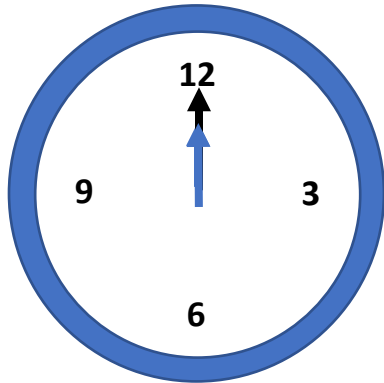


Beginning English Lesson 3: Talking About Time

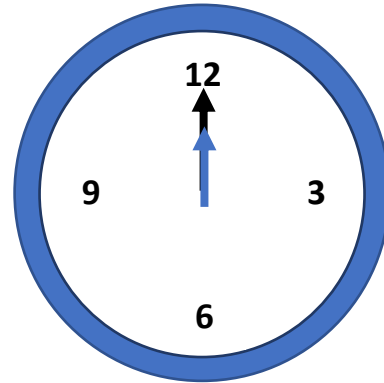
Learn how to ask and answer questions about time.

In the United States, we use 12-hour time. This means that we have the two special times of 12:00 a.m. (“midnight”) and 12:00 p.m. (“noon”). a.m. means that the time is in the morning, while p.m. means that the time is in the afternoon or evening.



12:00 a.m.

Midnight



12:00 p.m.

Noon

We say all times that are on-the-hour by using the word “o’clock.” Here are some examples.

Time	Pronunciation
1:00 p.m.	one o’clock
2:00 p.m.	two o’clock
3:00 p.m.	three o’clock
4:00 p.m.	four o’clock
5:00 p.m.	five o’clock
6:00 p.m.	six o’clock
7:00 p.m.	seven o’clock
8:00 p.m.	eight o’clock
9:00 p.m.	nine o’clock
10:00 p.m.	ten o’clock
11:00 p.m.	eleven o’clock
12:00 p.m.	twelve o’clock (<i>also called noon</i>)

We pronounce times that are not on-the-hour by first saying the hour number and then saying the minutes number. For example, 1:47 p.m. is pronounced, “one forty-seven.” However, some times that are close to being on-the-hour can be said two ways – these times have *alternative pronunciations*. Here are some examples of how to pronounce times.

Time (Written)	Pronunciation	Alternative Pronunciation
1:00 p.m.	one o'clock	---
1:10 p.m.	one ten	---
1:15 p.m.	one fifteen	quarter past one
1:30 p.m.	one thirty	---
1:37 p.m.	one thirty-seven	---
1:40 p.m.	one forty	twenty of two
1:43 p.m.	one forty-three	---
1:45 p.m.	one forty-five	quarter of two
2:00 p.m.	two o'clock	---

Here are two ways to talk about time with other people.

Question: *“What time is it?”*
 Answer: *“It is _____.”*

Example:

Question: *“What time is it?”*
 Answer: *“It is quarter after three.” (3:15)*

Question: *“At what time is _____?”*
 Answer: *“_____ is at _____.”*

Example:

Question: *“At what time is class?”*
 Answer: *“Class is at seven o'clock.” (7:00)*

How would you say the following times?

