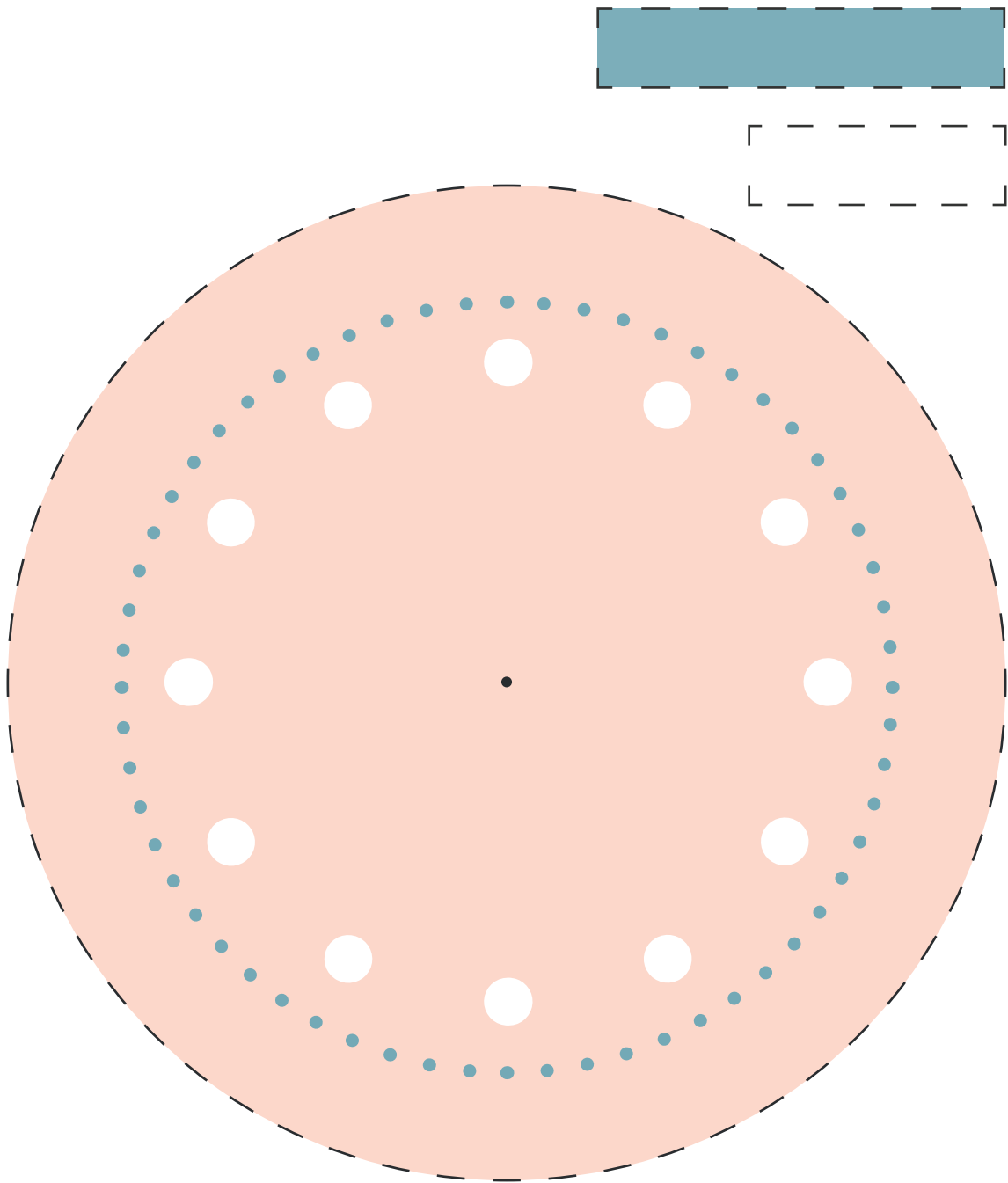


Learning to tell the time

A step-by-step guide for parents and children learning to tell the time.





Print this sheet or design your own clock. You'll need some card - like an empty cereal box for mounting the clock face as well as a drawing pin and something to attach your clock face to - a cork works well.

Hands and face.

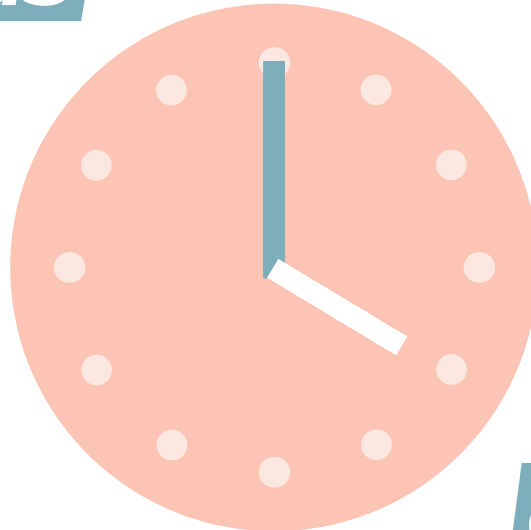
Analog Clock

An analog clock or watch displays the time on its face with moving hands - that sounds a bit funny doesn't it? Let's see what we mean by a clock face and hands.

