

Telling the Time: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to telling the time can help you support your child's learning at home. The subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when exploring telling the time together, either as part of homework or if you decide to give your child some extra support. Whether your child is only just beginning to explore the concept of time or they are gaining confidence with telling the time and want to find out more, you will find a step that matches their level as well as some ideas for where to go next.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.

We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

Telling the Time

How Do Children Learn about Telling the Time at Primary School?

From year 1, your child will learn how to measure time in hours, seconds and minutes. They'll also be taught how to tell the time to the hour and half past the hour and draw the hands on a clock face to show these times. In year 2, they will progress to telling the time to five-minute intervals, including quarter past and to the hour as well as comparing and sequencing intervals of time.

In years 3 and 4, children are required to estimate and read time with increasing accuracy, using vocabulary such as a.m., p.m., morning, afternoon, noon and midnight as well as to read, write and convert time between analogue and digital 12 and 24-hour clocks. They will also be required to compare lengths of time and solve problems involving converting from hours to minutes and minutes to seconds. In years 5 and 6, your child will continue to build on their skills by solving time problems and converting between units of time at a deeper level.

You can use the resources in this category and the keyword searches to help your child with telling the time. A few ideas for games and activities to help your child learn more about different shapes and their properties are outlined below.

Bingo

Use this **Mixed Time Bingo** activity to help younger children consolidate their learning of telling the time using half past, quarter to, quarter past and o'clock.

Hoop Clocks

Take learning outside and reinforce the concept of telling the time on an analogue clock by using a hoop as a clock face. Place pebbles or stones around the inside edges to denote each five-minute interval and use twigs as hands. Call out a time and see if your child can show you the time on the 'clock face'.

Paper Plate Clocks

Use paper plates to make your own clock faces using pieces of card to make the hands and a split pin to hold them together in the middle. Write the numbers around the edges and your clock is ready to use.

Talk, Talk, Talk

Point out clocks in your home and ask your child to tell you the time in analogue, digital and 24-hour clock formats. If you're using the bus or train, ask your child to read the timetable and tell you when the bus or train is due and how long your journey will take.



Step 1

Telling the Time to the Hour

From year 1, your child will become more familiar with the concept of time and will begin to discuss events using the language 'yesterday', 'today' and 'tomorrow'. They will then be introduced to the concept of hours, minutes and seconds, looking at an analogue clock to learn that the hour hand is the shorter hand and the minute hand is the longer one. Next, they will be introduced to o'clock and learn to tell the time to the hour and half hour. Playing this bingo game together can be a great way to help your child practise telling the time.



Telling the Time on an Analogue Clock

In year 2, your child will be taught how to tell the time using quarter to and quarter past before moving on to reading and showing analogue time in five-minute intervals. They will convert minutes to hours and minutes using their knowledge that there are 60 minutes in each hour. You can use these activity sheets to help your child consolidate their learning about analogue clocks.

Step 2



Step 3

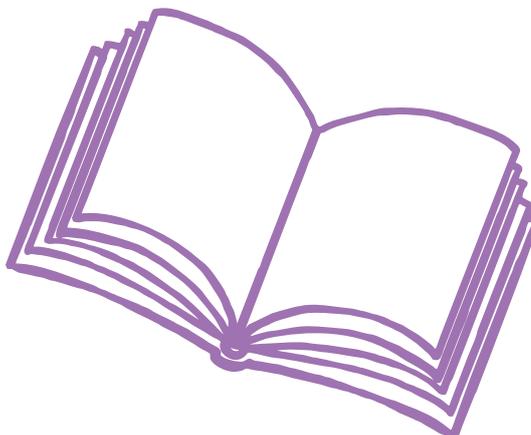
24-Hour Clocks

From year 3, your child will start to learn about 24-hour clocks and how to convert between the 24-hour clock and analogue time. They will go on to apply their ability to convert units of time to solve problems. You can use this informative presentation to help your child master this skill along with using the other linked resources to encourage them to solve word problems and test their knowledge of time at a greater depth level.

Reading Timetables

At this stage, your child will be required to read timetables for buses and trains, working out how long journeys will take, comparing journeys plus working out journey start and finish times. They will sometimes be required to fill in missing information on a timetable, working out what should be there from known quantities. Encourage your child to practise this important life skill with this activity sheet or in real-life situations when you're travelling as a family.

Step 4



Explore and Discover More

Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



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Go!



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Book Club

Twinkl Book Club is our book subscription service. Enjoy our original works of fiction in beautiful printed form, delivered to you each half-term and yours to keep!



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Boost

Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



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imagine

Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.



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ORIGINALS

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire pupils from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



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KIDS' TV

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!