

# UK Students Struggle to Read Traditional Clocks

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Category : Education/Family

## Unlocking Word Meanings

Read the following words/expressions found in today’s article.

1. **acquainted** / əˈkweɪn tɪd / (adj) – familiar with something  
Example: I just got my new self-driving car and I'm still not **acquainted** with it.
2. **minimize** / ˈmɪn əˌmaɪz / (v) – to lessen to the smallest amount possible  
Example: We should all **minimize** our noise in the library.
3. **exert** / ɪɡˈzɜrt / (v) – to use one’s strength or power  
Example: She’s very tired because she **exerted** a lot of effort in studying for the exam.
4. **object** / əbˈdʒekt / (v) – to disagree with an idea  
Example: My boss **objected** to my proposal because it was too ambitious.
5. **isolated** / ˈaɪ səˌleɪ tɪd / (adj) – not happening repeatedly or in another place  
Example: The incident is not **isolated** to one city; it also happened in five other cities.

## Article

Read the text below.

沢山の生徒たちが伝統的な時計を読むのに困惑している(struggle : 困惑、努力する、もがく)

More and more students in the United Kingdom are struggling to read traditional clocks.

多数の不満を生徒から受け取った(numerous : 多数の)

何人かの生成達が、この懸念に声をあげた(voice : 声を上げる)

Many UK schools still use traditional or analog clocks. However, teachers have been receiving numerous complaints from students in Grades 10 and 11 that they cannot read the time in exam rooms. Several teachers voiced this concern during the “Partners in Excellence” conference in London.

デジタル時計に精通している(acquainted : 精通する)

According to the teachers, the students cannot read traditional clocks because they are more **acquainted** with digital clocks in smartphones or other gadgets. As a result, some teachers suggested replacing traditional clocks in schools with digital clocks.

必要のないストレスを得ている(unnecessary : 不必要)

努力を最小限にする事が可能(minimize : 最小限)

生徒達は残り時間をカウントするだけで、能力を発揮しなければならない(exert : 発揮する)

A supporter of the suggestion said that during exams, students are getting unnecessary stress from having to read analog clocks. He added that using digital clocks in exam rooms instead can **minimize** the effort that students have to **exert** just to count the remaining time they have.

教育者達はその解決策に反対した(object : 反対する)

While other schools have already upgraded their clocks, some educators **objected** to the solution. The chairman of the UK Commons Education Committee argued that children should be taught how to read analog clocks, instead. He added that time reading is important because it teaches students about numbers and order.

彼女の大学は7人の生徒に出くわした(encounter : 出くわす、遭遇する)

Meanwhile, the situation is not **isolated** to the United Kingdom. In 2014, a teacher in Arizona reported that her colleague encountered Grade 7 students who are unable to read traditional clocks.

～とは異なり(unlike : ～の様ではない)

そのスキルはカリキュラムの1つ

However, unlike in the United Kingdom, US schools are required to teach students how to read time as early as Grade 1. The skill is part of the Common Core curriculum for math that many US schools use as a standard.

## Viewpoint Discussion

Enjoy a discussion with your tutor.

### Discussion A

- Do you agree that UK schools should replace their traditional clocks with digital ones? Why or why not?

- How do you think parents can convince their children to learn how to read traditional clocks? Discuss.

**Discussion B**

- Do you think that some skills taught by schools are now already outdated (e.g. using traditional maps, writing in script, etc.)? Discuss.

- What skill would you like schools in your country to teach children? Why?