ILLUSTRATED LESSON - ENGLISH 2AC - SEMESTER 1

Telling the time and reading a timetable

At 8:15, say quarter past eight; at 8:45, say quarter to nine. Past counts minutes after the hour, while to counts minutes before the next hour. In this English 2AC lesson you practise digital and traditional clock expressions, read a school timetable and use at, on and in to describe a day clearly.

Moroccan 2AC · Original English practice · Semester 1 - Updated 6 November 2026

By the end of this lesson, you can

- Read common digital time expressions
- Distinguish past from to
- Ask when a lesson begins and use time prepositions

Before you start

Read short English sentences and familiar school vocabulary.

1. Start with the situation

Read common digital time expressions. Distinguish past from to. Ask when a lesson begins and use time prepositions.

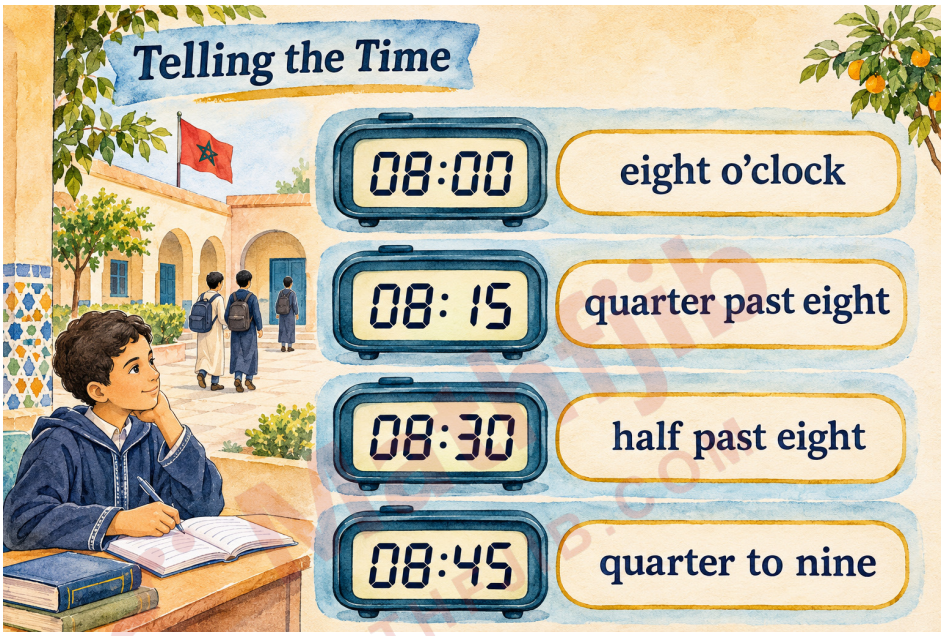


Compare the situation with the examples and explain your choice of form.

2. How do past and to work?

For the first half of an hour, count forward from that hour: 8:10 is ten past eight and 8:20 is twenty past eight. Fifteen minutes is a quarter of an hour, so 8:15 is quarter past eight. Thirty minutes is half an hour, so 8:30 is half past eight. O'clock is for an exact hour, such as eight o'clock, rather than eight fifteen o'clock.

After half past, count the minutes left until the next hour: 8:40 is twenty to nine; 8:45 is quarter to nine; 8:50 is ten to nine. The hour after to is the coming hour. That is why 8:45 cannot mean quarter to eight. Digital speech is also correct: eight forty-five. Learn both forms so you can understand a classmate or a timetable.



15 minutes: quarter past; 30 minutes: half past. For to, name the next hour.

3. How do you find information in a timetable?

Read the day heading and the time heading together. If English appears on Monday at 09:00, answer We have English on Monday at nine. A starting time is different from a finishing time: a lesson from 09:00 to 10:00 begins at nine and ends at ten. Check which one the question asks for before writing a number.

Ask What time does English start? for a clock time and When do we have English? for a day or a fuller schedule answer. With does, keep start in the base form. You can say It starts at nine or English starts at nine. The practice schedule on this page is invented for language learning and does not state the timetable of Moroccan schools.

Day	08:00-09:00	09:00-10:00	10:15-11:15
Monday	Maths	English	Science
Tuesday	English	History	Art
Wednesday	Science	Maths	English

Read one row carefully

On Wednesday, English starts at quarter past ten and ends at quarter past eleven.

- The English cell is in the 10:15-11:15 column. Both times use past; the lesson starts in the morning.