Clock Face

The face of an analog clock is usually made up of a marked **dial** and two or three moving **hands**. Each hand moves at a different speed. Together the dial and the hands show us the time.

hands



dial

Can you point out the hands and dial on your clock face?

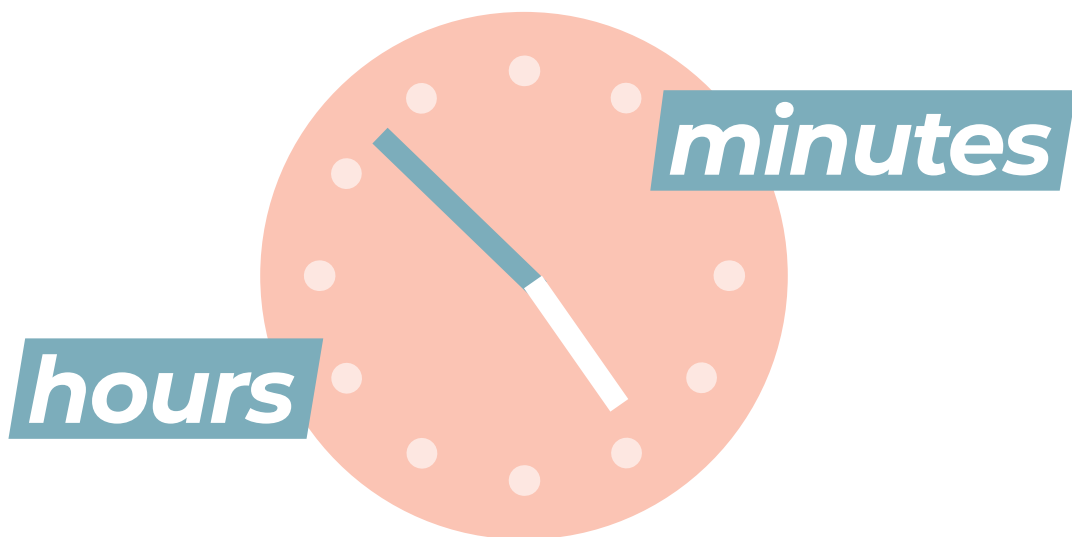
Hours, minutes, seconds.

Hours

There are **24 hours in a day**. The slow-moving, **short** hand on a clock shows us the hour.

Minutes

There are **60 minutes in an hour**. The **long** hand on a watch or clock shows us the minutes.



Can you point out the hour and minute hands on your clock?

Seconds

There are 60 seconds in a minute. The fast-moving long hand on a watch or clock shows us the seconds.

The clock pictures in this guide do not show a second hand.

How long?!



In a second!

Do you have an analog clock with a moving second hand at home? If so, have a listen to see if you can hear it ticking, each tick is one second. Seconds are quick. Some things we may be able to do in one second are; blink, click our fingers, say “hi” or jump off the ground.

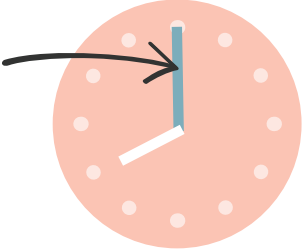
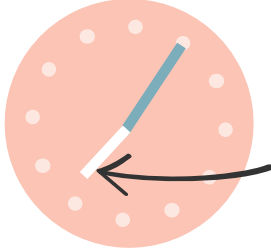
In a minute!

Minutes are slower than seconds - remember there are 60 seconds in one minute. Some things we may be able to do in one minute are; sing a nursery rhyme, draw a funny face or put our shoes on.

This is taking hours!

