNT OR ORDER?

Cardinal numbers count objects. Ordinal numbers show positions.

1 1 / 1st
one / first



2 2 / 2nd
two / second



3 3 / 3rd
three / third



4 12 / 12th
twelve / twelfth

Read the examples. Explain the pattern. Make your own sentence.

Cardinal numbers count objects. Ordinal numbers show positions.

When do you use on and in with dates?

Use on with a day or a full date: on Friday, on 12 June. Use in with a month or year alone: in June, in 2026. Compare Our club starts in October with Our club starts on 3 October. The second sentence gives a more exact date. For 3AC practice, learn a few useful school dates and say each one aloud before writing it.

A worked example

A school reading calendar

Our reading club meets on 23 April. The school exhibition is in May. I am the twenty-first pupil on the list.

- Read 23 April as the twenty-third of April.
- On introduces a full date; in introduces a month alone.

- Twenty-first gives a position rather than a quantity.

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GIVE A CLEAR DATE

Choose on for a day and in for a month or year.

1 A day
on Monday



2 A full date
on 23 April



3 A month or year
in April / in 2026

Read the examples. Explain the pattern. Make your own sentence.

Choose on for a day and in for a month or year.

How should I use this English 3AC lesson?

- Try the exercises before reading the answers.
- Explain a correction in your own words.
- Return to the examples when two structures look similar.

Exercises: try before reading the answers

1. Write the words

Write the ordinal forms of 5 and 12.

2. Choose the ending

Write the abbreviated ordinal forms of 11 and 21.

3. Read a date

Read 3 March in a common British form.

4. Prepositions

Complete: We travel _____ August. We leave _____ 2 August.

5. Capital letters

Correct: My birthday is in 9 july.

6. Avoid confusion

Write the fifth day of April as a clear date with the month in words.

Answers and explanations

1. Write the words

Fifth and twelfth. Both have spelling changes.

2. Choose the ending

11th and 21st. Eleven is one of the th exceptions.

3. Read a date

The third of March.

4. Prepositions

In August; on 2 August. Only the second phrase gives an exact day.

5. Capital letters

My birthday is on 9 July. Use on with the full date and a capital letter for July.

6. Avoid confusion

5 April or April 5. Writing April avoids confusion between the day and month.

Frequently asked questions

How do I say a date in English 3AC?

For 6 May, a common British reading is the sixth of May. May sixth is another accepted reading.

Why is it 12th and not 12nd?

Twelve has the ordinal form twelfth. The numbers 11, 12 and 13 all use the ending th.

Do I write the in every date?

No. You can write 6 May and read it aloud as the sixth of May.

Revision resource: follow the units, instructions and pace set by your teacher.

[Read the full lesson and practise on MATHFJIB.](#)