Roman Numerals

Even after the introduction of Arabic numerals, which we are accustomed to today, Roman numerals were commonly used throughout Europe's Early Modern period. The basic principles of them, which we are covering today, are easy once you've gotten the hang of it! Let's start with the most common numerals/units:

I = 1	**C = 100**
V = 5	**D = 500**
X = 10	**M = 1000**
L = 50	

When the numerals appear *large* to *small*, you add them together. For example:

VI → 5 + 1 = **6**　　　　　　**CCLV** → 100 + 100 + 50 + 5 = **255**

XVIII → 10 + 5 + 1 + 1 + 1 = **18**　　　**DCXI** → 500 + 100 + 10 + 1 = **611**

LXXI → 50 + 10 + 10 + 1 = **71**　　**MDLXVII** → 1000 + 500 + 50 + 10 + 1 + 1 = **1562**

When the numerals appear *small* to *large*, you subtract the first numeral *from* the second before adding the rest of the sequence. For example:

IV → V - I → 5 - 1 = **4**

IX → X - I → 10 - 1 = **9**

XLIII → (L - X) + I + I + I → 40 + 1 + 1 +1 = **43**

XCVII → (C - X) + V + I + I → 90 + 5 +1 + 1 = **97**

CDXIV → (D - C) + X + (V - I) → 400 + 10 + 4 = **414**

And now you know how to read Roman numerals!