

TELLING TIME

Vocabulary

time – a particular moment during a day (measured on a clock)

second – an extremely short period of time that is one of the 60 parts in a minute

minute – a period of 60 seconds; there are 60 minutes in one hour

hour – a unit for measuring time; there are 60 minutes in one hour, and 24 hours in one day

day – one of the periods of time that a week is divided into (equal to 24 hours)

sunrise/dawn – the time when the sun first appears in the morning

morning – the early part of the day, from when the sun rises until 12 o'clock in the middle of the day

noon/midday – twelve o'clock in the middle of the day

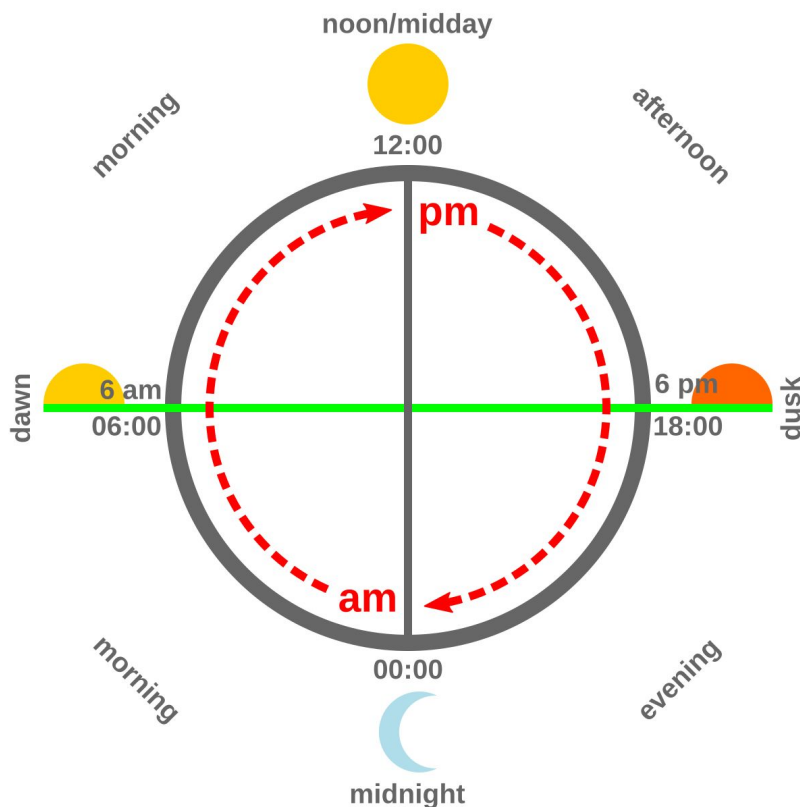
afternoon – the period of time between the middle of the day and the beginning of the evening

evening – the part of the day between the end of the afternoon and night, including the time when the sun goes down

sunset/dusk – the time in the evening when the sun goes down below the horizon and night begins

midnight – twelve o'clock at night

night – the part of each 24-hour period when it is dark



AM/am/a.m. (antemeridian) – before noon (starts right after midnight)
PM/pm/p.m. (post-meridiem) – afternoon (start right after midday)
o'clock – used to specify the hour when telling the time (used when there are no minutes)

It's ... o'clock.

It's five to ... **It's five past ...**
It's ten to ... **It's ten past ...**
It's (a) quarter to ... **It's (a) quarter past ...**
It's twenty to ... **It's twenty past ...**
It's twenty-five to ... **It's twenty-five past ...**
It's half past ...



12-hour clock	24-hour clock	Time
8 am	08:00	It's eight (o'clock)./It's eight am./It's eight in the morning.
10.13 am	10:13	It's thirteen past ten.
11.30 am	11:30	It's half-past eleven./It's eleven-thirty.
6.45 pm	18:45	It's (a) quarter to seven./It's six forty-five.

mutual – held in common by two or more people, parties, etc.
foodie – someone who enjoys eating or cooking different types of food and who talks a lot about food
silly – not serious, important, or practical
argument – a discussion or debate between people with different views, opinions, etc.
attire – the clothes that someone is wearing
newsfeed – an electronic transmission of news, as from a broadcaster or an Internet newsgroup
apparently – as far as one knows or can see
humiliating – making you feel very embarrassed and ashamed
somewhat – to some degree but not to a large degree

