

Telling Time in German

- *Things to know*
- *Telling time at the top of the hour*
- *Telling time half passed the hour*
- *Telling time quarter after the hour*
- *Telling time quarter til the hour*

Things to Know

Telling time in German is similar to telling time in English.

One big thing that you may or may not be used to is telling military time. This is used to tell the time after noon.

Example

$$17:00 = \underline{5:00} \text{ PM}$$

$$19:30 = \underline{7:30} \text{ PM}$$

$$23:50 = \underline{11:50} \text{ PM}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 23:50 \\ -12:00 \\ \hline 11:50 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 19:30 \\ -12:00 \\ \hline 7:30 \end{array}$$

Only use military time when talking about train schedules, movie listings, and official time tables. It does not have to be used when simply telling someone the time.

Also, do not use expressions like Viertel vor, Viertel nach, or halb with military time.

Things to Know

How to ask the time in German:

1) *Wie spät ist es?*

2) *Wie viel Uhr ist es?*

How to answer:

Es ist (state time here).

Special Times

12:00 AM (midnight)

Es ist Mitternacht.

12:00 PM (noon) Es ist Mittag.

Telling time at the top of the hour

When telling time at the top of the hour, always follow this procedure:

Es ist _____ Uhr.



hour number

Examples

5:00 AM Es ist fünf Uhr.

9:00 AM Es ist neun Uhr.


2:00 PM Es ist vierzehn Uhr.

7:00 PM Es ist neunzehn Uhr.

Telling time in general

Es ist _____ Uhr _____.


hour number


minute number

To specify the time of day, use words like "morgens," "nachmittags," or "abends."

Abends is used after 6:00 PM.

To be really specific, use "vormittags" between 10:00 AM and noon.