

# Time Sentences

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## 1 Numbers

The number system of this language (name undetermined) is in base 12, because each hand has 6 fingers. Numbers 0-12 have their own words, numbers 13-15 are compounds with some irregularity, and all numbers beyond are also compounds formed the same way but regularly. Compounds take the form *number + He (and used for adding numbers) + number*. 24 is its own word, and other multiples of 12 are compounds of the form *k twelve*.

Table 1 has some examples of numbers.

	Language (IPA)	English (literal)
1	fū	one
2	ak <sup>h</sup>	two
3	sa	three
4	ŋeʒ	four
5	mʊt <sup>h</sup>	five
6	æmp <sup>h</sup>	six
7	eiə	seven
8	esl	eight
9	fi	nine
10	ir <sup>h</sup>	ten
11	fuf	eleven
12	at <sup>h</sup>	twelve
13	anfieu	twelve and one
14	anfiea	twelve and two
15	anfiesa	twelve and three
16	anfieŋeʒ	twelve and four
17	anfiemʊt <sup>h</sup>	twelve and five
18	anfieæmp <sup>h</sup>	twelve and six
19	anfieiə	twelve and seven
20	anfie:sl	twelve and eight
21	anfiefi	twelve and nine
22	anfieir <sup>h</sup>	twelve and ten
23	anfiefuf	twelve and eleven
24	hʊtʃ	twenty four
36	sa:t <sup>h</sup>	three twelve
37	sa:nfiefi	three twelve and one

Table 1: Some number examples

## 2 Time

The numbers six and 12 are important to this society, as each person has 12 fingers, or six sets of webbed pairs (two thumbs, index and middle, and ring and pinky fingers, to use human analogues). Each year is divided into five months, each named after an animal historically hunted in that month. Each month has six *afie* ("weeks") of twelve *a:ŋfiε* (days) each and with 5 days at the end of the year not in any month. The days of the week are named after fingers on the hand, starting from right to left.

The time system is based on the tides, dating back to when this civilization lived close enough to the coast to be affected by the tides. Even though they have moved away from the coasts toward open ocean and the deeps, they still use the established system of keeping time.

Each day is divided into 4 sections of six hours, originally based off the tidal schedule (see Table 2). Each hour has (about) 60 minutes (like human hours). The first section of the day starts around what we'd call 5:00 AM. Time is told by how many hours into a section have passed.

Time (human)	Language (IPA)	English (literal)
5:00-11:00	zizim	rising tide
11:00-16:00	sa3im	falling tide
16:00-23:00	aɣzizim	second rising tide
23:00-5:00	aɣsa3im	second falling tide

Table 2: The four sections of the day

## 2.1 Sentences

Time sentences take the form of a "has" sentence. A time sentence starts with which tide it is in the nominative, followed by the number of hours (or hour, singular) into the tide in the accusative, then the singular third-person form of the verb *to have*. The hours can be modified by *and half* to indicate that it is near the middle of the hour, as it's hard to keep track of exact minutes underwater. It is also valid to use the present third-person verb *begins* or *ends* rather than the hours + *to have* if a new tide has just begun or will begin soon respectively. The *to have* or *one* (when only one hour has passed since a new tide) are sometimes elided.

- sa3im enja

sa3im	-Ø	enja	-a
falling tide	-NOM.SG	begin	-3.SG.PRS
falling tide		begin	-s

'It is just past 11 am'
- zizim suula

zizim	-Ø	suul	-a
rising	-NOM.SG	end	-3.SG.PRS
rising tide		end	-s

'It is almost 11 am'
- aɣsa3im xeni ɣe3i msa

aɣ-	sa3im	-Ø	xen	-I	ɣe3	-I	ms	-a
two-	falling tide	-NOM.SG	hour	-ACC.PL	four	-ACC.PL	have	-3.SG.PRS
second-	falling tide		hour	-s	four		has	

'It is 3 am'
- aɣzizim xeni aɣhemuɳi msa

aɣ-	zizim	-Ø	xen	-I	aɣ	-fie	-muɳ	-I	ms	-a
two-	falling tide	-NOM.SG	hour	-ACC.PL	two	-and	-half	-ACC.PL	have	-3.SG.PRS
second-	rising tide		hour	-s	two	and	half		has	

'It is 7:30 pm'
- aɣzizim xeni aɣhemuɳi

aɣ-	zizim	-Ø	xen	-I	aɣ	-fie	-muɳ	-I
two-	falling tide	-NOM.SG	hour	-ACC.PL	two	-and	-half	-ACC.PL
second-	rising tide		hour	-s	two	and	half	

'It is 7:30 pm'
- sa3im xenaɣ fivar msa

sa3im	-Ø	xen	-aɣ	fiv	-aɣ	ms	-a
falling tide	-NOM.SG	hour	-ACC.SG	one	-ACC.SG	have	-3.SG.PRS
falling tide		hour		one		has	

'It is noon'

7. saʒim xənɑɪ msa

<i>saʒim</i>	-Ø	<i>xən</i>	-ɑɪ	<i>ms</i>	-a
falling tide	-NOM.SG	hour	-ACC.SG	have	-3.SG.PRS
falling tide		hour		has	

‘It is noon’

8. saʒim xənɑɪ

<i>saʒim</i>	-Ø	<i>xən</i>	-ɑɪ
falling tide	-NOM.SG	hour	-ACC.SG
falling tide		hour	

‘It is noon’

9. zizim xənɪɪ aɲɪ msa

<i>zizim</i>	-Ø	<i>xən</i>	-ɪɪ	<i>aɲ</i>	-ɪɪ	<i>ms</i>	-a
falling tide	-NOM.SG	hour	-ACC.DU	two	-ACC.DU	have	-3.SG.PRS
rising tide		hour	-s	two		has	

‘It is 7:00 am’

Comparison of examples 4 & 5 and 6, 7, & 8 demonstrate omission of *to have* and *one*. This language does not mark definiteness or gender, but does mark case and number (singular, dual, plural).