wishyou.today learning

day 11 what time is it?

Chinese HSK 1 in 30 days
unit 3 · time, meals & money

Ask what time it is, and say the time: three o’clock, half past, ten past eight.

Meeting a friend, catching a train, booking lunch: it all starts with “what time?”

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it’s built
星期日	xīngqīrì	Sunday	星 star + 期 period of time + 日 sun, day
星期天	xīngqītiān	Sunday	星 star + 期 period of time + 天 sky, day
现在	xiànzài	now	现 to appear, present + 在 to be at
点	diǎn	o’clock; dot	点 also means “dot”, so on wishyou.today every hour is a dot to connect!
分	fēn	minute; to divide	A knife cuts the hour into little pieces: minutes.
分钟	fēnzhōng	minute (how long)	分 to divide, minute + 钟 clock, bell
小时	xiǎoshí	hour	小 small + 时 time, hour
半	bàn	half; half past	Look at 半: one line runs straight down the middle, cutting it in half.
一半	yībàn	half (of something)	一 one + 半 half
时间	shíjiān	time	时 time, hour + 间 between, space
时候	shíhou	time; moment	时 time, hour + 候 to wait; season
上午	shàngwǔ	morning (before noon)	上 up, above; first + 午 noon
下午	xiàwǔ	afternoon	下 down, below; next + 午 noon

pattern clock time: 点, 分 and 半

hour 点 **minutes** 分

Say the hour, then 点, then the minutes and 分: 八点十分 is 8:10. Half past is just 半: 三点半. Careful: 点 and 分 are times on the clock, while 小时 and 分钟 say how long.

现在七点十五分。 **Xiànzài qī diǎn shíwǔ fēn.** It's 7:15. (点 and 分: a time on the clock)

我学习四十分钟。 **Wǒ xuéxí sìshí fēnzhōng.** I study for forty minutes. (分钟 and 小时: how long)

你什么时候有时间? **Nǐ shénme shíhou yǒu shíjiān?** When are you free? (什么时候 asks "when?"; 时间 is time you have)

我们下午四点半学习汉语。 **Wǒmen xiàwǔ sì diǎn bàn xuéxí Hànyǔ.** We study Chinese at half past four in the afternoon.

dialogue when are you free?

xiaoming 安娜，你什么时候有时间?
Ānnà, nǐ shénme shíhou yǒu shíjiān? · Anna, when are you free?

anna 星期天下午。上午没有时间。
Xīngqītiān xiàwǔ. Shàngwǔ méiyǒu shíjiān. · Sunday afternoon. I'm busy in the morning.

xiaoming 下午两点，好吗?
Xiàwǔ liǎng diǎn, hǎo ma? · Two in the afternoon, OK?

anna 好！小明，现在几点?
Hǎo! Xiǎomíng, xiànzài jǐ diǎn? · Great! Xiaoming, what time is it now?

xiaoming 现在十点半。
Xiànzài shí diǎn bàn. · It's half past ten.

anna 十点半? 我十一点学习汉语！
Shí diǎn bàn? Wǒ shíyī diǎn xuéxí Hànyǔ! · Half past ten? I study Chinese at eleven!

xiaoming 没关系，你有半个小时。
Méi guānxi, nǐ yǒu bàn gè xiǎoshí. · Don't worry, you've got half an hour.

anna 好！星期天下午两点，再见！
Hǎo! Xīngqītiān xiàwǔ liǎng diǎn, zàijiàn! · OK! Sunday, two o'clock. Bye!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

半
bàn
half; half past

点
diǎn
o'clock; dot



分
fēn
minute; to divide



上
shàng
on; up; above

good to know · Two o’clock is 两点, never 二点: 两 is the “two” for counting things, and hours count. Clock or how long? 三点 3:00, but 三个小时 3 hours. 八点十分 8:10, but 十分钟 10 minutes. 时间 is time you have; 什么时候 asks “when?”

You can set a time to meet a friend in Chinese now. Sunday, two o’clock: done!
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**