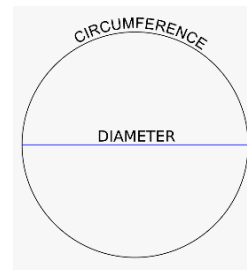


π 100 Digits of Pi

What is Pi? (pronounced “pie”). **Pi** is an infinite decimal—a universal, irrational and transcendental number. **Pi** appears over and over in nature, math, and in human devices. **Pi** is a mysterious and elegant representation of a profound calculation. **Pi** is useful for all kinds of calculations involving volume and surface areas of spheres, and in figuring out the rotations of circular objects such as wheels. Without pi, we could not predict the weather, track cargo ships, or even use maps on a mobile phone.

The symbol for **pi** is **π**, a Greek letter.

How is Pi calculated? Draw a circle, then draw a line straight across the center of the circle (**the diameter**). If the line equals **1**, all the way around the circle (**the circumference**) is equal to **3.14159...** the number known as **pi**. **π** always starts with 3. It is followed by an endless number of digits in a specific order. 62.8 trillion digits have been calculated so far.



How many digits of Pi can you memorize in Latin? Is this practical? Helpful for communication? Useful in any way? No, not really. But it is: **1)** a fun challenge and, **2)** if you're not yet fluent with the numbers 0-9 in Latin, memorizing digits of pi can help. **3)** It is impressive when you can memorize so many numbers—not many people can do that. **4)** It's a good brain workout and, **5)** it can be helpful for pronunciation too—and those have all got to be worth something!

The word “point” in Latin is *punctum*.

The contest. Every student will get a mini pie for memorizing at least 20 digits of **pi** in Latin (and this includes students that are not even in our Latin classes!). The contest will be on or near Pi Day: March 14 (3/14). Most adults know only three digits of **pi** in English (3.14), so it will be impressive no matter how many you get. The student or students who say at least **50 digits** correctly will get a full-sized pie! Seriously. Effort and achievement should be rewarded. The winners get to choose the type of pie they want. But don't stop there, go for 100 digits!

10 digits: **3 . 1 4 1 5 9 2 6 5 3**

tres punctum unum quattuor unum quinque novem duo sex quinque tres

20 digits: **5 8 9 7 9 3 2 3 8 4**

30 digits: **6 2 6 4 3 3 8 3 2 7**

40 digits: **9 5 0 2 8 8 4 1 9 7**

50 digits: **1 6 9 3 9 9 3 7 5 1**

60 digits: **0 5 8 2 0 9 7 4 9 4**

70 digits: **4 5 9 2 3 0 7 8 1 6**

80 digits: **4 0 6 2 8 6 2 0 8 9**

90 digits: **9 8 6 2 8 0 3 4 8 2**

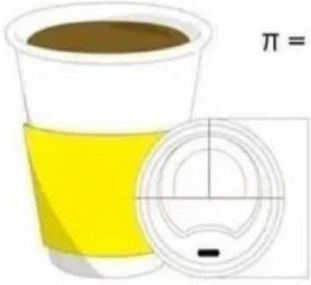
100 digits: **5 3 4 2 1 1 7 0 6 7**

This seems irrational...



May I have a large container of coffee?

3. 1 4 1 5 9 2 6



$\pi = 3.1415926$

Area = πr^2
Circumference = πd

Pi Day (March 14) is popular in science and math classes and it can be fun in language classes too.

Students are challenged to memorize digits of π in the target language. 20 is a good goal. There will always be students that get 50 or even 100. Is this useful for communication? Not really. Impressive? Yes. Fun? Also yes. Then we eat pie.

Plus, almost zero class time (except eating pie).

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Here is a NASA website about Pi Day activities:

<https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/news/2016/3/16/how-many-decimals-of-pi-do-we-really-need>

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How many π digits do we need?

3.1415 ➡ design the finest engines

3.1415926535 ➡ obtain the circumference of the Earth within a fraction of an inch

3.1415926535897932384626433832795028842 ➡ measure the radius of the universe to an accuracy equal to the size of a hydrogen atom

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