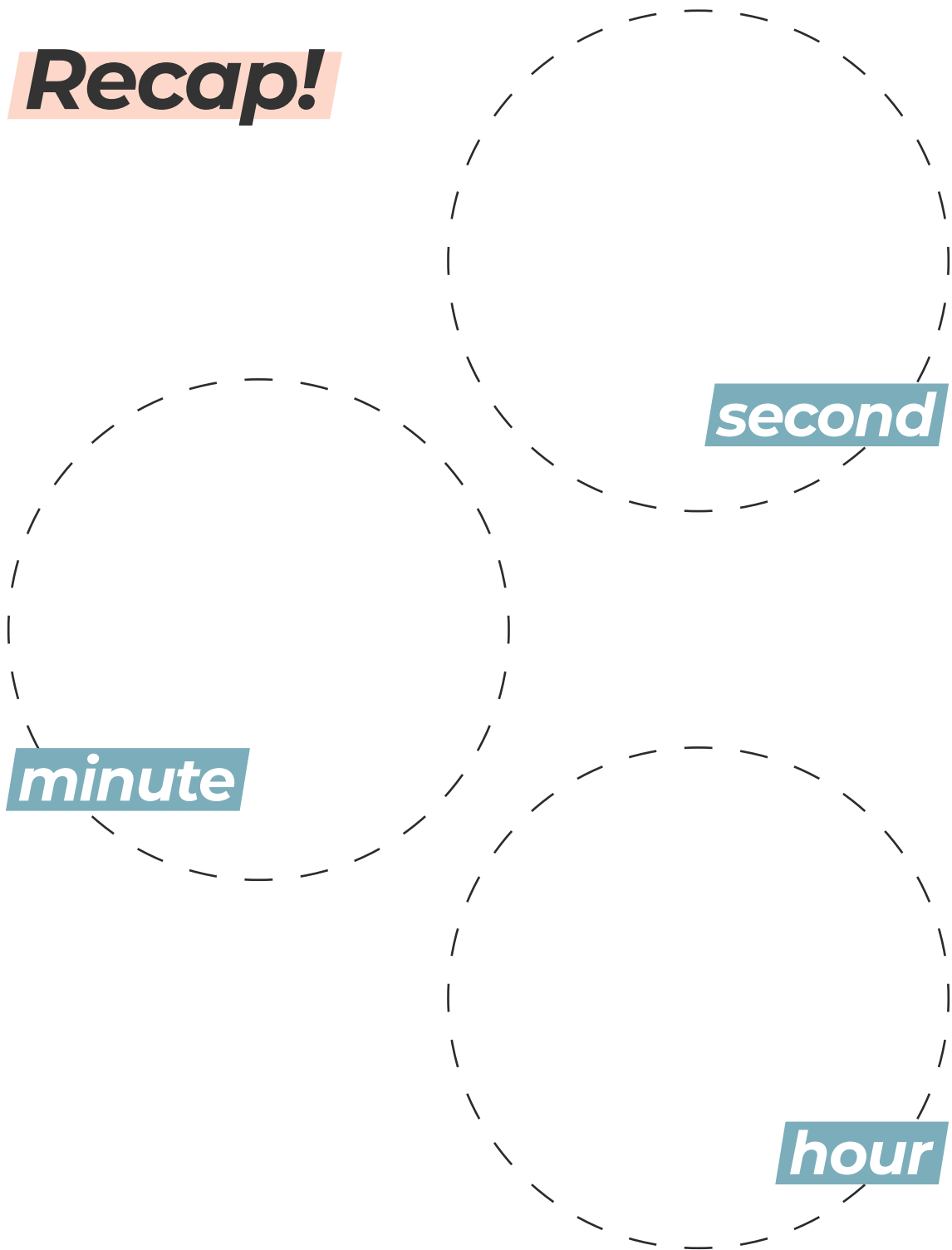
Hours are even slower than minutes. There are 60 minutes in an hour - that’s 3600 seconds! Some things we may be able to do in an hour are; take a trip to the library, bake a cake, eat dinner (and pudding!) or have a nice long bath.

Recap!

<p>There are 60 minutes in...</p>	
<p>The arrow is pointing to the hour hand</p>	<p>one day</p>
<p>There are 24 hours in...</p>	<p>one hour</p>
<p>The arrow is pointing to the minute hand</p>	

Match the correct pairs.

Recap!



Write or draw something that you can do in each amount of time.

Time of day.

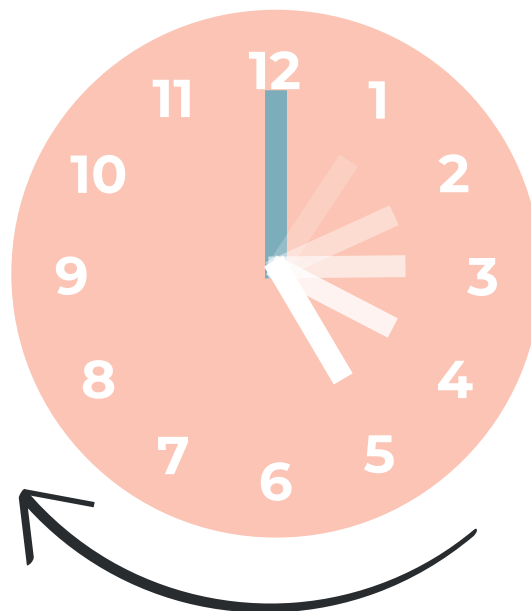


Talk about the different things you do during each time of the day.

The hour hand.

A clock face is typically marked with 12 hours. The **hour hand** moves around the clock to show the hour.

