“How do I add page numbering in Word?”

Page numbers are useful for reference purposes, and also for keeping pages in order when printed. You can insert page numbers to appear automatically at a specified point on every page in your Word document: in the header (top of the page), footer (bottom of the page), or margins (left or right of the page).

Inserting page numbers

1. Click the Insert tab, then click Page Number.
2. Select your choice of location and format e.g. Bottom of Page > Plain Number 2.
3. This will open the document header and footer area for editing.
4. To close the header and footer area again, on the Header & Footer Tools Design tab, click Close Header and Footer.

Note - You can double-click the top or bottom of a page to open the header and footer for further editing.

Removing page numbers

You can remove page numbers by clicking the Insert tab, Page Number and selecting Remove Page Numbers from the drop-down list.

Formatting page numbers

Once you have inserted page numbers, you can change how they appear within your document.
1. Double-click at the top or bottom of a page to open the header or footer area.
2. Click the Header & Footer Tools Design tab, then click Page Number.
3. Click Format Page Numbers...
4. For Number format: select your choice and click OK.
5. Click Close Header and Footer.

Creating different page number formats within a document

If you are writing a thesis you may wish to use different page number formats within your document, for example Roman numerals for the introductory pages (Table of Contents, Table of Figures, etc), followed by Arabic numerals for the body of the document. You can achieve this using section breaks, as described in our guide: “I want to use different page number formats within the same Word document. Is this possible?”

Further information and help

If you want to learn about any Microsoft product in more detail you can use Microsoft’s Office Support for tutorials, videos and helpful hints.

- For essay formatting requirements, e.g. margins and line spacing, please check with your School.
- Within Word, click the question mark (top right) at any time for help. Search for keywords, e.g. footer.
- You can also use MyIT to log calls with the University’s IT Service Desk: https://myit.abdn.ac.uk