Tho iwayeh?
'How many are there?'

Wendat Numbers

1 Skat   **5** Wihch

2 Tëndih   **6** Wahia'   **9** En'tron'

3 Ahchienhk   **7** Tsoutare'   **10** Ahsenh

4 Ndahk   **8** A'tere'

The numbers in Wendat

In Wendat, the word for 'ten' and 'tens' is **ahsenh**. In order to construct numbers between 11 and 19, we only need to use the word for 'ten', the word for the number of units added to ten, and the particle **iskare'**. Here is the sequence we use for this range of numbers:

> **TEN   +   NUMBER   +   ISKARE'**

> **Iskare**' is a particle which means 'it is so many units more'!

For example: 11

    10   +   1   +   'it is so many units more'

    ahsenh   skat   iskare'

Watch out! The number <u>two</u>, **tëndih**, has a direct effect on the form of the particle **iskare'**!

When we use **tëndih** 'two', the particle **iskare'** becomes **teskare'**!

For example: 12

    10   +   2   +   'it is two units more'

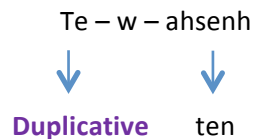   **ahsenh   <u>tëndih</u>   teskare'**

A little bit of culture…

For the Wendat people, the number <u>two</u> has a particular meaning atttached to it: duality. Note the importance of this concept :

    ⇒   in certain actions : ex. it takes two legs to run, we grab objects with two hands;

    ⇒   in pronouns: there are forms which are specific to actions and events in which only two people are involved (ex. the two of us, they (2), you two, etc.);

    ⇒   in numbers;

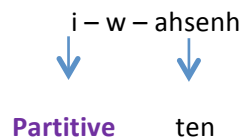   ⇒   etc.

In Wendat, this duality is often represented by the forms t–/te–/ti–, a prefix that we call the duplicative.

When we want to form the number <u>twenty</u>, since there are two tens, we must use the particle **tewahsenh** 'to be two tens'.

Te – w – ahsenh
↓ ↓
Duplicative   ten

Thus, 20:   **tëndih tewahsenh**

Otherwise, whether we have three, four or fourteen tens, we use the particle **iwahsenh** 'to be so many tens'.

i – w – ahsenh
↓ ↓
Partitive   ten

Thus, 40: **ndahk iwahsenh**

⭐ We use a prefix called the **partitive** when we want to enumerate things that are three or more.

Let's now build our numbers in Wendat!

Basic sequence that is used from **20 to 99 inclusively**:

Number of tens + IWAHSEN/TEWAHSENH   + Number of units + ISKARE'/TESKARE'

Exercises

No. 1 Write the number in Wendat.

a) 15

_____

b) 73

_____

c) 28

_____

d) 64

_____

e) 19

_____

f) 85

_____

g) 52

_____

No. 2 Write the number in digits.

a) Wihch iwahsenh   _____

b) En'tron' iwahsenh tëndih teskare'   _____

c) Ahsenh wahia' iskare'   _____

d) Tëndih tewahsenh skat iskare'   _____

e) A'tere' iwahsenh ndahk iskare'   _____

f) Tsoutare' iwahsenh wihch iskare'   _____

g) Ahsenh tëndih teskare'   _____

No. 3 Circle the number that corresponds to the Wendat phrase.

a)   Wihch iwahsenh ahchienhk iskare'

58   63   53

b)   Ahsenh skat iskare'

31   11   14

c)   Tsoutare' iwahsenh tëndih teskare'

72   17   27

d)   Ndahk iwahsenh en'tron' iskare'

48   19   49

e)   Wahia' iwahsenh wihch iskare'

56   76   65

f)   Ahchienhk iwahsenh a'tere' iskare'

38   37   18

g)   Tëndih tewahsenh

12   20   21

No. 4 Circle the Wendat term that corresponds to the number.

a) **16**

  1. Ahsenh wihch iskare'

  2. Ahsenh wahia' iskare'

  3. Ahchienhk iwahsenh wahia' iskare'

b) **92**

  1. En'tron' iwahsenh tëndih teskare'

  2. Ahsenh tëndih tëndih teskare'

  3. En'tron' iwahsenh tëndih iskare'

c) **23**

  1. Tëndih iwahsenh ahchienhk iskare'

  2. Tëndih tewahsenh ahchienhk teskare'

  3. Tëndih tewahsenh ahchienhk iskare'

d) **84**

  1. A'tere' iwahsenh skat iskare'

  2. A'tere' iwahsenh ndahk iskare'

  3. En'tron' iwahsenh ndahk iskare'

e) **75**

  1. Tsoutare' tewahsenh wihch iskare'

  2. Tsoutare' iwahsenh wahia' iskare'

  3. Tsoutare' iwahsenh wihch iskare'

Answer Key

No. 1 Write the number in Wendat.

a) Ahsenh wihch iskare'

b) Tsoutare' iwahsenh ahchienhk iskare'

c) Tëndih tewahsenh a'tere' iskare'

d) Wahia' iwahsenh ndahk iskare'

e) Ahsenh en'tron' iskare'

f) A'tere' iwahsenh wihch iskare'

g) Wihch iwahsenh tëndih teskare'

No. 2 Write the number in digits.

a) 50   e) 84

b) 92   f) 75

c) 16   g) 12

d) 21

No. 3 Circle the number that corresponds to the Wendat phrase.

a) 53

b) 11

c) 72

d) 49

e) 65

f) 38

g) 20

No. 4 Circle the number that corresponds to the Wendat phrase.

a) (2) Ahsenh wahia' iskare'

b) (1) En'tron' iwahsenh tëndih teskare'

c) (3) Tëndih tewahsenh ahchienhk iskare'

d) (2) A'tere' iwahsenh ndahk iskare'

e) (3) Tsoutare' iwahsenh wihch iskare'