

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.