MATHEMATICS · KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3

Reading clocks

Difficulty level: Easy

Mathematics: Kindergarten to Grade 3

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Overview of the concept

This is how you tell the time from a clock face, so you know when school starts, when the bus leaves, and when your favourite show is on. A clock face shows the hour and the minutes at a glance, and reading it is what gets you to appointments on time. A cook uses it to time a roast, and a student uses it to know how long is left in an exam. It is a small skill, but almost every plan in a day depends on it.



Rule

The short hand is the hour hand and the long hand is the minute hand.

The long hand points at 12 for 0 minutes, 3 for 15 minutes, 6 for 30 minutes, and 9 for 45 minutes.

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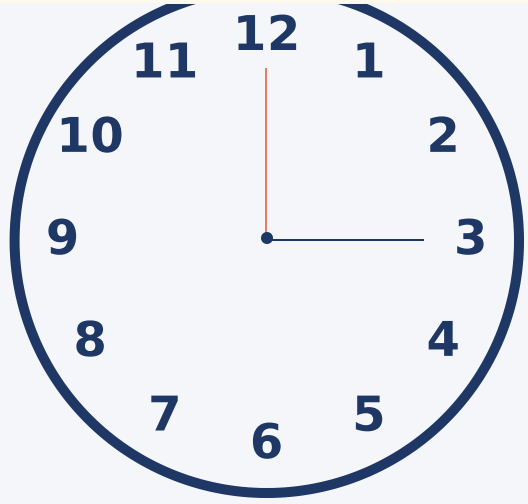
Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q What time is it: hour hand at 3, minute hand at 12?



3:00

SOLUTION

The short hand points at 3, so the hour is 3.

The long hand points at 12, so the minutes are 0.

So the time is 3:00.

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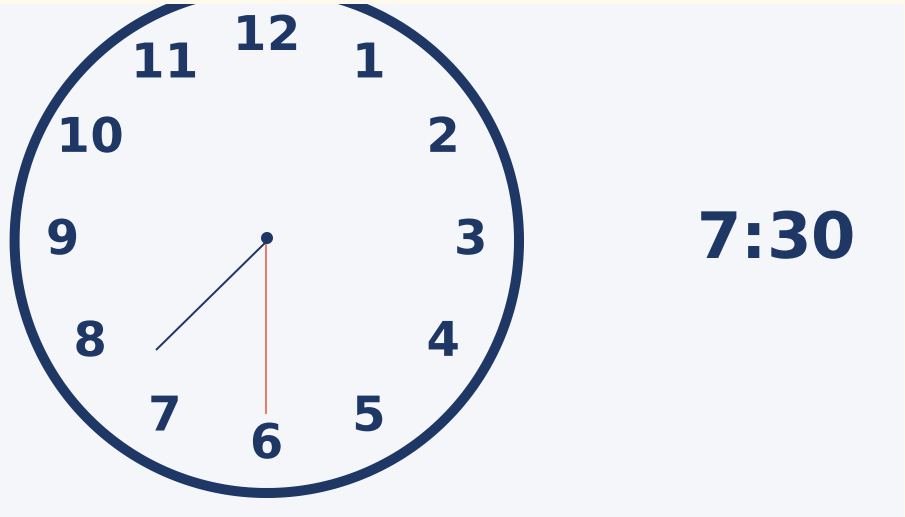
EXAMPLE 2

Q What time is it: hour hand at 7, minute hand at 6?



SOLUTION

The short hand is past 7, heading toward 8.

The long hand points at 6, which means 30 minutes.

So the time is 7:30.

Practice questions

1 The short hand points to 5 and the long hand points to 12. What time is it? Write the time.

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2 It is 9:00. What time will it be 2 hours later? Write the time.

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3 The short hand is halfway between 2 and 3 and the long hand points to 6. What time is it? Write the time.

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4 The short hand is just past 11 and the long hand points to 3. What time is it? Write the time.

