

Time: past and to the hour



Language focus

Use **past** and **to** to talk about the time.

*It's ten **past** five* (meaning 'It's ten minutes past the hour of five o'clock, or 5.10').

*It's twenty **to** seven* (meaning 'It's twenty minutes before the hour of seven o'clock, or 6.40').

In informal spoken English, it is common to use abbreviated forms like 'it's ten past' or 'it's twenty to', if the people you are talking to have a general idea of what time it is.

1 Write the times using *past* and *to*.

1 10.50 It's ten to eleven.

2 9.05 _____

3 7.40 _____

4 12.10 _____

5 4.50 _____

6 3.20 _____

2 Correct the times.

1 6.40 It's twenty past six. It's twenty to seven.

2 8.10 It's five past eight. _____

3 3.05 It's five to three. _____

4 1.20 It's twenty to one. _____

5 2.50 It's five to three. _____

6 8.20 It's ten past eight. _____

3 Write the underlined times in words.

Malcolm had a problem with time. 'Oh, no!' he would say when he woke up. 'It's (1) 7.20! I'm going to be late for school!' 'It's (2) 8.10, Malcolm!' his teacher would say. 'Why can't you get here on time?'

Malcolm was late for everything. He missed the great new science-fiction film because he got to the cinema at (3) 6.40 – 40 minutes late! He was late for the final match of the football season. 'Malcolm,' the coach said, 'it's (4) 3.20! The match started 20 minutes ago!' 'Sorry,' said Malcolm. He said 'sorry' rather a lot. He said 'sorry' to Miss Morgan, the dentist. 'Your appointment was for (5) 4.50, Malcolm, not (6) 5.10.'

He said 'sorry' to Mr Nadal, the doctor. 'Your appointment was for (7) 12.40, Malcolm, not (8) 1.05.'

Malcolm loved birthday parties and decided to organise one in his favourite café to celebrate his 13th birthday. 'Come at (9) 7.20,' he told all his friends. 'OK, Malcolm,' his friends said. 'We'll be there!' But no one arrived. Malcolm waited in the café. Ten minutes, twenty minutes, thirty minutes ... Where was everyone? 'Surprise!' said his friends when they finally arrived. 'But it's (10) 8.05!' said Malcolm. 'You're 45 minutes late!' 'Now you know how it feels,' said his friend Jenny, smiling. Malcolm was never late again.

1 twenty past seven

5 _____

9 _____

2 _____

6 _____

10 _____

3 _____

7 _____

4 _____

8 _____

4 Answer the questions.

1 What time do you get up in the week? _____

2 What time do you start school? _____

3 What time do you come home from school? _____

4 What time do you do your homework? _____

5 What time do you get up at the weekend? _____

6 What time do you go to bed? _____