

Christianity [edit]

- The significance is especially pronounced in the **Hebrew Bible**.

Ishmael - the first-born son of **Abraham** - has 12 sons/princes (**Genesis 25:16**), and **Jacob** also has 12 sons, who are the progenitors of the **Twelve Tribes of Israel**.^[13] This is reflected in Christian tradition, notably in the **Twelve Apostles**. When **Judas Iscariot** is disgraced, a meeting is held (**Acts**) to add **Saint Matthias** to complete the number twelve once more. The **Book of Revelation** contains much numerical symbolism, and many of the numbers mentioned have 12 as a divisor. **12:1**^{*d*} mentions a woman—interpreted as the **people of Israel**, the **Church** and the **Virgin Mary**—wearing a crown of twelve stars (representing each of the twelve tribes of Israel). Furthermore, there are 12,000 people sealed from each of the twelve tribes of Israel, making a total of **144,000** (which is the square of 12 multiplied by a thousand).

- The "**Twelve Days of Christmas**" count the interval between **Christmas** and **Epiphany**. Eastern Orthodoxy observes twelve **Great Feasts**.
- The number of twelve jurors in **jury trials** is depicted by **Aeschylus** in the ***Eumenides***. In the play, the innovation is brought about by the goddess **Athena**, who summons twelve citizens to sit as jury.

In English Common Law, the tradition of twelve jurors harks back to the 10th-century law code introduced by **Aethelred the Unready**.

Hinduism [edit]

- There are twelve **Jyotirlinga**(*Self-formed Lingas*) of Lord **Shiva** in Hindu temples across **India** according to the Shaiva tradition.
- The Sun god **Surya** has 12 names.
- There are 12 Petals in **Anahata** or "heart chakra".
- There are frequently said to be 12 **Ādityas**.

Others [edit]

- The chief Norse god, **Odin**, has twelve sons.

In the King Arthur Legend, Arthur is said to subdue 12 rebel princes and to win 12 great battles against Saxon invaders.^[14]

In Twelver Shi'a Islam, there are twelve Imams, legitimate successors of the Islamic prophet, **Muhammad**. These twelve early leaders of Islam are—**Ali**, **Hasan**, **Husayn**, and nine of Husayn's descendants. Sura 12 in the **Quran** is sura **Yusuf**, narrating the story of the sons of **Jacob**.

Timekeeping [edit]

- The **lunar year** is 12 **lunar months**. Adding 11 or 12 days completes the **solar year**.^[15]
- Most **calendar systems** - solar or lunar - have twelve months in a **year**.
- The Chinese use a 12-year cycle for time-reckoning called **Earthly Branches**.
- There are twelve **hours** in a half day, numbered one to twelve for both the *ante meridiem* (a.m.) and the *post meridiem* (p.m.). 12:00 p.m. is **midday** or **noon**, and 12:00 a.m. is **midnight**.
- The basic units of time (60 seconds, 60 minutes, 24 hours) are evenly divisible by twelve into smaller units.

In numeral systems [edit]

١٢	Arabic	𑄎𑄓	Khmer	ԺԲ	Armenian
১২	Bangla	ΔΙΙ	Attic Greek		
כ"ב	Hebrew	𐤍𐤁	Egyptian		
१२	Indian and Nepali (Devanāgarī)	十二	Chinese and Japanese		
௧௨	Tamil	XII	Roman and Etruscan		
๑๒	Thai	IIᨃ᩠ᨦ᩵ᩁᩬ᩵	Chuvash		
౧౨	Telugu	۱۲	Urdu		
ΙΒ´	Ionian Greek	𐌆𐌒	Malayalam		

In science [edit]

- The atomic number of **magnesium** in the **periodic table**.
- The **Standard Model** identifies twelve types of elementary **fermions**.
- The human body has twelve **cranial nerves**.
- The **duodenum** (from Latin *duodecim*, "twelve") is the first part of the **small intestine**, that is about twelve inches (30 cm) long. More precisely, this section of the intestine was measured not in inches but in **fingerwidths**. In fact, in **German** the name of the duodenum is *Zwölffingerdarm* and in **Dutch** the name is *twaalfvingerige darm*, both meaning "twelve-finger bowel".
- Force 12 on the **Beaufort wind force scale** corresponds to the maximum wind speed of a hurricane.