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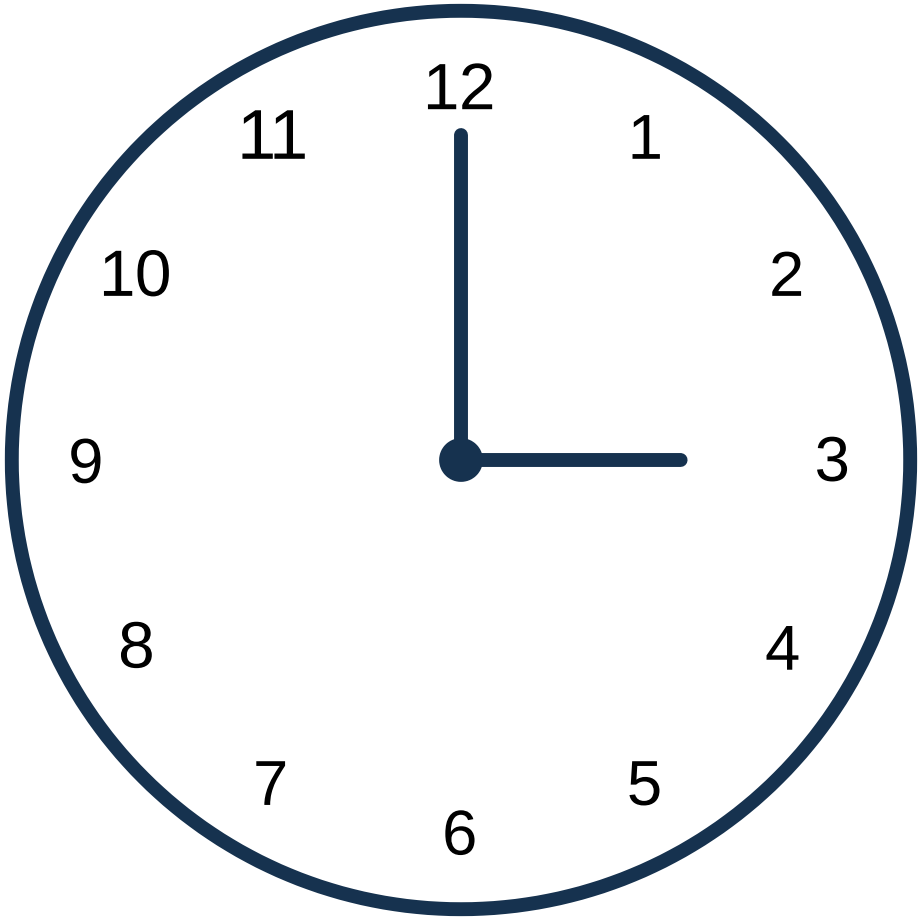
Which hand is short on a clock?



A the hour hand

B the minute hand

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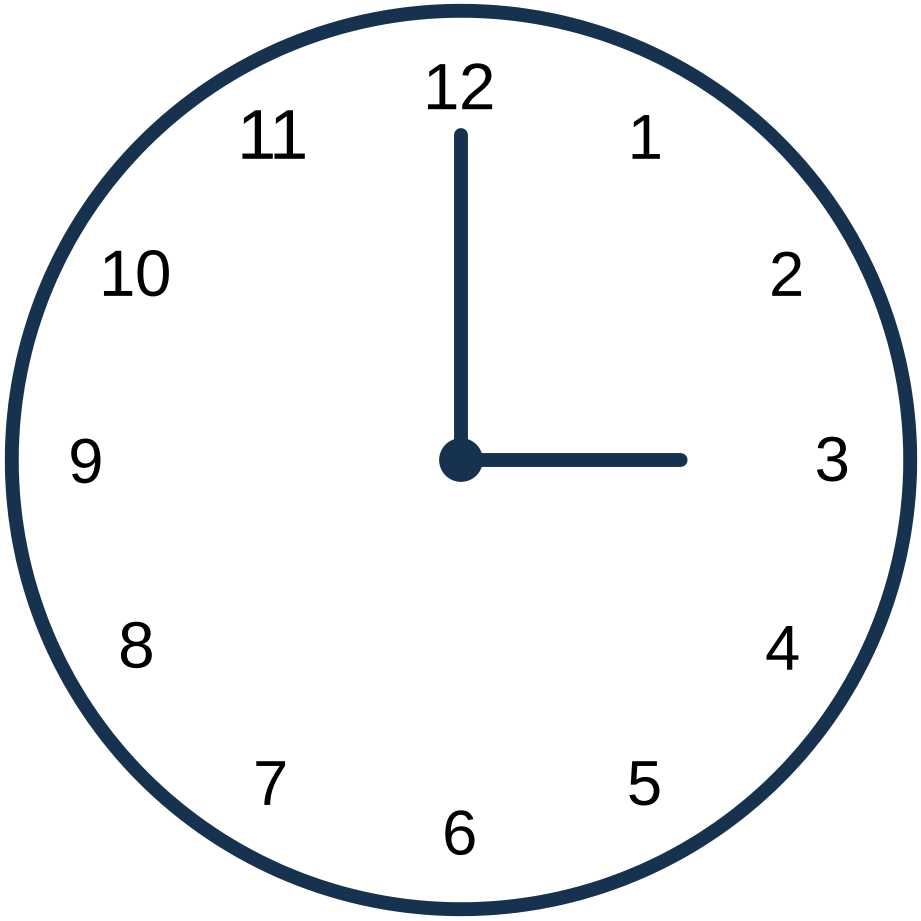
Which hand is long on a clock?



A the hour hand

B the minute hand

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7 The short hand points to 4 and the long hand points to 12. What time is it? Write the time.

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8 The short hand is halfway between 8 and 9 and the long hand points to 6. What time is it? Write the time.

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9 The short hand is three quarters of the way from 12 to 1 and the long hand points to 9. What time is it? Write the time.

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10 It is 6:00. How many hours are there until 9:00?

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ANSWER KEY

1. 5:00

2. 11:00

3. 2:30

4. 11:15

5. the hour hand

6. the minute hand

7. 4:00

8. 8:30

9. 12:45

10. 3 hours

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