Saying what time it is

In English there are two common ways of saying what time it is.

- 8.05: eight (oh) five OR five past eight
- 8.10: eight ten OR ten past eight
- 8.15: eight fifteen OR a quarter past eight
- 8.25: eight twenty-five OR twenty-five past eight
- 8.30: eight thirty OR half past eight
- 8.35: eight thirty-five OR twenty-five to nine
- 8.45: eight forty-five OR a quarter to nine
- 8.50: eight fifty OR ten to nine
- 9.00: nine o’clock

Note that the expression o’clock is only used at the hour.

- I get up at five o’clock.
- I’ve breakfast at 8.30. (NOT I have breakfast at 8.30 o’clock.)

Notes

The figure 0 is called nought in British English, and zero in American English. When we say numbers one figure at a time, 0 is often called oh (pronounced like the letter O)
Saying what time it is

Asking what time it is

Here are some questions you can ask.

- What time is it?
- Could you tell me the time?
- Have you got the time?
- What’s the time?
- What time do you make it?
- What do you make the time?

In British English, the expression ‘What time is it by your watch?’ is also used.