

Formatting multi-digit fractional numbers

It so happens that the order of writing fractional numbers is not the same in different countries. In Europe, the number 1,234 is for one whole two hundred thirty-four thousandths. However, in the United States, the same number is for one thousand two hundred thirty-four.

And the number one whole two hundred thirty-four thousandths in the USA would be written like this: 1.234.

In Europe, a comma separates the whole part from the fractional part, while in the United States, a dot is used for this purpose.

Multi-digit numbers are usually divided into groups (classes) of three digits each. However, there are differences in the way these classes are formatted. In Europe, these classes are separated by spaces. In USA, they are separated by commas. In Switzerland, they are separated by apostrophes. Here is how the same number is formatted in different countries:

123 456 789,123 Europe

123,456,789.123 USA

123'456'789,123 Switzerland

The top marker for dividing a large number into groups is sometimes found in calculators. It looks like an inch sign, but there is no inch sign on the keyboard. Instead, there is an apostrophe, which is located on the [" '] key and can be entered with pressing the Alt key. This symbol is apparently used in Switzerland.

India has its own approach to dividing numbers into groups. Here's how they do it: 12,34,56,789.123.

There are attempts to standardize the writing of such numbers, and these rules are outlined in the ISO 8000-1:2009 document. However, habits and traditions are stronger than any supposedly correct advice. Problems arise when it is important to convert numbers from one

format to another. You can't make a mistake, and there may not be enough time to understand the nuances of another approach to writing large numbers. Additionally, not everyone is interested in this. Therefore, a converter from one format to another has been created.

Select the text to process

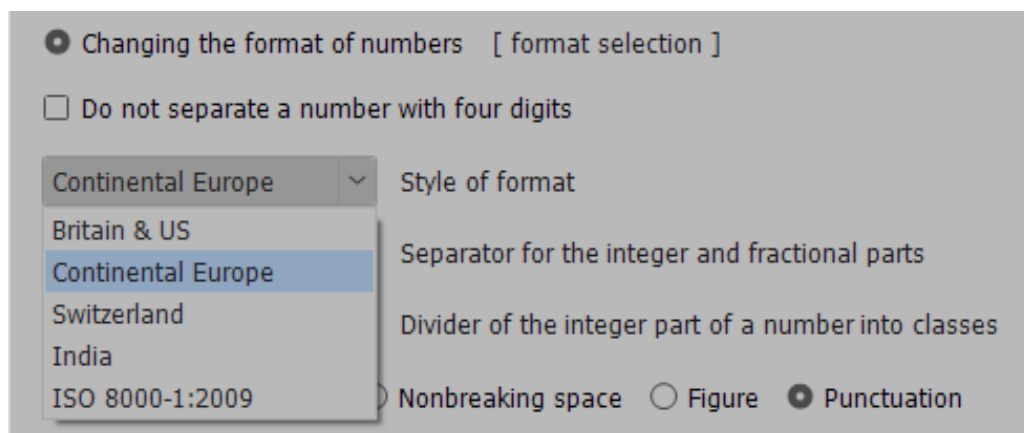
You need to select the text with numbers, and all the numbers should be completely included in the selection. Then, in the drop-down menu, select the option that indicates how the whole part is separated from the fractional part.

It is obvious that all fractional numbers in the selection must have the same sign separating the whole and fractional parts. After that, you must click the button **The formatting settings for selected text are defined**.

All signs separating the fractional and whole parts will be replaced with @. If there were group separators in the selection, they will disappear. After that, the radiobutton block **Changing the format of numbers** will become active.

Changing the format of the representation of numbers

In the drop-down menu, select one of the options for formatting fractional numbers.



After selection, the @ signs will be replaced with the integer-and-fraction separator used in this formatting standard.

The fields **Separator for the integer and fractional parts** and **Divider of the integer part of a number into classes** display information about which separator is used in each case.

When you select a style of format, the processing status [**format selection**] will appear to the right of the radio button.

After that, click the **Change the format** button. The number format will change, and the processing status will be [**the format has been changed**].

For the **Continental Europe** and **ISO 8000-1:2009** options, you can specify the printing space to use. The default option is thin space. If the **Do not separate a number with four digits** checkbox is selected or deselected, or if a different printing space is selected, all separators between digit groups in the selected text are removed, and the separator between the integer and fractional parts will match the selected formatting standard.

*When changing the selection area or to view the available numbers in the current selection in another option, select the radio button **Select the text to process** and determine again which separator is used for the whole and fractional parts.*

If the script's output does not match your expectations, you can use the Ctrl+Z keys to revert the layout to its previous state before processing.

