

Time, days and dates

Pre-intermediate

1 Fill the gaps

Complete the times with the correct missing words:

It's 8.30 am

→ It's eight thirty in the _____.

→ It's _____ past eight.

It's 9.00 pm

→ It's nine in the evening.

→ It's nine _____.

It's 3.45 pm

→ It's three _____ - _____ in the _____.

→ It's _____ to _____.

It's 9.40 pm

→ It's _____ forty in the _____.

→ It's _____ ten.

2 Read and match

Match the times in A with the times in B:

A

Lunchtime

Bedtime

Midday

Midnight

Early evening

Late afternoon

Dawn

B

It's between twelve and one o'clock in our house.

At twelve am it's dark outside.

At about five o'clock.

At quarter past seven.

At five o'clock in the morning. The sun rises.

I'm usually tired at about half past ten.

At twelve pm

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3 Read and match

Match the ways we write days and dates to the ways we say days and dates:

23rd Oct 99	The twelfth of January two thousand and three
12/1/03	April twelfth nineteen ninety-eight
April 12th 1998	October the twenty third nineteen ninety nine

Now answer these questions:

- Do you write 12/1/03 when you are writing *informally* (in your diary, for example) or *formally*, (on a business letter, for example)? How do you write 12/1/03 *formally*?
- Look at the three ways we say dates above. Which two are British English? Which one is American English?

4 Fill the gaps

What's the next word in each list?

- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, _____
- June, July, August, _____
- spring, summer, autumn/fall, _____
- year, decade, century, _____

5 Match the words

Match the days and dates to the special occasions:

Easter	Sunday November 6th 2002
Ramadan	October 31st
Halloween	December 31st
Boxing Day	March 31st 2002
New Year's Eve	December 26th

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6 Fill the gaps

Read the passage and fill in the gaps with the days and dates below. Then answer the questions:

31 st January 1606	5 th November	27 th January 1606
17 th century	5 th November 1605	1859

Bonfire Night

At the beginning of the _____ there were many attempts to overthrow King James I. The most notable of these was the 'Gunpowder Plot'. Some men tried to blow up the House of Lords during the State Opening of Parliament on _____ when the King, together with members of the House of Lords and House of Commons, was in the Lord's Chamber. Robert Catesby was the leader of the conspirators, but Guy Fawkes became the most famous of them. They planned to dig a tunnel under the House of Lords but this failed. They then wanted to blow up the Lord's Chamber from a cellar directly beneath. Their plot was discovered and Guy Fawkes was taken to the Tower of London. The conspirators were tried at Westminster Hall on _____. All were found guilty and were executed on _____. An Act of Parliament was passed making _____ each year a day of thanksgiving for 'the joyful day of deliverance'. This Act remained in force until _____ although it is still traditional in Britain to have bonfires on or around 5th November.

Glossary

To overthrow →	To force a leader out of their position of power.
To blow up →	To explode and destroy something.
A plot →	A secret plan to do something bad.
Conspirator →	Someone who secretly makes a plan.
To execute →	To kill someone as a punishment for a crime

- How many days passed between the trial of Guy Fawkes and his execution?
- Until what century was the Act of Parliament in force?
- When is Bonfire Night in Britain?
- Are there dates in the calendar in your country which commemorate special days in the past? Write a short explanation of this special day.

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7 Question time!

Answer these questions about yourself. Write the answers in full:

- a. When is your birthday?
- b. When is Independence Day in your country?
- c. What's the most important date of the year in your country?
- d. When do people usually go on holiday in your country?
- e. What is your favourite time of day? Why?
- f. What time is your bedtime?

Interview your partner.

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Teacher's notes – Times, days and dates (Pre-intermediate)

At pre-intermediate level it is a good idea to find visuals to help teach these words. You could bring in a large clock with moveable hands, and a calendar. Find out whether the students know times, days and months.

1 Put the students in pairs to complete the times:

It's 8.30 am	It's eight thirty in the <u>morning</u> .	It's <u>half past</u> eight.
It's 9.00 pm	It's nine in the evening.	It's nine <u>o'clock</u> .
It's 3.45 pm	It's three <u>forty-five</u> in the <u>afternoon</u> .	It's <u>quarter to</u> <u>four</u> .
It's 9.40 pm	It's <u>nine</u> forty in the <u>evening</u> .	It's <u>twenty to</u> <u>ten</u> .

2 Put the students in pairs to match the times in A with the times in B:

lunchtime	=	It's between twelve and one o'clock in my house
bedtime	=	I'm usually tired at about half past ten.
midday	=	At twelve pm
midnight	=	At twelve am It's dark outside.
early evening	=	At quarter past seven.
late afternoon	=	At about five o'clock.
dawn	=	At five o'clock in the morning. The sun rises.

3 Put the students in pairs to match the ways we write days and dates to the ways we say days and dates:

23rd Oct '99	October the twenty third nineteen ninety nine
12/1/03	The twelfth of January two thousand and three.
April 12th 1998	April twelfth nineteen ninety-eight.

Discuss the questions as a class.

- You write 12/1/03 when you are writing informally (in your diary, for example). You write 12/1/03 formally as: January 12th 2003 or 12th January 2003.
- April twelfth nineteen ninety-eight is American English. Americans don't say *the*.

4 Put the students in pairs to decide on the next word in each list.

- Friday
- September
- winter (Note: fall is American English)
- millennium

5 Put the students in pairs to match the days and dates to the special occasions. Depending on the culture and nationality of your class, add other important dates.

Easter	Sunday March 31st 2002	Ramadan	November 6th 2002
Halloween	October 31 st	Boxing Day	December 26th
New Year's Eve	December 31st		

Note: Ramadan is the Moslem period of fasting. Easter and Ramadan take place on different dates each year.

6 Ask the students to read the passage and fill in the gaps.

17th Century > 5th November 1605 > 27th January 1606 > 5th November > 1859

- 4
- 19th
- 5 November
- Personal answers

7 Give the students a few minutes to write full answers to the questions about themselves. Then ask them to interview their partner.