PRACTICAL AND FINANCIAL LITERACY

Calculating Elapsed Time

Difficulty level: Easy

Practical and Financial Literacy

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Overview of the concept

This is how you work out how long a trip, a movie, or a work shift took, from its start time to its end time. Knowing the elapsed time lets you plan your day, work out your pay, or tell whether you have enough time before your next appointment. It is one of the most used time skills there is, because almost everything runs on a schedule.



Rule

Elapsed time = end time - start time.

Elapsed time is how long passes between a start time and an end time. You find it by subtracting the start time from the end time, counting forward from the start to the end.

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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q A task starts at 9:15 a.m. and ends at 11:45 a.m. How long does it take?

SOLUTION

Start: 9:15 a.m. End: 11:45 a.m.

9:15 to 11:15 = 2 hours

11:15 to 11:45 = 30 minutes. Total: 2 hours 30 minutes

Count whole hours first: from 9:15 to 11:15 is 2 hours.

Count the remaining minutes: from 11:15 to 11:45 is 30 minutes.

Add the parts: 2 hours + 30 minutes = 2 hours 30 minutes.

EXAMPLE 2

Q How long is it from 2:40 p.m. to 5:05 p.m.?

SOLUTION

Start: 2:40 p.m. End: 5:05 p.m.

2:40 to 3:00 = 20 minutes

3:00 to 5:00 = 2 hours; 5:00 to 5:05 = 5 minutes

Total: 2 hours 25 minutes

Count to the next whole hour: 2:40 to 3:00 is 20 minutes.

Count whole hours to the final hour: 3:00 to 5:00 is 2 hours.

Add the final minutes, 5, giving 20 minutes + 2 hours + 5 minutes = 2 hours 25 minutes.

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Timetable

Service	Leaves	Arrives
Morning bus	9:05 a.m.	11:20 a.m.
Afternoon train	1:50 p.m.	4:25 p.m.
School bus	8:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m.
Airport shuttle	10:50 a.m.	12:10 p.m.
Evening bus	3:15 p.m.	4:45 p.m.
Lunch train	11:30 a.m.	1:00 p.m.

Practice questions

1 **The morning bus in the timetable leaves at 9:05 a.m. and arrives at 11:20 a.m. How long is the ride?**

A 2 hours 15 minutes

B 2 hours 5 minutes

C 1 hour 15 minutes

D 3 hours 15 minutes

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2 The afternoon train in the timetable leaves at 1:50 p.m. and arrives at 4:25 p.m. How long is the trip?

- A 2 hours 25 minutes
- B 2 hours 35 minutes
- C 3 hours 35 minutes
- D 2 hours 45 minutes

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3 The school bus in the timetable leaves at 8:00 a.m. and arrives at 8:30 a.m. How long is the ride?

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4 The airport shuttle in the timetable leaves at 10:50 a.m. and arrives at 12:10 p.m. How long is the trip?

- A 1 hour 10 minutes
- B 1 hour 20 minutes
- C 2 hours 20 minutes
- D 1 hour 30 minutes

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5 A film starts at 6:45 p.m. and ends at 8:30 p.m. How long is it?

- A 1 hour 30 minutes
- B 1 hour 45 minutes
- C 2 hours 45 minutes
- D 1 hour 15 minutes

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6 A shop shift runs from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. How long is the shift?

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7 The evening bus in the timetable leaves at 3:15 p.m. and arrives at 4:45 p.m. How long is the ride?

A. 1 hour 15 minutes

B. 1 hour 30 minutes

C. 1 hour 45 minutes

D. 2 hours 30 minutes

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8 The lunch train in the timetable leaves at 11:30 a.m. and arrives at 1:00 p.m. How long is the trip?

- A 2 hours 30 minutes
- B 1 hour 15 minutes
- C 1 hour 45 minutes
- D 1 hour 30 minutes

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9 A homework task starts at 6:05 p.m. and takes 55 minutes. When does it end?

- A 6:55 p.m.
- B 7:00 p.m.
- C 7:05 p.m.
- D 7:55 p.m.

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10 **A train journey takes 3 hours 20 minutes and leaves at 7:10 a.m. When does it arrive?**

- **A** 10:10 a.m.
- **B** 10:20 a.m.
- **C** 10:30 a.m.
- **D** 11:30 a.m.

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ANSWER KEY

1. 2 hours 15 minutes

2. 2 hours 35 minutes

3. 30 minutes

4. 1 hour 20 minutes

5. 1 hour 45 minutes

6. 8 hours

7. 1 hour 30 minutes

8. 1 hour 30 minutes

9. 7:00 p.m.

10. 10:30 a.m.

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