



| | 3200 BCE | 3000 BCE | 2400 BCE | 1000 BCE |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| sag 'head' | | | | |
| gin 'to walk' | | | | |
| šu 'hand' | | | | |
| še 'barley' | | | | |
| ninda 'bread' | | | | |
| a 'water' | | | | |
| ud 'day' | | | | |
| mušen 'bird' | | | | |

In the basic sexagesimal system used for counting most discrete objects, a single object, a sheep or cow or fish, is denoted by a small cone. Ten cones equaled one small circle, six small circles equaled one big cone, ten big cones equaled a big cone with a circle inside it, six of those was a large circle and ten large circles was given by a large circle with a small circle inside. This last unit was then worth $10 \times 6 \times 10 \times 6 \times 10 = 36000$ base units. Note that the circle and "cone-shape" could be easily made by a stylus pressing on the clay, either vertically for the circle or at an angle for the cone.



numbers 2 through 9 were written by combining multiples of a single stroke:



The number 10 was written in a single character and the numbers 20 to 50 were written with multiples of this character:

