

CJK CARDINAL/ORDINAL SYSTEMS

Counting in CJK is a lot more complicated than 1,2,3 (or, 一、二、三). Below are the major alternative cardinal and ordinal systems:

Banker's Numbers (CJK)

When minting script (money), writing checks, and producing other monetary documents, for the same reason that we write out amounts long-hand in English, it is not uncommon to use specially complex numerical characters that cannot easily be altered. After all, it would be easy to change 一 into 二! Here are those numbers (pronunciation is the same as regular cardinal numbers):

1 壹	2 貳	3 參	4 肆	5 伍	6 陸	7 柒	8 捌	9 玖	10 拾	100 佰	1000 仟
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The Celestial Stems (CJK) 干支

There are ten of these. They are used for the Chinese calendar, but also as an ordinal system:

	1 甲	2 乙	3 丙	4 丁	5 戊	6 己	7 庚	8 辛	9 壬	10 癸
Chinese	<i>jiǎ</i>	<i>yǐ</i>	<i>bǐng</i>	<i>dīng</i>	<i>wù</i>	<i>jǐ</i>	<i>gēng</i>	<i>xīn</i>	<i>rén</i>	<i>guǐ</i>
Japanese	<i>kō</i>	<i>otsu</i>	<i>hei</i>	<i>tei</i>	<i>bo</i>	<i>kiko</i>	<i>kō</i>	<i>shin</i>	<i>nin</i>	<i>ki</i>
Korean	<i>kap</i>	<i>ul</i>	<i>pyeng</i>	<i>ceng</i>	<i>mwu</i>	<i>ki</i>	<i>kyeng</i>	<i>sin</i>	<i>im</i>	<i>kyey</i>

Iroha ordinals (Japanese)

The original organization of *kana* was not the familiar ^{ごじゅうおんず} 五十音図 system you learn today. It was based on a Buddhist poem that used each syllable exactly once. This order is still very commonly used as an ordinal system. The first few lines (as much as you'll probably ever need) are: (イ) (ロ) (ハ) (ニ) (ホ) (ヘ) (ト) (チ) (リ) (ヌ) (ル) (ヲ)

Numbers used with “counters”

Undoubtedly you have learned about “counters” in your CJK language.

- In **Chinese**, the number before the counter generally has its regular (=dictionary) pronunciation. For example, 一個 is read *yī ge*.
- In **Japanese**, many counters take the *on-yomi* of the number, but some (most notably the generic 一つ) take the *kun-yomi* of the number. For example:

ひと 一つ いっこ 一個	ふた 二つ にこ 二個	みつ 三つ さんこ 三個	よっ 四つ よんこ 四個	いつ 五つ ごこ 五個	むっ 六つ ろっこ 六個	なな 七つ しちこ 七個	やっ 八つ はちこ 八個	ここの 九つ きゅうこ 九個	じゅう 十つ じゅうこ 十個
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- In **Korean**, like Japanese, some counters take the “pure Korean” reading of the number; other counters take the “Sino-Korean” reading of the number.

Pure Korean:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
하나	둘	셋	넷	다섯	여섯	일곱	여덟	아홉	열

Sino-Korean:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
일	이	삼	사	오	육	칠	팔	구	십