

## The Chinese - Japanese verbal system

The number that we express with the numeral 35,437,110 is written (in words): thirty-five million, four hundred thirty-seven thousand, one hundred ten. Notice that the commas in the numeral give us important clues about how it should be written. The first group (from the right) represents *ones*, the next *thousands* and the last *millions*.

The Chinese and Japanese use almost the same numeral to represent this number: 3543,7110. The only difference is that they use commas to mark off digits in groups of four. The first group (from the right) represents ones, and the next group represents ten-thousands. Thus if we were to translate the Chinese words describing this number into English, the result would be: three thousand five hundred forty-three ten thousand, seven thousand one hundred ten.

The chart on the last page gives the symbols for each word needed in writing the names of numbers. Remember that in the Chinese written language, characters (symbols) are used for entire words.

**Example 1:** The number we call fifty-three would be translated as "five ten three" using the characters for five, for ten and for three:

五十三

is equivalent to fifty-three.

**Example 2:** The Chinese written form of our numeral 5,625 would be:

五千六百二十五

as five thousand six hundred two ten five. Thus

$$\text{五千六百二十五} = 5(1000) + 6(100) + 2(10) + 5 = 5625.$$

**Example 3:** The Chinese written form of the number 35,437,110 is:

三千五百四十三萬七千一百十

Notice that just as in English, the Chinese say one hundred but *not* one ten.

1. What number does each of the following represent ?

a. 二十七

b. 四百三十九

c. 三千五十

d. 六百萬

2. Write each of the following in the Chinese - Japanese system:

a. 87

b. 126

c. 710

d. 4,039

3. Write each of the following in the Chinese - Japanese system:

a. 62,730

b. 3,254,070

一

One

五

Five

九

Nine

萬

Ten-thousand

二

Two

六

Six

十

Ten

億

Hundred-million

三

Three

七

Seven

百

Hundred

四

Four

八

Eight

千

Thousand