MATHEMATICS · KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3

# Telling time to the hour, half-hour, and minute

### Difficulty level: Easy

### Mathematics: Kindergarten to Grade 3

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## *Overview of the concept*

This is how you read a clock, like knowing when to leave for school, when a show starts, or how many minutes until lunch, from the hands on the dial. The short hand tells you the hour, the long hand tells you the minutes, and together they tell you the exact time. Reading both hands at once is how you know how long you have left, or whether you need to hurry. That is a skill you use all day, from catching a bus to knowing when a lesson ends.



## *Rule*

**Telling time: on a clock, the short hand shows the hour and the long hand shows the minutes.**

Read the long hand to find the minutes, then the short hand to find the hour.

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## Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

**Q** The minute hand points to 12 and the hour hand points to 4. What time is it?




### SOLUTION

This is a reading the clock question, so the one rule to remember is: read the long hand first for the minutes, then the short hand for the hour. The long hand on 12 means zero minutes past the hour.

The short hand points straight at 4, so the hour is 4.

Zero minutes past 4 is 4 o'clock, written 4:00.

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EXAMPLE 2

**Q** The minute hand points to 9 and the hour hand is three quarters of the way from 10 toward 11. What time is it?




**SOLUTION**

This is the same question type at a harder time: the minute hand on 9 means 45 minutes past the hour, so the hour hand has almost reached the next number.

Nine on the clock means 9 × 5 = 45 minutes, so it is 45 minutes past the hour.

The hour hand is nearly at 11 but has not reached it, so the hour is still 10, and the time is 10:45, or quarter to 11.

## Practice questions

1 The short hand points directly at 7 and the long hand points directly at 12. What time is it?

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**2** It is 2:30. Where does the long (minute) hand point?

- **A** At 12
- **B** At 6
- **C** At 3
- **D** At 2

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**3** What time is half past 9?

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**4** A film starts at 5:15 and ends at 6:00. How long does it last?

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5 **Write quarter to 4 as a digital time.**

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6 **A cartoon starts at 4:30 and lasts for one hour. What time does it end?**

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7 **What time is quarter past 11?**

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8 **How many minutes are in half an hour?**

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9 **The clock shows 8:45. Write the time in words.**

A Quarter to nine

B Quarter past eight

C Half past eight

D Quarter to eight

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10 **School starts at 8:00. Sara arrives at 7:45. Is she early or late, and by how long?**

A Early by 15 minutes

B Late by 15 minutes

C On time

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## ANSWER KEY

**1.** 7:00

**2.** At 6

**3.** 9:30

**4.** 45 minutes

**5.** 3:45

**6.** 5:30

**7.** 11:15

**8.** 30 minutes

**9.** Quarter to nine

**10.** Early by 15 minutes

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