

TELLING TIME

Typical questions:

- What time is it?
- What time do you have?
- Do you know the time?
- Do you know what time it is?
- What time does ----- start/finish/?
- What time do you..... (do something—wake up, go to sleep, etc.)
- When is the movie/class/concert/etc.?



Native English speakers prefer to use the **12-hour system**, not the 24-hour one.

So we use other **references** to specify the correct time/part of the day:

A.M. – From Latin: *Ante Meridiem* = Before Noon, that is, from midnight to noon/midday.

P.M. – From Latin: *Post Meridiem* = After Noon, that is, from noon/midday to midnight.

Or we simply mention the part of the day:

in the morning / in the afternoon / in the evening.

Examples:

It's 3:45 p.m. now. / It's 3:45 in the afternoon now.

I wake up at 6:30 in the morning. / I wake up at 6:30 a.m.

The movie starts at 8:00 p.m. / The movie starts at 8 o'clock in the evening.



ATTENTION!

We can't say "o'clock a.m./p.m.". They never go together! There are two possibilities to tell time by the hour:

Example: 3:00

- It's three p.m.
- It's three o'clock in the afternoon.