The ancient Egyptian number system is very old, dating back to before 3000 BC. They carried on using the system to the first century BC, but gradually it was replaced by other systems.

They had a simple line to mean one, like us, but instead of a new symbol for two, they used two lines. There were three lines for three, four lines for four, and so on, up to nine lines for nine.

By now, there were rather a lot of lines ! So they introduced a new symbol for ten. Then they carried on adding lines for units and ten symbols for ten, until they got to a hundred, which needed a new symbol.

One thousand, three hundred and two

Ten thousand and forty seven

Two million, three hundred and eleven thousand and twenty one

1. Using the three examples, find out the value of each symbol.

2. Write down the following Egyptian numbers in English.

3. Write down the following numbers in the Egyptian number system.

   Four hundred and twenty six / Five hundred and twenty seven / Twelve thousand, three hundred and fifteen / One million, two hundred and thirty four thousand.