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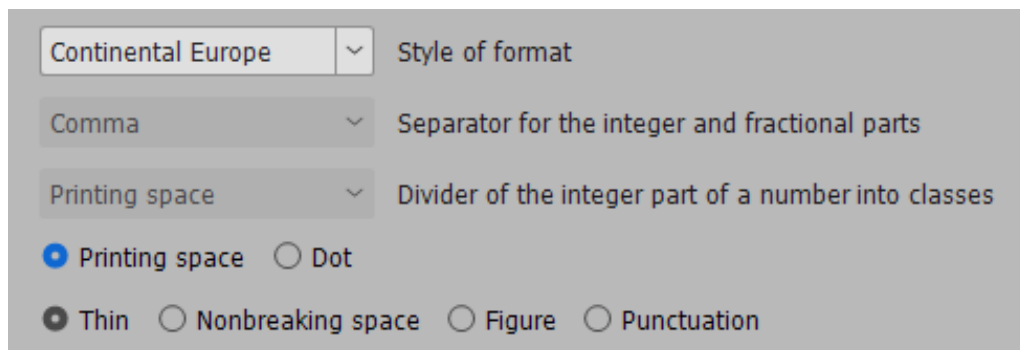
<https://shop.dotextok.ru/en/> | dotextok@gmail.com



Update 30.05.2026

It turned out that there is another way to write such numbers. Dots are used as separators for groups of numbers: 123.456.789,123

This format can be found in Germany and Greece, which means that it is also a European format. To enable the use of this format in the script for the **Continental Europe** option, radiobuttons for selecting the separator have been added.



Continental Europe Style of format

Comma Separator for the integer and fractional parts

Printing space Divider of the integer part of a number into classes

Printing space Dot

Thin Nonbreaking space Figure Punctuation

If the **Printing space** option is selected, the group separator will be the selected printing space. If the **Dot** option is selected, the groups will be separated by dots. If the **ISO 8000-1:2009** option is selected, the printing space option will be selected, and the dot option will not be available.

Update 03.06.2026

The script changes the format of numbers in regular text, but there are also footnotes in the files, both regular and endnotes. And there are tables. And there may also be numbers.

The first version of the script with numbers in the tables didn't work. This is a significant reason to improve it.

The appearance of the working window has not changed, but the order of working with text has changed. Now, the conversion of the user-specified separator between the integer and fractional parts to the @ symbol is performed after clicking the **Change the format** button, and this temporary replacement may not always be visible.

The script now processes numbers everywhere. To process a table, you must either select the entire table or select the desired cells. You cannot select part of a cell; the program will prompt you to select the entire cell.

Numbers in footnotes should be processed separately; its are not processed with the main text.

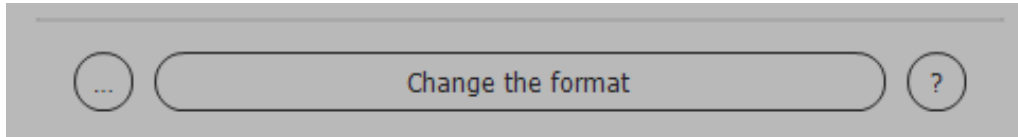
* * *

In the CS6 version, the status of the selected style of format is sometimes not remembered. It helps to select the checkbox **Do not separate a number with four digits**. After that, the style format options are applied correctly.



Update 04.06.2026

The window size is not small. And this prevents you from viewing the results of the program. Therefore, a button [...] has been added to minimize the working window without stopping the script.



After minimizing, the restore working window button will appear. This button should be moved to the edge of the screen so that it does not interfere.

Reflections on using the script

The script is not intended to automatically replace the formatting in the entire document, but to facilitate text processing. If you start processing the entire story without looking, you can create new problems: there is a high probability that unnecessary separators will appear in the year indication, if it is written in four digits, or in the ISBN number entries.

An appreciative look is absolutely necessary. The script simply speeds up the change of the design of the numbers in the selected areas. It speeds up very noticeably. But it's up to the layout designer to choose these areas. Do it with understanding. Select individual parts of the text and process its.

Not make a mistake in specifying the separator

If you have the number 12.34, and you specify that the separator in the number is a *comma*, then you will get 1,234 as a result if you convert to the US format. Or 1 234, if in the European format. Both options are wrong, but this is not a script error, but a user error.

The script would have left a comma between the digits, but it didn't find it. And the dot has been removed as a separator between groups of digits.

If you have the number 12,34, and you specify that the separator in the number is a *dot*, this will also cause an incorrect result.