MATHEMATICS · GRADES 4-6

Elapsed time

Difficulty level: Intermediate

Mathematics: Grades 4-6

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Overview of the concept

This is how you work out how long something lasts, from its start time to its end time. A movie, a trip, or a school lesson all have a length you can find by counting from start to finish. It tells you whether you have time for one more thing before you have to leave. It is also how you check a schedule, since a plan only works if the times add up.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q A movie starts at 2:45 PM and ends at 4:15 PM. How long is the movie?

SOLUTION

This is a find the duration question, so count forward from the start time to the end time, landing on the hour first.

2:45 PM to 3:45 PM is 1 hour, then 3:45 PM to 4:15 PM is 30 minutes more.

1 hour + 30 minutes = 1 hour 30 minutes.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Soccer practice ends at 5:30 PM and lasts 1 hour 20 minutes. What time did it start?

SOLUTION

This is a find the start time question, so work backwards from the end time.

5:30 PM back 1 hour is 4:30 PM, then back 20 minutes more is 4:10 PM.

So practice started at 4:10 PM.

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Practice questions

1 A bus leaves at 8:30 and arrives at 10:15. How long is the trip?

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

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2 A film starts at 6:45 PM and lasts 2 hours 15 minutes. What time does it end?

- **A** 8:00 PM
- **B** 9:15 PM
- **C** 9:00 PM
- **D** 10:00 PM

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3 Soccer practice ends at 6:30 PM and lasts 1 hour 20 minutes. What time did it start?

- A 5:10 PM
- B 5:50 PM
- C 4:10 PM
- D 6:10 PM

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4 A train leaves at 10:15 AM and arrives at 1:45 PM. How long is the journey?

- A 3 hours 15 minutes
- B 4 hours 30 minutes
- C 2 hours 30 minutes
- D 3 hours 30 minutes

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5 Sara starts her homework at 5:30 PM and works for 1 hour 20 minutes. Then she takes a 30-minute break. What time does she resume her homework?

- **A** 6:50 PM
- **B** 7:20 PM
- **C** 7:50 PM
- **D** 6:20 PM

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6 A bakery opens at 6:00 AM and closes at 8:00 PM. A customer arrives at 3:15 PM. How long is it until the bakery closes?

- **A** 4 hours 45 minutes
- **B** 4 hours 15 minutes
- **C** 5 hours 45 minutes
- **D** 3 hours 45 minutes

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7 A test starts at 9:50 and ends at 10:20. How long is the test?

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8 Lunch starts at 12:10 PM and lasts 45 minutes. What time does lunch end?

A 12:10 PM

B 1:55 PM

C 12:45 PM

D 12:55 PM

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9 **Liam reads from 7:05 PM to 8:00 PM, then from 8:00 PM to 8:35 PM. How long did he read in total?**

- A 1 hour 30 minutes
- B 1 hour 35 minutes
- C 55 minutes
- D 2 hours 30 minutes

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10 **Which lasts longer: a film from 2:00 PM to 3:45 PM, or a game from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM?**

- A The film lasts longer
- B The game lasts longer
- C They last the same time
- D You cannot tell from the times

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ANSWER KEY

1. 1 hour 45 minutes

2. 9:00 PM

3. 5:10 PM

4. 3 hours 30 minutes

5. 7:20 PM

6. 4 hours 45 minutes

7. 30 minutes

8. 12:55 PM

9. 1 hour 30 minutes

10. The film lasts longer

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