

Telling the Time in English

Level: A1

Asking the time

What time is it?	a question: you want to know the time now	Excuse me, what time is it?
What's the time?	the same question	What's the time , please?
what time	a question about the time of an action	What time does the class start?

O'clock, past and to

o'clock	7:00	It's seven o'clock .
five past	7:05	It's five past seven.
ten past	7:10	The bus comes at ten past seven.
a quarter past	7:15	I get up at a quarter past seven.
twenty past	7:20	It's twenty past seven.
twenty-five past	7:25	It's twenty-five past seven.
half past	7:30	Breakfast is at half past seven.
twenty-five to	7:35	It's twenty-five to eight.
twenty to	7:40	My train is at twenty to eight.
a quarter to	7:45	It's a quarter to eight.
ten to	7:50	School starts at ten to eight.
five to	7:55	It's five to eight. We're late!

Digital times

seven thirty	7:30	I get up at seven thirty .
eight fifteen	8:15	The class starts at eight fifteen .
nine oh five	9:05	The train is at nine oh five .
ten forty-five	10:45	We have a break at ten forty-five .
eleven twenty	11:20	It's eleven twenty .

a.m., p.m., midday and midnight

a.m.	before midday	I get up at 6 a.m. every day.
p.m.	after midday	The shop closes at 8 p.m. on Saturdays.
midday	12:00	We have lunch at midday .
noon	12:00	The class finishes at noon .
midnight	00:00	My brother goes to bed at midnight .

At seven, in the morning

at seven o'clock	at + a time	Dinner is at seven o'clock .
in the morning	☐☐	I have a shower in the morning .
in the afternoon	☐☐	She plays tennis in the afternoon .
in the evening	☐☐	We watch TV in the evening .
at night	☐☐	I read a book at night .

Exercise 1: Match the Times

Match each time with the clock.

- half past eight → _____
- a quarter to four → _____
- ten past two → _____
- twenty-five to six → _____
- five o'clock → _____
- nine forty → _____

2:10 3:45 5:00 5:35 8:30 9:40

Exercise 2: Choose the Correct Time

Choose the correct words for each sentence.

- It's 4:15. It's ____.
a) a quarter to four b) a quarter past four c) half past four
- It's 6:30. It's ____ six.
a) half past b) half to c) a quarter past
- It's 9:50. It's ten ____ ten.
a) past b) to c) at
- The class starts ____ eight o'clock.
a) in b) on c) at
- ____ time is it?
a) What b) When c) Where
- I go to bed at 11 ____ and I get up at 7 a.m.
a) a.m. b) p.m. c) noon
- 12:00 at night is ____.
a) midday b) midnight c) noon

Exercise 3: Fill in the Blank

Type the missing word or words.

14. It's 3:00. It's three ____.
15. It's 7:15. It's ____ past seven.
16. It's 10:40. It's ____ to eleven.
17. It's 5:25. It's ____ past five.
18. ____ do you get up? At half past six.
19. It's 8:30. It's half past eight, or eight ____.
20. Lunch is ____ one o'clock.

Exercise 4: True or False

Decide if each sentence is true or false.

21. 6:45 is 'a quarter to seven'. True / False
22. 'Half past five' is 6:30. True / False
23. 3 p.m. is in the afternoon. True / False

Answer key

Exercise 1: Match the Times

1. half past eight → 8:30
2. a quarter to four → 3:45
3. ten past two → 2:10
4. twenty-five to six → 5:35
5. five o'clock → 5:00
6. nine forty → 9:40

Exercise 2: Choose the Correct Time

7. b) a quarter past four
8. a) half past
9. b) to
10. c) at
11. a) What
12. b) p.m.
13. b) midnight

Exercise 3: Fill in the Blank

14. o'clock
15. a quarter / quarter
16. twenty
17. twenty-five / twenty five
18. What time / When
19. thirty
20. at

Exercise 4: True or False

21. True
22. False
23. True