Write the hours on your homemade clock face.



The direction of the arrow shows the way the hour hand is moving. We call this direction **clockwise**.

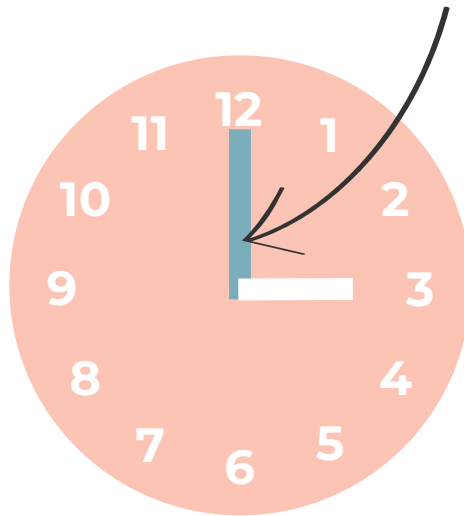
Move the hour hand on your clock in a clockwise direction.

Can you remember how many hours are in a day?

There are 24 hours in a day. This means that the hour hand has to move around the clock twice to show the passing of a whole day.

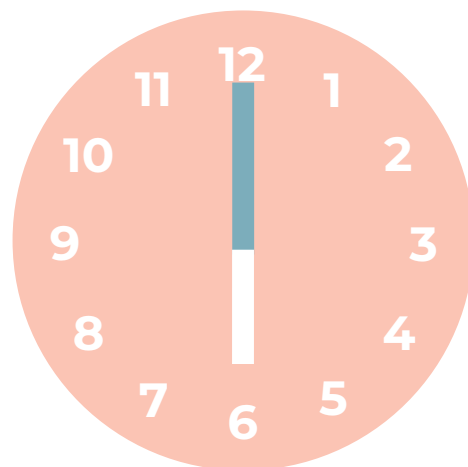
O'clock.

We can start to tell the time by recognising that when the **minute hand** is pointed straight at the number 12 it is *on the hour*. There are no minutes to count - we call this **o'clock**.



On the clock face above, the hour hand points to the 3 and the minute hand points to the 12 so we can say, it is *three o'clock*, 3:00.

Have a go at telling the hour on the clock faces below.

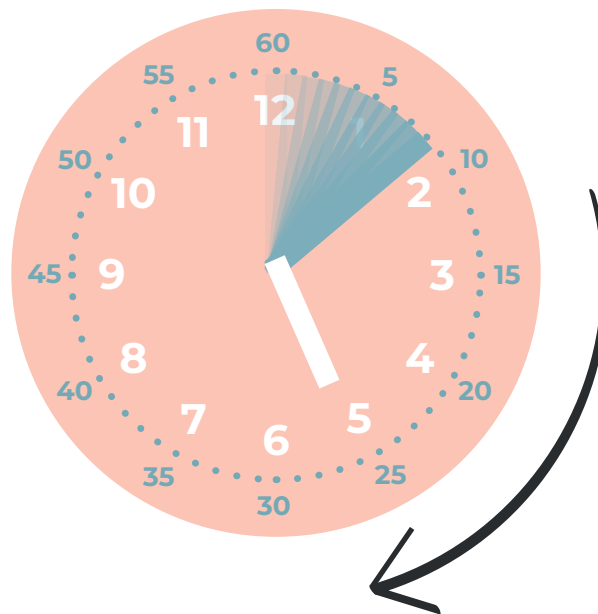


The minute hand.

Some clock faces are also marked with minutes. There are 60 minutes marked on this clock face with numbers at five minute intervals. Each dot represents one minute.

Count the dots and number every five minutes on your clock face.

After the o'clock position, the **minute hand** moves around the clock in a clockwise direction to show the number of minutes past the hour.



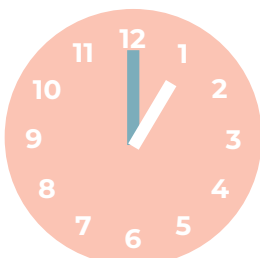



Move the minute hand on your clock in a clockwise direction.

Can you remember how many minutes are in an hour?

There are 60 minutes in an hour. This means that the minute hand has to move around the clock once to show the passing of one hour and 24 times to show the passing of a whole day.

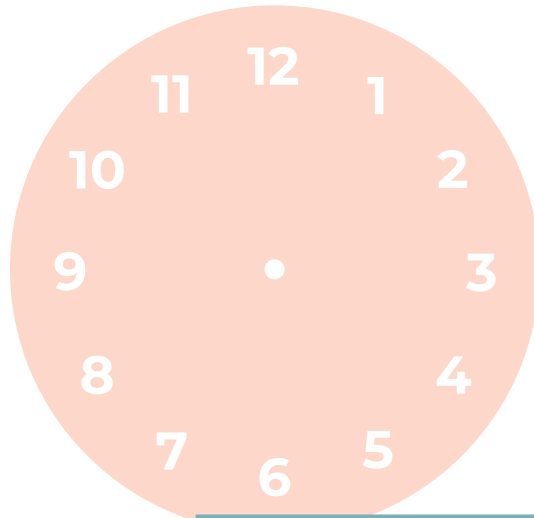
Recap!

