

ENGLISH

Unit 16: Date and Time



English for Beginners with

THE INSPIRE ACADEMY



Telling the Time

- Being able to tell time is easily one of the most important things to know in any language.
- All languages have their own way of communicating what time it is, it was, or will be.
- In English we use "am" and "pm".
- "am" means in the morning
- "pm" means in the afternoon.
- For example:
 - If someone were to ask you, "What time is it?" you could respond with it is 5pm, the pm meaning that it is 5 in the afternoon"

Asking for the Time

If you would like to ask what the time is there are several ways to do so:

Examples:

- "Excuse me, do you happen to know the time?"
- "Pardon but could I trouble you for the time?"
- "What time is it, please?"
- "Could you tell me the time?"

Phrases for Telling Time

The most common phrases in English for telling time are:

- "O'clock" followed by "In the morning" or "In the afternoon"
- "It is 9pm" or "It is 9am"
- "Half past"
- "A quarter 'till" and "A quarter past" (A quarter being 15 minutes)
- "It's around" (meaning sometime before or after)
- "It's just past"
- "It's almost" or "It's about"

Here are some examples using these phrases:

- "It is 5 O'clock in the afternoon"
- "It is half past 10am" or "It is half past 10 in the morning" or, simply "It is half past 10"
- "It's a quarter 'till 5" or "It's a quarter until 5" or "It is a quarter past 5"
- "It's around 3pm"
- "It's just past 6pm"
- "It is almost 7 in the afternoon"

The Date

- The date is the day month and year of any given day.
 - For example:
 - March 23, 2017 (Standard written form)
 - 03/23/2017 (American Abbreviated form)
 - 23/03/2017 (English Abbreviated form)
- In the United States the date is written Month/Day/Year so make sure you know which is which, it can be confusing!
- Like the example shown above the date, when written out and not abbreviated, is always (Month) (Day), (Year)
 - Further examples:
 - May 12, 1958
 - September 5, 1892
- When saying the date you always say the number with it's correct ordinal.
 - For example:
 - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, etc.
 - Or, First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, etc.

Communicating the Date

- To ask for the date you can use any of these following phrases:
 - "Excuse me, do you know today's date?"
 - "I'm sorry but do you happen to know what day it is today?"
 - "What day is it today?"
- To respond to someone you can say:
 - "Yes, today is the fifth"
 - "It's the 24th of October"
 - "I believe it's the first of February today"

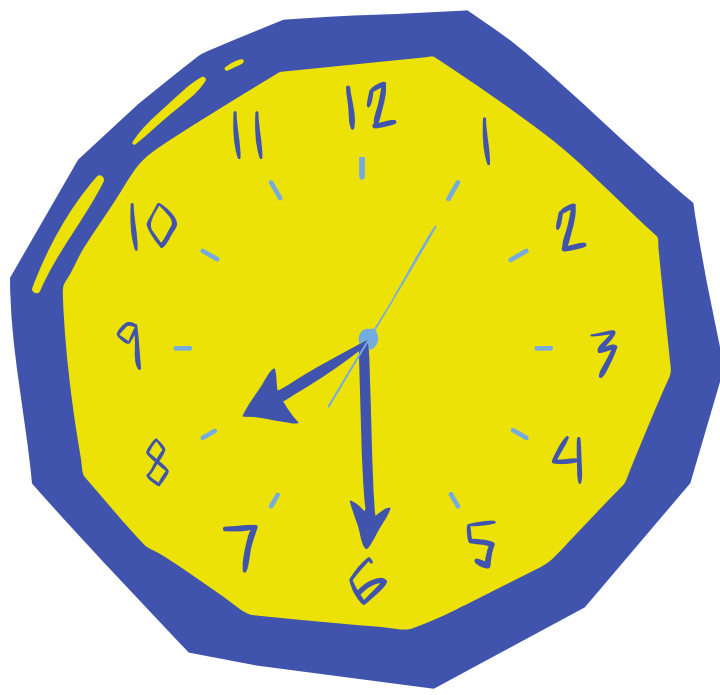
Example Conversation

- "Hi there do you happen to know the time?"
- "Yes it's around three I believe. Ah yes, it is 3 O'clock exactly"
- "Perfect, thank you."
- "No problem, actually do you know what day it is today?"
- "Yep! It's the 8th"

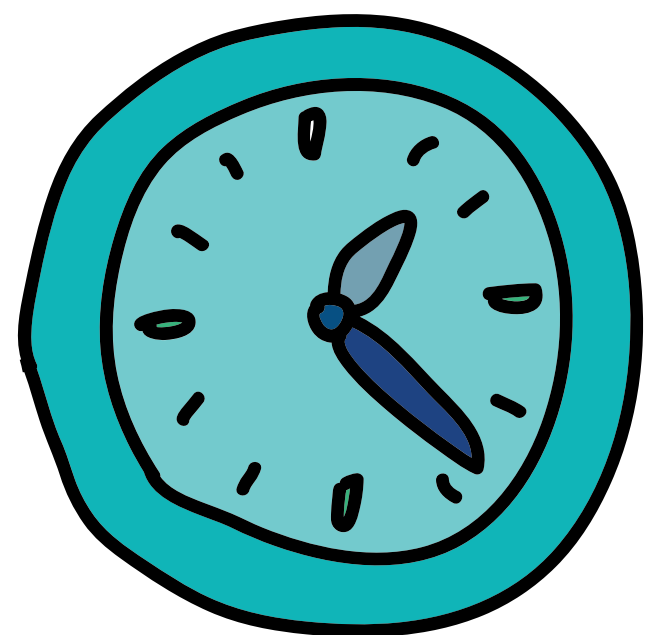
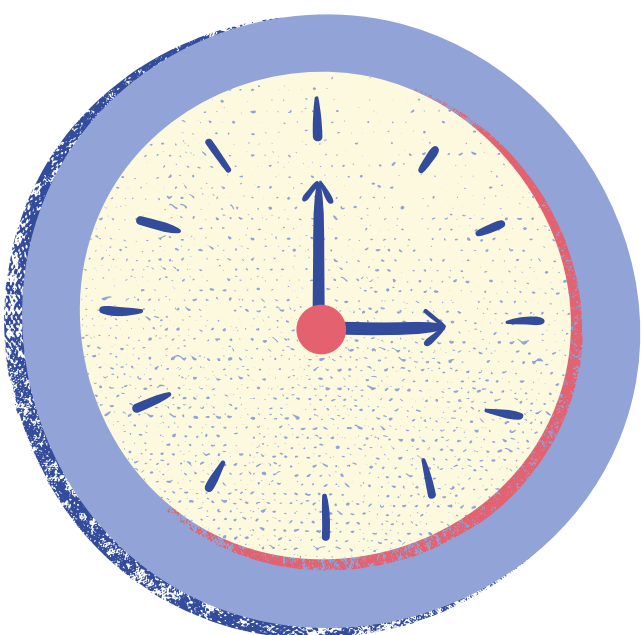
EXERCISE

Please fill in the blanks using the clocks to tell the time:

Morning



Afternoon



AUDIO EXERCISE

Listen to the audio exercise of a morning schedule and please draw a clock corresponding to the times you hear and write the times with either am or pm!



FRIEND EXERCISE

For this friend exercise you and your friend must each draw 2 clocks and indicate whether it is am or pm. Then you must write 4 date in standard written form.

Then switch papers and try to write the time say the time correctly using the phrases learned in this unit and change the standard written form of dates into either American or English abbreviated forms.

Be precise and try to use different phrases!

Good luck!



