

## How to say and tell the time.

Use "Excuse me" in front to be more polite.

What's the time?

What time is it?

Have you got the time?

Do you know what the time is?

Could you tell me the time please?

What time do you have?

Click the link below to see the class.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HU-VUH4FZ0s>



**3.** Quarter past / Half past / Quarter to  
It's a **quarter past** one (1:15).  
It's **half past** nine (9:30).  
It's a **quarter to** five (4:45).



### How to say the time in English.

**1.** The hour first followed by the minutes.

It's **four twenty-five** (4:25)

It's **twelve forty-six** (12:46)



**2.** The minutes followed by the hour. Use the word **past** for minutes between 12 to 6 and use **to** for minutes between 6 to 12.



**4.** In English we use the word *o'clock* if the time is on the hour.  
It's five o'clock (5:00). It's nine o'clock (9:00).



Using the 24-hour format.  
It's seventeen hundred hours (17:00).  
It's twenty-one hundred hours (21:00).



It's nine minutes **past** eight (8:09).



It's twenty minutes **to** four (3:40).

**5.** If it's the middle of the day we say. It's **midday** or **noon** (12:00). At night we say. It's **midnight** (24:00)



**6.** To be specific so the person understands clearly, say morning, afternoon, evening or night.

It's half past 6 **in the morning.** (6:30 am)

It's 2 o'clock **in the afternoon.** (2:00 pm)

It's 7:10 **in the evening.** (7:10 pm)

It's 9:00 **at night.** (9:00 pm)



## Time Idioms

### **Idiom 1: To have a whale of a time**

To completely enjoy one's self. *"I had a whale of a time visiting all the art galleries of London".*

### **Idiom 2: To kill time**

To spend time doing something unimportant, particularly when waiting for something.

*"My train is delayed so I'll have to kill time walking around the mall for an hour."*

### **Idiom 3: To run like clockwork**

Something that processes or happens very effectively, smoothly or without disruption.

*"The four-day international food fair event ran like clockwork and everyone was happy."*

### **Idiom 4: It's high time**

An expression used to say time to do something after a long time of not taking action.

*"My son has spent too much time not doing anything productive, it's high time he got a hobby or a creative interest."*

### **Idiom 5: To hit the big time**

To become very successful or famous.

*"Most entrepreneurs experience many failures before hitting the big time."*

### **Idiom 6: To turn back time**

To imagine the possibility of going back in time or to a past event to recreate an experience. *"My grandfather once told me that he wished he could turn back time and travelled more."*

### **Idiom 7: Against the clock**

This idiom means working very fast to get something done by a specific time or date.

*"The new city sports stadium has to be constructed before next summer, so the construction company is working against the clock."*

### **Idiom 8: On the dot**

A common and important idiom to know which means exactly on time.

*"Switzerland is famous for its punctual trains. They always arrive at the station on the dot."*

### **Idiom 9: To lose track of the time**

To not notice how much time has passed or even have an idea of the current time.

*"Georgio was having so much fun chatting to old friends in the local café, he lost track of the time and missed his English class"*

### **Idiom 10: To make up for lost time**

To focus more on a subject that was previously neglected. To compensate in order to make up for a lost opportunity.

*"He focused so much on his career over the years that the children missed out. From now on, he will make up for lost time by spending as much time with them as possible."*

### **Idiom 11: Around the clock**

Something that is done all day and all night, continuously.

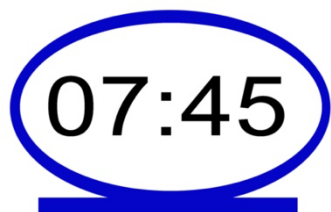
*"After the mall was robbed, the administrators paid a private company for round the clock security."*

### **Idiom 12: To call it a day**

A decision to stop doing something, temporary or permanently.

*"The lads worked hard all day but were now very tired, so decided to call it a day and go for a drink."*

**TEST** Write the answers as follows;



**Example;**

A \_ It's seven forty five.  
\_ It's a quarter to eight.



**1**

A \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**2**

A \_\_\_\_\_

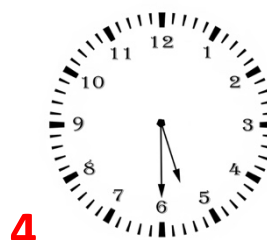
\_\_\_\_\_



**3**

A \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**4**

A \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**5**

A \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**6**

A \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### ANSWERS

1: It is two o'clock. It is two o'clock in the afternoon.  
2: It is twelve o'clock. It is midday. It is noon.  
3: It is three forty. It is twenty minutes to four.  
4: It is five thirty. It is half past five.  
5: It is ten fifteen. It is a quarter past ten.  
6: It is four fifty seven. It is three minutes to five.

NAUTILUS  
ENGLISH

Soaring  
above the  
Intermediate  
Plateau



**Sign-up today**

[www.nautilusenglish.com](http://www.nautilusenglish.com)

**Email:** [info@nautilusenglish.com](mailto:info@nautilusenglish.com)