In sports [edit]

- In both **soccer** and **American football**, the number 12 can be a symbolic reference to the **fans** because of the support they give to the 11 players on the field. **Texas A&M University** reserves the number 12 **jersey** for a walk-on player who represents the original "**12th Man**", a fan who was asked to play when the team's reserves were low in a college **American football** game in 1922. Similarly, **Bayern Munich**, **Hammarby**, **Feyenoord**, **Atlético Mineiro**, **Flamengo**, **Seattle Seahawks**, **Portsmouth** and **Cork City** do not allow field players to wear the number 12 on their jersey because it is reserved for their supporters.
- In **Canadian football**, 12 is the maximum number of players that can be on the field of play for each team at any time.
- In **cricket**, another sport with eleven players per team, teams may select a "12th man", who may replace an injured player for the purpose of fielding (but not batting or bowling).
- In **women's lacrosse**, each team has 12 players on the field at any given time, except in penalty situations.
- In **rugby league**, one of the starting second-row forwards wears the number 12 jersey in most competitions. An exception is in the **Super League**, which uses static squad numbering.
- In **rugby union**, one of the starting centres, most often but not always the inside centre, wears the 12 shirt.
- In an **NBA** game, a quarter lasts 12 minutes.

In technology [edit]

- ASCII** and **Unicode** code point for **form feed**.
- The number of **function keys** on most PC keyboards (F1 through F12).
- The number of keys in any standard digital telephone (1 through 9, 0, * and #).
- Microsoft's **Rich Text Format** specification assigns numbers congruent to 12 mod 256 to variants of the **French language**.

In the arts [edit]

Film [edit]

Movies with the number twelve or its variations in their titles include:

- 12*
- 12 Angry Men* (1957 and 1997)
- Cheaper by the Dozen*
- Ocean's Twelve*
- 12 Monkeys*
- The Dirty Dozen*
- The Twelve Chairs* (1970, 1971 and 1976)
- 12 Rounds*
- Twelve*
- Twelve Years a Slave*

Television [edit]

- The number twelve plays a significant role in the television franchise ***Battlestar Galactica***. The characters come from the **Twelve Colonies** of **Kobol** and worship the twelve lords of Kobol. In the re-imagined series, there are also twelve models of the humanoid version of *Cylons*.
- Twelve Angry Men*, the original 1954 live performance on the anthology television series ***Studio One***
- "Number 12 Looks Just Like You" is an episode of the television show ***The Twilight Zone***.
- Schoolhouse Rock!* portrayed an alien child using **base-twelve** arithmetic in the short "Little Twelvetoos"^{*Ⓕ*}.
- 12 oz. Mouse* was an animated television show on **Adult Swim**.
- The **News 12 Networks** are a group of American regional cable news television channels covering New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.
- Les 12 Coups de Midi***^[*v*] is a French game show broadcast on TF1 with Oliver Minne at midday.

Theatre [edit]

- Twelfth Night* is a comedy by **William Shakespeare**.
- The Vision of the Twelve Goddesses* is a Jacobean masque by **Samuel Daniel**.
- Twelve Angry Men*, by **Reginald Rose**, adapted from his own teleplay (see above).

Literature [edit]

- The Twelve* is a poem by **Aleksandr Blok**.
- Twelve* is a novel by **Nick McDonell**.
- The Twelve Chairs* is a satirical novel by the Soviet authors **Ilf** and **Petrov**.
- Cheaper by the Dozen* is a 1946 novel by **Frank Bunker Gilbreth, Jr.** and **Ernestine Gilbreth Carey**.
- The Twelve Dancing Princesses* is a folk tale.

- The *Aeneid*, an epic poem by *Virgil* is divided into two halves composed of twelve books.
- *Paradise Lost*, an epic poem by *John Milton* is divided into twelve books perhaps in imitation of the *Aeneid*.
- *Miguel de Cervantes* wrote twelve *Novelas ejemplares*.

Music [edit]

Music theory [edit]

- Twelve is the number of *pitch classes* in an *octave*, not counting the duplicated (octave) pitch. Also, the total number of *major keys*, (not counting *enharmonic* equivalents) and the total number of *minor keys* (also not counting equivalents). This applies only to twelve tone *equal temperament*, the most common tuning used today in western influenced music.
- The *twelfth* is the *interval* of an octave and a fifth. Instruments such as the *clarinet* which behave as a stopped cylindrical pipe *overblow* at the twelfth.
- The *twelve-tone technique* (also dodecaphony) is a method of *musical composition* devised by *Arnold Schoenberg*. Music using the technique is called twelve-tone music.
- The *Twelve-bar blues* is one of the most prominent chord progressions in popular music.
- 12-inch record, see *Phonograph record#78 rpm disc sizes*.

