

7 Telling the time

A What's the time?

What's the time?



It's four o'clock.



It's (a) quarter past four.
It's four fifteen.



It's half past four.
It's four thirty.



It's (a) quarter to five.
It's four forty-five.

What time is it?



It's five past six.



It's twenty past six.
It's six twenty.



It's twenty to seven.
It's six forty.



It's three minutes to seven.
It's six fifty-seven.

SPOTLIGHT minutes to or past

We use **minutes to** or **minutes past** with numbers which are not five, ten, fifteen, twenty or twenty-five.

- eight **minutes to** two (NOT ~~eight to two~~)
- three **minutes past** six (NOT ~~three past six~~)

1 Write the times in words. Don't use *past* or *to*.

- | | | | |
|---------|------------------|------|--------------------|
| ▶ 3.10 | <u>three ten</u> | 6.15 | <u>six fifteen</u> |
| 1 9.15 | ..... | 5.50 | ..... |
| 2 10.25 | ..... | 7.20 | ..... |
| 3 3.35 | ..... | 2.30 | ..... |
| 4 6.45 | ..... | 4.40 | ..... |

2 Write the times in words. Use *past* and *to*.

- | | | | |
|---------|-------------------------|------|------------------------|
| ▶ 12.30 | <u>half past twelve</u> | 6.40 | <u>twenty to seven</u> |
| 1 7.15 | ..... | 8.55 | ..... |
| 2 9.30 | ..... | 1.03 | ..... |
| 3 11.35 | ..... | 2.45 | ..... |
| 4 3.50 | ..... | 4.17 | ..... |

3 Look at the timetable and answer the questions. Write your answers in words.

Bath Spa	7.25 ▼	7.45 ▼	8.05 ▼	8.35 ▼	9.05 ▼
Swindon	7.57 ▼	8.17 ▼	8.45 ▼	9.07 ▼	9.42 ▼
Didcot Parkway	8.15 ▼		9.02 ▼		9.58 ▼
Reading	8.35 ▼	8.55 ▼	9.15 ▼	9.45 ▼	10.10 ▼
London Paddington	8.55	9.15	9.35	10.05	10.35

- ▶ When does the first train leave Bath? At seven twenty-five.
- 1 When does the first train after 8.00 leave Bath?
- 2 You want to be in London before 10.00. What time is the best train from Swindon?
- 3 When does the 8.05 train from Bath get to Didcot Parkway?
- 4 When does the 8.05 from Bath get to London Paddington?
- 5 When does the 9.05 from Bath get to Reading?

4 ABOUT YOU AND YOUR COUNTRY Write your answers, or ask another student.

- 1 What time do banks open and close in your country?
- 2 What time do most shops open and close?
- 3 What time do most restaurants open and close?
- 4 When do most people start and finish school/work?
- 5 When do you have lunch?
- 6 When do you have dinner?



TEST YOURSELF

B Exact times and periods of time

9.00 a.m.	nine o'clock in the morning
12.00 p.m.	(at) midday / noon
9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	all morning
1.58	just before / nearly / almost two
5.00 p.m.	five o'clock in the afternoon
2.00 – 5.30 p.m.	all afternoon (ALSO all day from 9.00 – 5.00)
7.00 p.m.	seven o'clock in the evening
8.02	just after eight
11.30 p.m.	eleven thirty at night
12.00 a.m.	(at) midnight



sun



moon

5 Same or different? Write S or D.

- | | |
|--|----------|
| ▶ 8.45 p.m. / 8.45 in the evening | <u>S</u> |
| 1 12.00 at night / midnight | ..... |
| 2 4.00 a.m. / 4.00 in the afternoon | ..... |
| 3 6.27 / nearly 6.30 | ..... |
| 4 11.45 p.m. / 11.45 at night | ..... |
| 5 almost 7 o'clock / just before 7.00 | ..... |
| 6 9 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. / all day | ..... |
| ▶ 3.00 p.m. / nearly 3.00 | <u>D</u> |
| 7 8.43 / nearly quarter to nine | ..... |
| 8 2.17 / quarter past two | ..... |
| 9 12.03 p.m. / just after midday | ..... |
| 10 2.00 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. / all afternoon | ..... |
| 11 8.30 / just before 9.00 | ..... |
| 12 3.00 a.m. / three o'clock | ..... |

6 Complete the sentences.

- ▶ I can meet you in the morning.
- 1 She usually leaves before three.
- 2 Our train was late, and it was eight thirty when we arrived.
- 3 The party ends midnight, and then I'll get a taxi home.
- 4 It starts to get really hot around
- 5 We got there at about five o'clock the afternoon.
- 6 I usually go to bed around 11 o'clock night.
- 7 They are very busy, so they'll be at work day.
- 8 It was 7 o'clock when we got home.
- 9 The train leaves after 8.00, at 8.03.
- 10 She's there morning, from nine until lunchtime.

7 One word is missing in each sentence. What is it, and where does it go?

- | | |
|--|--|
| ▶ I get up just/seven o'clock. <u>before / after</u> | 5 I watch television evening. |
| 1 I'm meeting my friend midday. | 6 I go to bed midnight. |
| 2 I only drink coffee the morning. | 7 I don't get home before 10.00 night. |
| 3 I work day in a bank. | 8 It's three minutes to 8.00 – it's 8.00. |
| 4 I see my friends the evening. | 9 I always get up before 7.00, at 6.55. |



TEST YOURSELF