



History of "73"

The first authentic use of 73 was in the publication "The National Telegraphic Review and Operators' Guide", first published in 1857. At that time, 73 meant "My love to you"!

Within a short time, the use of 73 began to change.

In 1859, the Western Union Company set up the standard "92 Code." A list of numerals from 1 to 92 was compiled to indicate a series of prepared phrases for use by the operators on the wires. Here, in the 92 Code, 73 changes to a very flowery "accept my compliments", which was in keeping with the florid language of that era.

Over the years from 1859 to 1900, many manuals of telegraphy show variations of this meaning. The Twentieth Century Manual of Railways and Commercial Telegraphy defines it two ways, one listing as "my compliments to you"; but in the glossary of abbreviations it is merely "compliments". By 1908, however, a later edition of the Dodge Manual gives us today's definition of "best regards" with a backward look at the older meanings.

It is simply spoken 73 (Never Plural)

Below are some incorrect examples including the math

70 - 3's	Why not just say "210"?
7 - 3's	Why not just say "21"?
7 - 1/3rd's	Why not just say "2.3333331"?
70 - 1/3rd's	Why not just say "23.333331"?

Take pride & sound professional on the air!