Verbs

to go out – to leave your house and go somewhere, especially to do something enjoyable

to revolve around someone/something – to have something as a very important part or purpose

to pick someone up – to let someone get into your vehicle and take them somewhere

to head off to (somewhere) – to leave to go to another place

to be up to something – to be occupied with, especially devising or scheming

to catch up (with someone) – to talk to someone you have not seen for some time and find out what they have been doing

to hang out (with someone) – to spend a lot of time in a particular place or with particular people

to stare at someone/something – to look at something or someone for a long time without moving your eyes

to giggle – to laugh quickly, quietly, and in a high voice, because something is funny or because you are nervous or embarrassed

to scroll through – move the text on a computer or phone screen up or down to find the information that you need

to storm off – to leave angrily

Phrases

to ask the time – to request someone to tell you the current time

to tell the time – to give information regarding the current time

to make it up to someone – to compensate for a previous (in)action

to make time for – to set aside a period of time to accommodate someone or something

to be in a hurry – to have very little time to do something or be somewhere OR to be very busy or rushed

to waste time – not to make good or full use of available time

to wrap things up – to finish a task, meeting, etc.

At 8 am sharp. – exactly at 8 am

to have the time of one's life – to have a highly pleasurable experience

I'll catch you some other time. – used to say that you will talk to someone later when it is more convenient for either of you

to hit the road – used to say that it is time to depart

I've been dying to tell you. – wanting to tell something so much that you do not want to wait

to skip (an occasion) – not to attend an occasion

Grammar Corner

We use the following structures when we ask/tell the time.

e.g. What time is it? – It's eleven (o'clock).

What's the time? – It is seventeen to three.

We use the preposition *at* when stating the time of a specific event.

e.g. Are we meeting at 5 (o'clock) today?

Jane is leaving at twenty to seven.

We use the preposition *in* for periods of the day. However, we use *at* with the word "night".

e.g. I'm not going to do laundry in the morning.

We'll probably meet up some time in the afternoon.

What do you do in the evenings?

Dave works on his project at nights.

Real Life Situations

(P1 – Person 1, P2 – Person 2)

Telling the Time (1)

P1: What time is it?

P2: It's 7 pm.

some time later

P1: What time is it now?

P2: It's 10 minutes past 7. Why?

P1: I've been sitting here and wondering why we are at home on Friday night.

P2: Honey, I've told you that I have work to do. I'll make it up to you this weekend.

P1: It's not about that. We just don't seem to make time for each other lately.

P2: That's not true. Remember last Saturday? We had dinner at 9 pm at this lovely Italian place. Or Tuesday noon – we had lunch together at 1 pm.

P1: Is everything revolving around food now?

P2: Well, I thought we are both foodies, it's never been a problem.

P1: What's the time now?

P2: 12 minutes past 7. Are you supposed to be somewhere else? Are you in a hurry?

P1: We wasted 2 minutes on this silly argument. I'm sorry.

P2: That's OK, honey. Give me some time to wrap things up and then we can go out.

P1: I can't wait!

Telling the Time (2)

P1: What time does your flight to Boston leave?

P2: At 8 am sharp.

P1: And what time does the plane land?

P2: Let me check. Ah, yes, I'm landing at 20 minutes to 11.

P1: Is anyone meeting you there?

P2: My friends are supposed to pick me up. I told them to be there at 11 though, don't want to make them wait for me.

P1: It makes sense. And what are your plans for the second half of the day?

P2: We're going to get lunch first and then we'll head off to our mutual friends' place.

P1: What will you be up to?

P2: Just catching up, we haven't seen each other in about 8 months.

P1: That sounds like a long time!

P2: Yeah, I'm really excited to hang out with them. We're always having the time of our lives together.

P1: I'll catch you some other time then. Have a safe flight!

P2: Thanks! Yeah, I'll hit the road now. Don't want to be late.

Just Wow!

P1: Have you heard of Jim's crazy morning story?

P2: No, why?

P1: Awesome! I've been dying to tell someone. So, it was your typical Monday morning. Jim woke up at 7:30 am, scrolled through his newsfeed, then 20 minutes later he had breakfast and left his apartment shortly. He started noticing people staring at him, even giggling.

P2: Did he forget to put on his pants?

P1: No, everything was alright with his pants and overall attire. Jeans, a T-shirt – everything as usual.

P2: OK.

P1: Then he got to work and spent some time answering emails before his 9 am meeting. When he stepped in, everyone was staring at him again.

P2: Something definitely has to do with his pants!

P1: Nice guess, but nope. He was wearing makeup!

P2: What?

P1: Yep, makeup. He was at the party the night before and he fell asleep for a bit. Apparently, his friends thought that it would be funny to make him look "prettier".

P2: Oh my god, this is humiliating.

P1: Pretty funny, I would say! Well, somewhat humiliating too, but he actually got one phone number from a woman on the bus. She thought that he looked cute with his new look.

P2: This can't be true!

P1: It's completely true! As soon as the meeting started, he stormed off to wash his face. He got back to normal at around noon. From now on, he will be skipping parties on Sunday night.