<p>This clock face is marked with hours and minutes</p>	
<p>This clock face shows the time at 4 o'clock, 4:00</p>	
<p>This arrow shows the clockwise direction that clock hands move in</p>	
<p>This clock face shows the time at 1 o'clock, 1:00</p>	

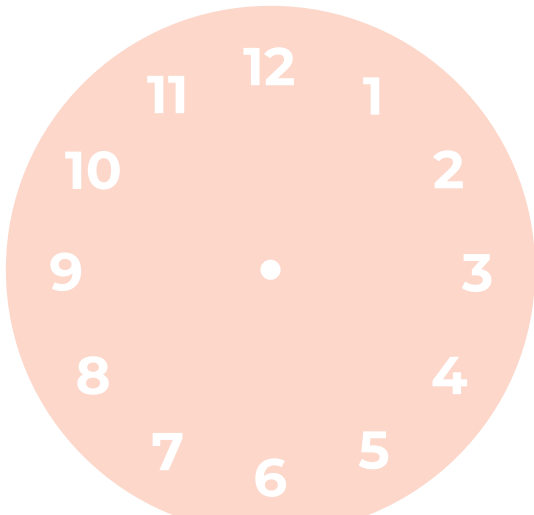
Match the phrase to the correct clock face.

Recap!

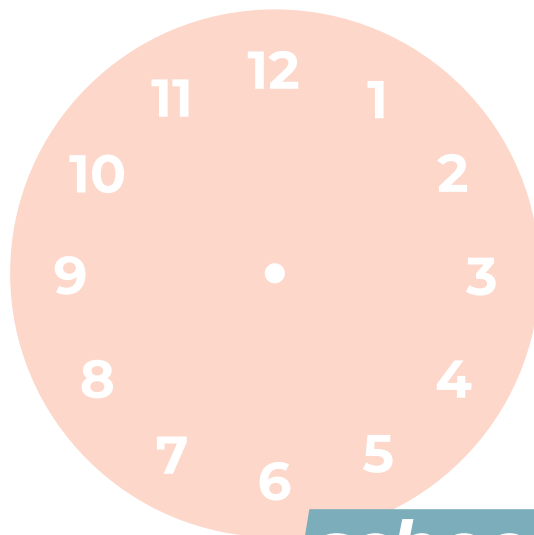
Ted wakes up at 7 o'clock.
 He gets dressed and then
 eats his breakfast at 8 o'clock.
 He leaves the house and goes
 to play at the park before
 arriving at school at 9 o'clock.



wakes up



breakfast



school

Can you set the minute and hour hands on your clock face to show the different times in Ted's morning routine?

Are these hours in the morning, afternoon, evening or night-time?

Hour then minute.

There are different ways to say the time. For example, *twenty to ten* and *nine forty* are the same time, just said differently. Confusing huh?! Don't worry, we'll learn both ways.

Let's start by first saying **the hour and then the minute.**



hour = 5

minute = 15

In this example the hour hand has passed the number 5 but is not yet at the number 6. We say the hour is five until it reaches six o'clock.

The minute hand is pointing to the number 15.

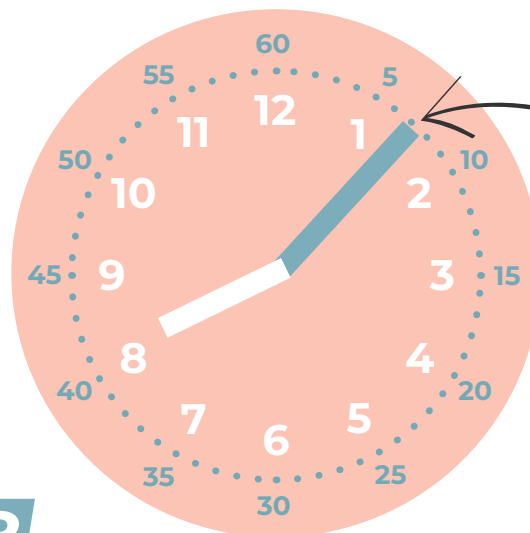
If we read the hour and then the minute, the time is *five fifteen, 5:15.*

Keep going!

You're doing great! Just a few more things to know about telling the time.

If the **minute hand** is pointing to a minute from 1-9 we say "o" before the minute (said like the o from o'clock).

On this clock, if the minute hand is not pointing to a marked number, we can count the dots between numbers to find out the minute.



