

## Date and time

### The time

#### *Asking for the time*

Several ways to ask about the time:

- What time is it, please? (Formal)
- Could you tell me the time, please? (Formal)
- Have you got the time, please? (Formal)
- What time do you make it? (Informal)

#### *Telling the time*

We use “am”:

Times between **12.00** in the night and 11.59 in the **day**.

We use “pm”:

Times between **12.00** in the day and 11.59 in the **night**.

We only use o'clock for the hour:

*It's four o'clock.*

For times outside five-minute intervals, we say **minutes past** or **minutes to**.

*10.01 one minute past ten.*

*10.58 two minutes to eleven.*

## Alphabet

English alphabet: **26 letters**. It was originated around the **7th century** from the Latin script.

Since then, letters have been added or removed to give the current modern English alphabet of 26 letters.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
[eɪ]	[bi:]	[si:]	[di:]	[i:]	[ɛf]	[dʒi:]	[(h)ertʃ]	[aɪ]
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
[dʒeɪ]	[keɪ]	[ɛl]	[ɛm]	[ɛn]	[oʊ]	[pi:]	[kju:]	[ɑ:/ɑr]
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
[ɛs]	[ti:]	[ju:]	[vi:]	['dʌbəl u:]	[ɛks]	[waɪ]	[zɛd/ zi:]	

## Cardinal and ordinal numbers

CARDINAL NUMBERS	CARDINAL NUMBERS	ORDINAL NUMBERS	ORDINAL NUMBERS
0 zero	1 one		1st first
2 two	3 three	2nd second	3rd third
4 four	5 five	4th fourth	5th fifth
6 six	7 seven	6th sixth	7th seventh
8 eight	9 nine	8th eighth	9th ninth
10 ten	11 eleven	10th tenth	11th eleventh
12 twelve	13 thirteen	12th twelfth	13th thirteenth
14 fourteen	15 fifteen	14th fourteenth	15th fifteenth
16 sixteen	17 seventeen	16th sixteenth	17th seventeenth
18 eighteen	19 nineteen	18th eighteenth	19th nineteenth
20 twenty	30 thirty	20th twentieth	30th thirtieth
60 sixty	50 fifty	40th fortieth	50th fiftieth
80 eighty	70 seventy	60th sixtieth	70th seventieth
100 one hundred	90 ninety	80th eightieth	90th ninetieth
1000 one thousand	101 one hundred and one	100th one hundredth	101st one hundred and first
1230 one thousand two hundred and thirty		1000th one thousandth	1001st one thousand and first
		1230th one thousand two hundred and thirtieth	1000000th one millionth

### Important items about cardinal numbers

- In **dozens**, we use a **hyphen [-] between numbers**: 35 thirty-five.
- In **compound** numbers, one **hundred** is always **followed by and**: 135 *one hundred and thirty-five*.
- In **compound** numbers, the word **thousand** is not followed by and or by a hyphen [-]: 1640 *one thousand six hundred and forty*.
- They can be used **for dates**:  
*1st April (first of April).*  
*April 1st (April the first).*
- We use them in the **names of kings** and queens:  
*Henry VIII (Henry the Eighth).*
- In compound ordinal numbers, the last one changes:  
*35th thirty-fifth.*

## Time

11.00 *It's eleven o'clock.*

11.05 *It's five past eleven.*

11.10 *It's ten past eleven.*

11.15 *It's **a quarter** past eleven.*

11.20 *It's twenty past eleven.*

11.25 *It's twenty-five past eleven.*

11.30 *It's **half** past eleven.*

(...)

The digital time:

9.15 *It's nine fifteen.*

14.30 *It's fourteen thirty.*

*In the **morning** (from 6.00am to 12.00pm)*

*In the **afternoon** (from 12.00pm to **5.00pm**)*

*In the **evening** (from 5.00pm to **8.00pm**)*

*At **night** (from 8.00pm to **6.00am**)*

*At **midnight** (0.00h)*

*At **midday** (12.00h)*

*At **breakfast** time*

*At **lunch** time*

*At **dinner** time*

Expressions **from...to** and **until**.

*I work every day **from** 9.00am **to** 5.00pm.*

*Yesterday he was working **until** 8.00pm.*

## How to tell the time in English

### 1. Asking for the Time:

#### Anywhere:

What's **the time**?

What **time** is it?

#### More polite:

Could you tell me **the time** please?

May I have **the time**?

### 2. How to Tell the Time:

#### Two ways:

The first way is to say the hour first, and then the minutes (hour + minutes):

*It's three twenty.*

*It's eleven forty-seven.*

The second way is adding "am" or "pm" afterwards:

*It's eleven forty-seven a.m.*

If the minutes are 00 – we simply say o'clock.

*It's 7 o'clock.*

*It's 3 o'clock.*

### 3. How to Tell the Time With Past and To:

You say the minutes first, followed by past or to, and then the hour (minutes + past/to + hour):

*It's five **past** two.*

*It's twenty **past** twelve.*

*It's five **to** four.*

*It's ten **to** nine.*

When you tell the time like this, instead of saying 30, we say half:

*It's **half** past ten.*

*It's **half** past nine.*

And instead of saying fifteen, you say quarter.

*It's **quarter** past seven.*

*It's **quarter** to nine.*

In this way of telling the time, we **don't usually say "am" or "pm"**. Instead, we say:

- in the morning,
- in the afternoon,
- in the evening.

*It's quarter to nine **in the evening**.*

*If the time is **twelve o'clock** at **night**, we can say it's **midnight**.*

*If the time is **twelve o'clock** in the **day**, we can say midday, or **noon**.*

## Date

We write the date in English in several ways. There are differences between American English and British English, but we will take **British English as a model**. In this case, we write the **day of the month first, then the month** (starting with a **capital letter**) and **finally the year**.

Here are some examples (**British**):

*15 June 2019,*

*23 December 1998.*

We can also write the date using only numbers (**British**):

*15/6/2019,*

*15-6-2019,*

*15.6.19*

Sometimes we use the **last two letters of the number**:

*Today is the **3rd** of June.*

*The concert will be on October **13th***

All **months** have a **shortened form**, except from May and June:

**Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, Jul, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec.**

## Asking and telling the date

We **ask and tell the date** in several ways, let's see some examples:

*What date is it? It's the **second of** December.*

*What's the date today? It's December **the second**.*

*What's today's date? **Sixteenth of** March.*

There are also some differences in telling the **years before the year 2000 and after the year 2000**.

Examples:

*1908 nineteen **oh** eight*

*1901 **nineteen hundred** and one/ nineteen oh one*

*1900 **nineteen hundred***

*1998 **nineteen ninety-eight***

*2000 two **thousand***

*2005 two **thousand** and five/twenty oh five*

*2019 **twenty nineteen**/two thousand and nineteen*

The preposition we normally use with dates is on (**On Monday 14th of January**), but when we use **only months**, we place the **preposition in** before the month (**In January**).