

LESSON NOTES

Basic Japanese S1 #16

Basic Japanese #16: How to Tell Time

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VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
時	じ	ji	hour
分	ふん	fun/pun	minute
半	はん	han	half

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is How to Tell Time.

Hours

To express hours, we add *ji* (時) to the number. Please be careful of the special pronunciations of 4:00 (*yo-ji*) and 9:00 (*ku-ji*).

一時	ichi-ji	1:00
二時	ni-ji	2:00
三時	san-ji	3:00
四時	yo-ji	4:00
五時	go-ji	5:00
六時	roku-ji	6:00
七時	shichi-ji	7:00
八時	hachi-ji	8:00
九時	ku-ji	9:00
十時	jū-ji	10:00

十一時	jūichi-ji	11:00
十二時	jūni-ji	12:00

Minutes

For minutes, we add fun (分) to the number. Please be careful that it changes to "-pun" after certain numbers.

一分	i-ppun	1 minute
二分	ni-fun	2 minutes
三分	san-pun	3 minutes
四分	yon-pun yon-fun	4 minutes
五分	go-fun	5 minutes
六分	ro-ppun	6 minutes
七分	nana-fun	7 minutes
八分	ha-ppun hachi-fun	8 minutes
九分	kyū-fun	9 minutes
十分	ju-ppun	10 minutes
十五分	jūgo-fun	15 minutes
三十分	sanju-ppun	30 minutes*
四十五分	yonjūgo-fun	45 minutes

Examples

1. 三時 [*san-ji*]: 3:00
2. 九時三十分 [*ku-ji sanju-ppun*]: 9:30
3. 二時四十五分 [*ni-ji yonjūgo-fun*]: 2:45

Hiroko's Hint

To express the concept of thirty minutes, or "half past", we use 半 (*han*).

1. 一時半 [*ichi-ji han*]: 1:30
2. 五時半 [*go-ji han*]: 5:30
3. 十二時半 [*jūni-ji han*]: 12:30