



## Telling the time

When we want to know the time the question in English is:

*What time is it?  
What's the time?*

Other possibilities are:

*Do you know the time?  
Can you tell me the time, please?  
Could you tell me the time, please?  
Would you mind telling me the time?*

In formal English we use 'a.m.' and 'p.m.' after the time.

*My office is open from 9.30 a.m to 3:00 p.m.*

In colloquial English we normally say: 'In the morning', 'In the afternoon', 'In the evening', 'At night'.

*What time is it? It's six o'clock in the morning (6:00 a.m.)  
What time does the plane leave? The plane leaves at half past seven in the evening (7:30 p.m.)*

These are the rules for telling the time in English:

PAST: We use "past" to say times after the hour till half past (30 minutes past the hour)

*15:10- It's ten past three  
15:15- It's a quarter past three  
08:30- It's half past eight.*

TO: We use "to" to say times before the hour till the full hour. (29 minutes until the full hour).

*16:35- It's twenty-five to five*

O'CLOCK: We use "o'clock" only at the full hour.

*18:00- It's six o'clock  
12:00 = midday  
24:00 = midnight*

When speaking about transport, we use the international time division(24 hours). In this case, we just read the numbers.

*The London train arrives in Leeds at 18:30.* (We should read "sixteen thirty")