4. When do you use at, on and in?

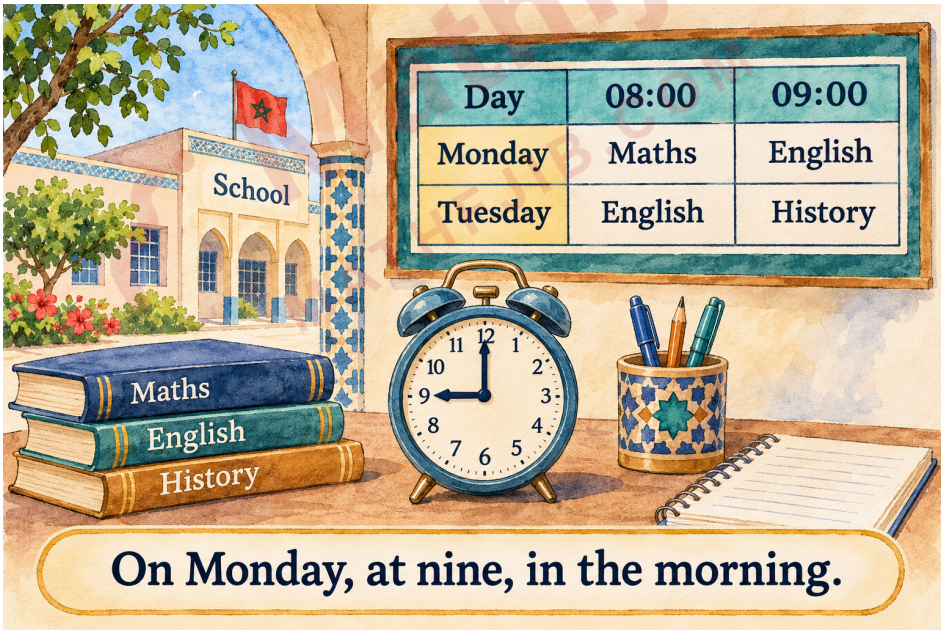
Use at before a clock time: at eight, at half past seven. Use on with a day: on Tuesday, on Friday morning. Use in with a general part of a day: in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening. At night is a common exception. A specific day takes on even when morning follows it: on Monday morning.

To describe your day, combine one time expression with one useful action. I leave home at quarter past seven is clearer than a list of times alone. Connect the events with then and after school. Before handing in your paragraph, compare every written time with the schedule and check whether you have named the day as well as the hour.

5. A method you can reuse

Step by step: Work step by step

1. Read the hour and the minutes.
2. Choose a digital form or count with past/to.
3. For to, use the next hour.
4. Read the day and the start or end time requested.



Use at + time, on + day, in + part of day. A timetable answer must match both day and time.

Remember

8:45 is quarter to nine. Write on Monday morning but in the morning. These examples do not prescribe your own school hours.

Key points

- 15 minutes: quarter past; 30 minutes: half past.
- For to, name the next hour.
- Use at + time, on + day, in + part of day.
- A timetable answer must match both day and time.

Exercises - Try before checking

Write your answers in your notebook. Use the lesson and write complete sentences before you read the corrections.

Exercise 1. Read the clock

Easy

Write 07:15, 07:30 and 07:45 with past or to.

Exercise 2. Use digital speech

Easy

Write 08:20 and 09:50 as digital spoken expressions.

Exercise 3. Find a subject

Intermediate

Use the table. Which subject starts at 08:00 on Tuesday?

Exercise 4. Find the finishing time

Intermediate

When does English end on Wednesday?

Exercise 5. Choose a preposition

Intermediate

Complete: … Monday; … nine o’clock; … the afternoon; … Friday morning.

Exercise 6. Describe a morning

Challenge

Write three connected sentences using 07:30, 08:00 and on Tuesday.

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Explained answers to the exercises

Exercise 1. Read the clock

Quarter past seven; half past seven; quarter to eight. At 07:45, eight is the next hour.

Exercise 2. Use digital speech

Eight twenty and nine fifty. Twenty past eight and ten to ten are also valid traditional forms.

Exercise 3. Find a subject

English starts at eight on Tuesday. Read the Tuesday row and the first time column.

Exercise 4. Find the finishing time

It ends at 11:15, or quarter past eleven. The question asks for the end rather than the start.

Exercise 5. Choose a preposition

On Monday; at nine o'clock; in the afternoon; on Friday morning. A named day takes on.

Exercise 6. Describe a morning

One possible answer: On Tuesday, I leave home at half past seven. I start school at eight. Then I have English. Use your actual schedule when writing about yourself.

Frequently asked questions

What does quarter to nine mean?

It means 8:45, fifteen minutes before nine. The hour after to is the next hour.

Can I say eight thirty?

Yes. Eight thirty and half past eight both mean 8:30.

Do we say at or on Monday?

Say on Monday, at eight o'clock and in the morning. A specific day and part of day combine as on Monday morning.

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Follow your teacher's sequence and instructions.
Find the lesson, the pictures and the activities online.