Here we can count on from five, 5-6-7, to see that the minute hand shows seven.

hour = 8

minute = 7

In the example above the hour hand has passed the number 8 but is not yet at the number 9. The minute hand is pointing to the number 7.

If we read the hour and then the minute (remembering the o), the time is *eight o-seven, 8:07*.

Recap!

10:20

ten twenty



6:35

six thirty-five

2:04

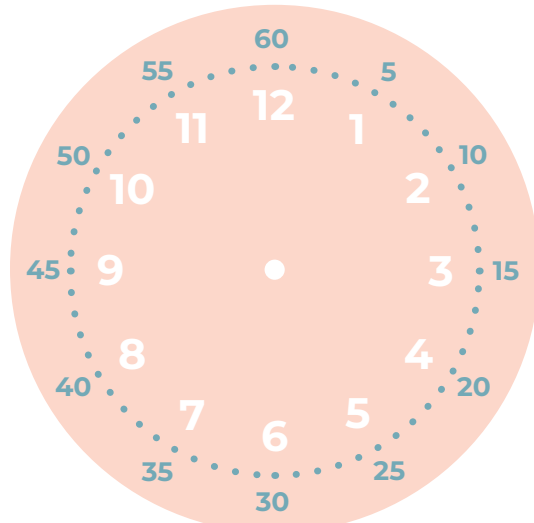
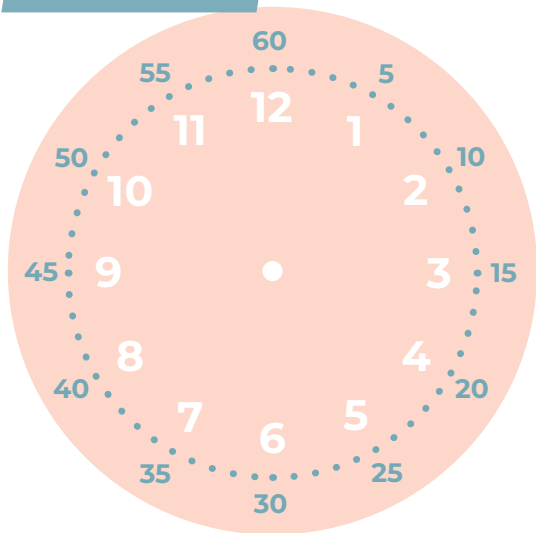
two o-four



Read the time on the clocks and then match the correct labels.

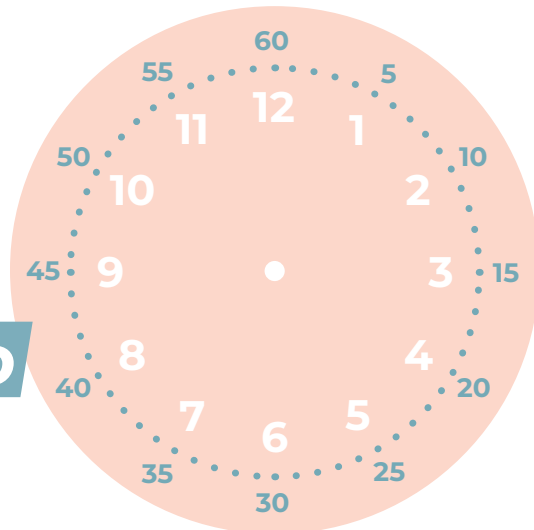
Recap!

**the time
now is**



**I will next
eat at**

**I will go to
bed at**



Talk about what time you do different things. Use your clock or mark the hands on the clock faces above to show the times.

Night or day?

Remember we said that the hour hand has to move around a clock twice for a whole day to pass. You can think of these two turns around the clock like daytime and night-time.

Together these two clock faces show the passing of 24 hours, one day.



What time do the clock faces show? What might you be doing at this time in the morning and this time in the evening?

You can see that even though the clock faces show the same time, what we do at that hour in the daytime and night-time is different.

If we need to be clear about what time of day it is we use:

