

# 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