Pop music [edit]

Main article: 12 (disambiguation) § Music

- The *12-inch single* is a vinyl record format.
- *Twelfth Night* is a progressive rock band.
- *12 Play* is an R. Kelly album.
- The Number 12 Looks Like You is a mathcore band.
- "12", a Song from the album *Brave Murder Day* by Katatonia.
- *12* is a studio album by German singer Herbert Grönemeyer.
- *Twelve* is an album by Patti Smith.
- *Twelve Deadly Cyans...and Then Some* is an album by Cyndi Lauper.
- D12 a rap group also known as the Dirty Dozen.
- 12 Stones is an American Christian rock band.
- "12 Hundred" is a song by band Mushroomhead of their *Savior Sorrow* album.
- *12* is the 12th studio album by Keller Williams.
- "12" ("Dodeka" in Greek) is one of the most well-known hits by Anna Vissi.
- "Twelve drummers drumming" is the gift on the twelfth day of Christmas in the carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas".
- *Twelve Girls Band* are an all female Chinese musical group .
- *12 (American Song Book)* is an album by Italian singer Mina.
- *Revelation #12* is a song by American rock band Marilyn Manson.

Art theory [edit]

- There are twelve basic *hues* in the *color wheel*; 3 primary colors (red, yellow, blue), 3 secondary colors (orange, green & purple) and 6 tertiary colors (names for these vary, but are intermediates between the primaries and secondaries).

Games [edit]

- In the game of *craps*, a dice roll of two sixes (value 12) on the come-out roll constitutes a "craps" and the shooter (dice thrower) loses immediately.
- *Twelve* is a character in the *Street Fighter* video game series.

In other fields [edit]

- There are 12 troy ounces in a *troy pound* (used for precious metals).
- In the former *British currency system*, there were twelve *pence* in a *shilling*.
- In *Greek mythology*, the number of *Labours of Heracles* was increased from ten to make twelve.
- In English, twelve is the number of greatest magnitude that has just one *syllable*.
- There are normally twelve pairs of *ribs* in the human body.
- The *Twelve Tables* or *Lex Duodecim Tabularum*, more informally simply *Duodecim Tabulae* was the ancient *legislation* underlying *Roman law*.
- In the *United States*, twelve people are appointed to sit on a *jury* for felony trials in all but four states, and in federal and *Washington, D.C.* courts. The number of jurors gave the title to the play (and subsequent films) *Twelve Angry Men*.
- Twelve people have *walked on Earth's moon*.
- The *United States of America* is divided into twelve *Federal Reserve Districts* (Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Richmond, Atlanta, Chicago, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Dallas, and San Francisco); American paper currency has serial numbers beginning with one of twelve different letters, A through L, representing the Federal Reserve Bank from which the currency originated.
- According to *UFO conspiracy theory*, *Majestic 12* is a secret committee, allegedly set up by U.S. President *Harry S. Truman* to investigate the *Roswell UFO incident* and cover up future extraterrestrial contact.
- 12 is the number of the French department *Aveyron*.
- *King Arthur's round table* had 12 *knight*s plus King Arthur himself.
- 12 *inches* in a foot.
- *Alcoholics Anonymous* has 12 steps, 12 traditions and 12 concepts for world service.
- *Wilhelm Heinrich Schüßler* developed a list of 12 biochemical cell salts, also known as tissue salts.

See also [edit]

- *The Twelfth*

Notes [edit]

- ↑ Specially, a passage referring to *Judas Iscariot* as "one of the twelve" (an of ðæm tuelfum).^[4]

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- ↑ John 6:71.
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- ↑ Weinreich, Th., "Zwölfgötter", *Austürliches Lexikon der Griechischen und Römischen Mythologie*, Vol. VI, col. 764-848.
- ↑ "And it is thought that there is a special significance in the number twelve. It was typified, we know, by many things in the Old Testament ; by the twelve sons of Jacob, by the twelve princes of the children of Israel, by the twelve fountains in Elim, by the twelve stones in Aaron's breast-plate, by the twelve loaves of the show-bread, by the twelve spies sent by Moses, by the twelve stones of which the altar was made, by the twelve stones taken out of Jordan, by the twelve oxen which bare" P. Young, *Daily readings for a year* (1863), p. 150*g*.
- ↑ *Benet's Reader's Encyclopedia*, 3d ed.
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	50 · 51 · 52 · 53 · 54 · 55 · 56 · 57 · 58 · 59	
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