am for the night-time after 12 and the morning

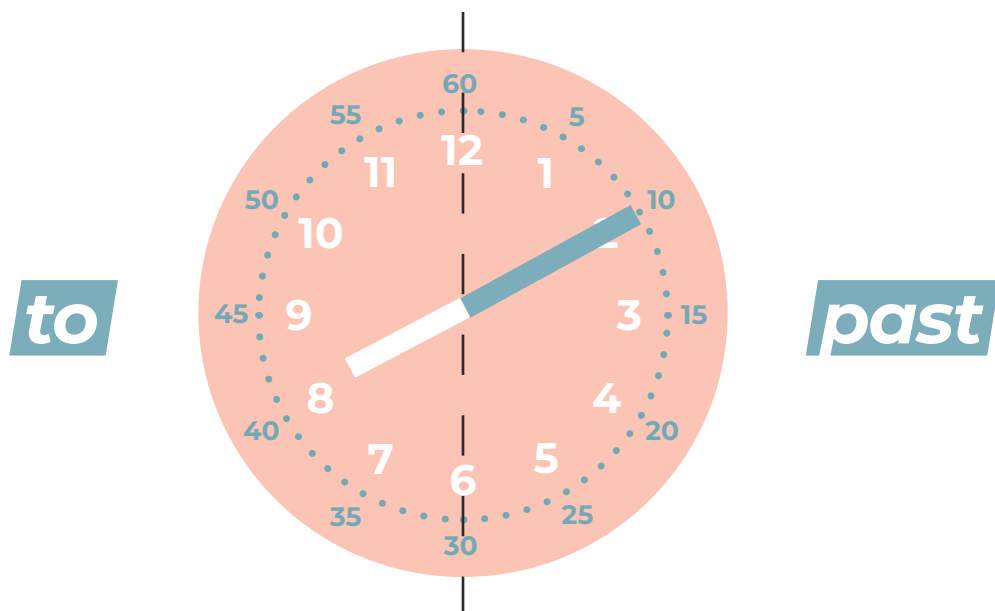
pm for the afternoon, evening and night-time before 12

When using a.m. or p.m. on the hour we don't say o'clock. For example you could say 8 o'clock or 8pm. But 8 o'clock pm sounds a bit odd!

Past or to

Another way to tell the time is to say **the minutes past/to the hour.**

When saying the time this way it helps to imagine the clock face being split into two halves.



When the minute hand is pointing at a minute from 1-30 we say the minutes are **past** the hour.

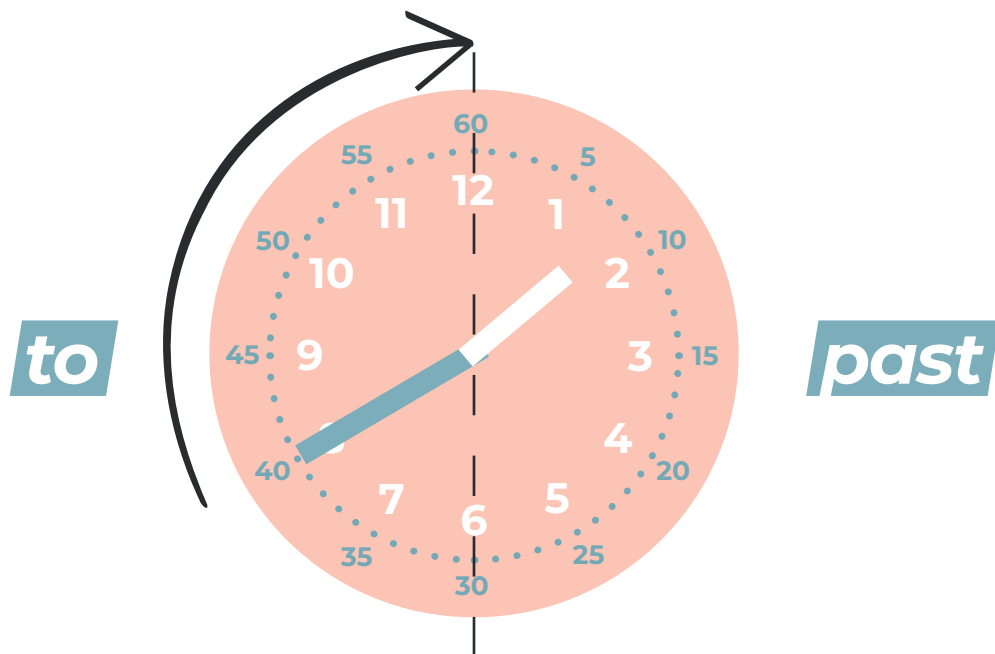
When the minute hand is pointing at a minute from 31-59 we count the minutes remaining **to** the next hour.

Is the minute hand in the past or to half of the clock face?

If we say the minutes past the hour the time is *ten past eight, 8:10.*

Approaching the hour

When the minute hand is in the **to** half of the clock face we count the number of minutes remaining before the hand reaches the o'clock position, 60. And we read the hour that the hour hand is **approaching**.



In this example the minute hand is pointing to the 40. And the hour hand has past the 1 and is approaching the 2.

