

Imperial Valley College  
Division of Nursing Education and Health Technologies  
NURS100

Study Guide

Roman Numerals

The most common Roman symbols follow.

I = 1	X = 10	C = 100	M = 1000
V = 5	L = 50	D = 500	

There is one other symbol we will need.

$\bar{\bar{s}} = 2$

In writing a Roman numeral, six rules must be observed.

- Rule 1: The order is important. Numerals are usually arranged from left to right in descending order of value. Then the value is determined by adding.
- Rule 2: A numeral must be written with a minimum number of letters. This means I, X, C, and M can be repeated, but V, L, and D cannot.
- Rule 3: A letter can occur in succession two or three times only.
- Rule 4: The value of a numeral is subtracted if it does not occur in descending order of value.
- Rule 5: To express Roman numerals in Arabic numerals: If numerals are in descending order, add. If a numeral is out of descending order, subtract it.
- Rule 6: To express Arabic numerals in Roman numerals: If there are no digits of 4 and 9, arrange numerals in descending order. If a 4 or 9 occurs, reorder the numerals as explained in Rule 4.

## Sample Problems

Write Roman numerals for these numbers.

1. 8 =

2. 26 2 =

3. 390 =

4. 942 =

5. 3129 =

Write Arabic numerals for these numbers.

1. LIII  $\bar{5}$  =

2. CIX =

3. XCIX =

4. MCMLXXIII =

5. CMXCVII =