

Binary & Decimal Guide

The **decimal** number system (also called base 10) represents numeric values using ten different symbols (0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9). It is the system we use!

The **binary** number system (also called base 2) represents numeric values using two different symbols (0 and 1). It is the system used internally by almost all modern computers and computer-based devices. This is because computers have circuits which are either OFF or ON, which gives them two states to work from to make calculations and run processes.

Bases & Exponents

$$10^4 = 10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 = 1000$$

base exponent

$$2^3 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$$

base exponent

Any number can be expressed in decimal and binary!

Breaking down a **decimal** number:

5	4	3	8
↓	↓	↓	↓
10^3	10^2	10^1	10^0
1000	100	10	1

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= 5(10^3) + 4(10^2) + 3(10^1) + 8(10^0) \\
 &= 5(1000) + 4(100) + 3(10) + 8(1) \\
 &= 5000 + 400 + 30 + 8 \\
 &= \mathbf{5438}
 \end{aligned}$$

Converting **binary** to **decimal** number:

1	0	1	1	0
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
2^4	2^3	2^2	2^1	2^0
16	8	4	2	1

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= 1(2^4) + 0(2^3) + 1(2^2) + 1(2^1) + 0(2^0) \\
 &= 1(16) + 0(8) + 1(4) + 1(2) + 0(1) \\
 &= 16 + 0 + 4 + 2 + 0 \\
 &= \mathbf{22}
 \end{aligned}$$

Converting **decimal** to **binary** number:

Decimal number (to convert): 22

What is largest 2^x that fits in 22?

$$\begin{aligned}
 2^0 &= 1 \\
 2^1 &= 2 \\
 2^2 &= 4 \\
 2^3 &= 8 \\
 \leftarrow 2^4 &= 16 \rightarrow \\
 2^5 &= 32
 \end{aligned}$$

Place a 1 in that spot

1	0	0	0	0
2^4	2^3	2^2	2^1	2^0
16	8	4	2	1

Subtract: $22 - 16 = 6$

We have 6 left over

What is largest 2^x that fits in 6?

$$\begin{aligned}
 2^0 &= 1 \\
 2^1 &= 2 \\
 \leftarrow 2^2 &= 4 \rightarrow \\
 2^3 &= 8 \\
 2^4 &= 16 \\
 2^5 &= 32
 \end{aligned}$$

Place a 1 in that spot

1	0	1	0	0
2^4	2^3	2^2	2^1	2^0
16	8	4	2	1

Subtract: $6 - 4 = 2$

We have 2 left over

What is largest 2^x that fits in 2?

$$\begin{aligned}
 2^0 &= 1 \\
 \leftarrow 2^1 &= 2 \rightarrow \\
 2^2 &= 4 \\
 2^3 &= 8 \\
 2^4 &= 16 \\
 2^5 &= 32
 \end{aligned}$$

Place a 1 in that spot

1	0	1	1	0
2^4	2^3	2^2	2^1	2^0
16	8	4	2	1

Subtract: $2 - 2 = 0$
We're done!

Decoding Binary Music

Decode the secret messages in the music!

Part 1: Fill in the table

Decimal Number	Binary Number				
	2^4	2^3	2^2	2^1	2^0
	16	8	4	2	1
0	0	0	0	0	0
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8	0	1	0	0	0
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22	1	0	1	1	0
23					
24					
25					
26					

Part 2: Decode the messages

1) Go to the following website:

<https://estemestemsquad.weebly.com/computer-science.html>

2) Click song (example: "Song 1") to decode

3) Transcribe song in chunks of 5 notes

High note \Rightarrow 1

Low note \Rightarrow 0

Example: high-low-high-high-low \Rightarrow 10110

4) Convert binary numbers to decimal numbers using your table (on the left)

Example: 10110 \Rightarrow 22

5) Decode decimal number using key (below)

Example: 22 \Rightarrow V

6) Write down the secret messages!

Decoding Key

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
space	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Binary joke: There are 10 kinds of people in the world: those who understand binary and those who don't.