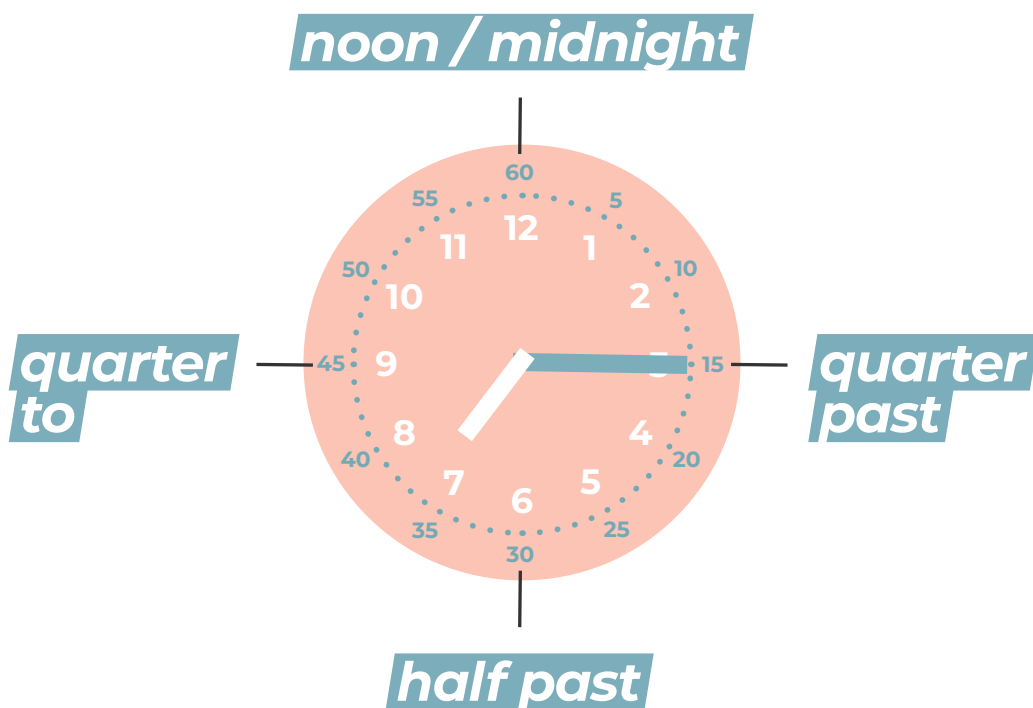
Can you count the number of minutes between the minute hand and the o'clock position?

The number of minutes between 40 and 60 is twenty.

If we say the minutes to the hour the time is *twenty to two*. In numbers this is written as 1:40.

Extra vocab.

When we tell the time by using the minutes past/to the hour there is some extra vocabulary we need to know.



In this example instead of saying fifteen minutes past seven, we say it is **quarter past** seven.

Instead of saying thirty past the hour we say it is **half past** the hour.

And instead of saying fifteen to the hour we say **quarter to** the hour.

At twelve o'clock in the daytime we can say it is **noon (or midday)**.

At twelve o'clock at night we can say it is **midnight**.


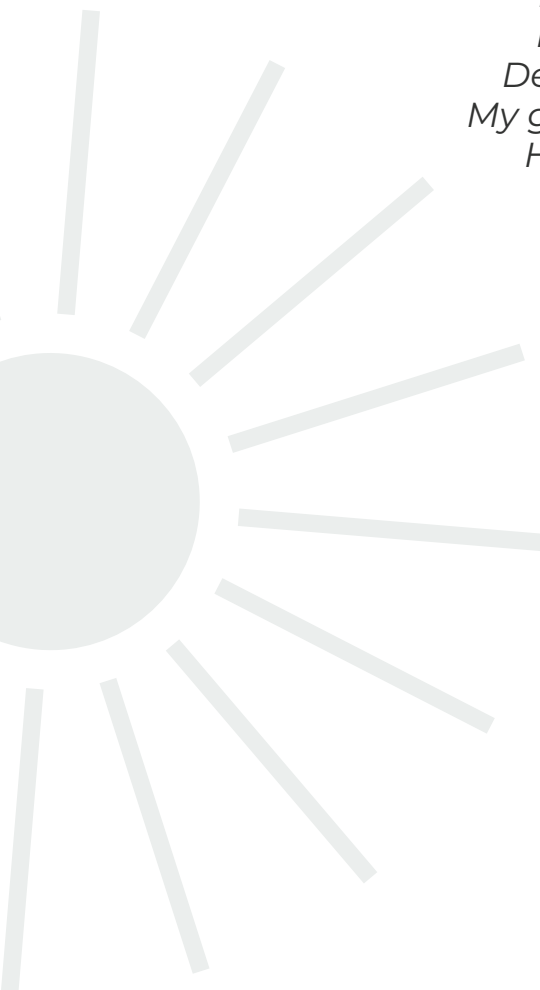
Recap!

Ted wakes up	7pm
Ted eats his lunch	7am
Ted puts his pijamas on	1pm
Ted is asleep	1am

Match what Ted is doing with the correct time of day.

Use your clock face to show the following times:

- half past three
- quarter to twelve
- twenty past six
- ten to four
- noon



*“How did it get so late so soon?
It’s night before it’s afternoon.
December is here before it’s June.
My goodness how the time has flown.
How did it get so late so soon?”*

— Dr. Seuss