

Global View - Daylight Savings Time (C0191)

A: Did you set your clock forward for daylight savings time?

B: What? Why do we have to do that?

A: Well, at the start of the spring we usually have more daylight in the mornings and less in the afternoon. This is basically due to our position on the planet and the rotation of the earth. In any case, to take better advantage of the daylight available, we compensate by moving our clocks forward one hour.

B: I see. That's convenient! I never understood things like this, such as GMT. I never know what time zone we are in or when to change my clock!

A: That just stands for Greenwich Mean Time. Here in California, we are in Pacific Standard Time, that is eight time zones west of Greenwich. Remember when we were in Beijing? Well, then we were in China Standard Time, and that's eight time zones east of Greenwich!

B: That's why it was so weird traveling from Beijing to LA! Because of the huge time difference, even though we left Beijing at noon and flew for more than eight hours, we still arrived in LA the same day at noon! It's like we went back in time!

Key Vocabulary

rotation	<i>common noun, singular</i>	circular motion of turning around as on an axis
daylight savings time	<i>phrase</i>	system that provides more daylight during the day
compensate	<i>principle verb, present simple</i>	provide or be an equivalent; make up; make amends
time zone	<i>phrase</i>	a region where the same standard time is used
go back in time	<i>phrase</i>	to travel to a time that has already passed

Supplementary Vocabulary

Spring forward, fall back	<i>phrase</i>	set clocks ahead 1 hour in the spring and back 1 hour in the fall
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DST

daylight savings time

European
Summer
Timethe name for "daylight
savings time" in Europeclock
shift*common noun,
singular*the amount of time by
which to set a clock for-
ward or backward

equinox

*common noun,
singular*the twice yearly times
when the lengths of day
and night are almost
equal