



LESSON A.4

TELLING THE TIME

告诉时间 GÀOSÙ SHÍJIĀN

LESSON A.3 REVISION



2

Construct words/phrases from the below characters:

今
jīn

度
dù

几
jǐ

星
xīng

生
shēn

台
tái

派
pài

日
rì

真
zhēn

明
míng

马马
mǎmǎ

虎虎
hūhū

湾
wān

日
rì

号
hào

期
qí

棒
bàng

历
lì

假
jià

对
duì

白
bái

年
nián



你几时飞?

nǐ jǐshí fēi

When
is your flight? (Lit. When do you
fly)

明天早上。

míngtiān zǎoshang

Tomorrow morning.

让我车你去机场吧!

ràng wǒ chē nǐ qù jīchǎng ba

Let me drive you to the
airport!

不用了, 太早了! *

bùyòngle, tài zǎole

No need. Too
early!

Note: for 不 (bù), change the tone to 2nd tone when preceding 4th tone.

TELL THE TIME



4

o'clock

点

diǎn

half past

点半

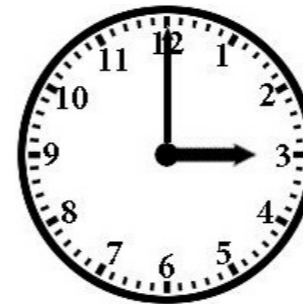
diǎn bàn

minutes

分

fēn

- Add 点 to a number to say "o'clock".



三点

sān diǎn

- Add 点半 to say "half past".



七点半

qī diǎn bàn

- Add however many minutes 分 to make other times.



五点五十分

wǔ diǎn wǔshí fēn

DURATION



5

hour(s)	unit	half	minute(s)	second(s)
小时	个	半	分钟	秒
<i>xiǎoshí</i>	<i>gè</i>	<i>bàn</i>	<i>fēnzhōng</i>	<i>miǎo</i>

1. 3 hours and 20 minutes

三个小时二十分钟

sān gè xiǎoshí èrshí fēnzhōng

2. Two and a half hours

两个半小时

liǎng gè bàn xiǎoshí

3. 4 hours and 15 minutes

四个小时十五分钟

sì gè xiǎoshí shíwǔ fēnzhōng

4. 60 seconds

六十秒

liùshí miǎo

TIME OF THE DAY



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Early am

早上

zǎoshàng

Morning

上午

shàngwǔ

Noon

中午

zhōngwǔ

Afternoon

下午

xiàwǔ

Evening

晚上

wǎnshàng

1. "Good morning!"

早上好!

zǎoshàng hǎo

2. "Good afternoon!"

(Rarely used)

下午好!

xiàwǔ hǎo

3. "Good evening!"

晚上好!

wǎnshàng hǎo

4. "Goodnight!"

晚安!

wǎn'ān

Daytime

白天

báitiān

Night

夜间

yèjiān



几点了?
jǐ diǎnle

What time is it? (Lit. What
o'clock)

现在是下午六点四十五分。
xiànzài shì xiàwǔ liù diǎn sìshíwǔ fēn

Now is 6:45pm.

你几点下班?
nǐ jǐ diǎn xiàbān

What time do you finish
work?

我五点下班。
wǒ wǔ diǎn xiàbān

I am off duty at 5
o'clock.



你的课程有多长?

nǐ de kèchéng yǒu duō cháng

How long is your lesson?

每周只有四个小时。

měi zhōu zhǐyǒu sìgè xiǎoshí

Only 4 hours a week.

(Lit. Each week only have 4 hours)

几时?

jǐshí

What time?

从上午十点到下午两点。

cóng shàngwǔ shídiǎn dào xiàwǔ liǎng diǎn

From 10am to 2pm.



On the hour

- Add 整 to emphasize "on the hour sharp" or "on the dot", e.g. "3 o'clock sharp" is 三点整 (*sān diǎn zhěng*).
- 整 on its own means whole.
- In Cantonese, use a different character 正 to describe the same notion.

Whole

整

zhěng

Straight

正

zhèng



It is a very versatile word and has several meanings

1. O'clock e.g. two o'clock sharp 兩点整 (*liǎng diǎn zhěng*)
2. Little e.g. a little bit 一小点 (*yī xiǎo diǎn*), bit by bit 点点滴滴 (*diǎn diǎndī dī*), a little 一点儿 (*yīdiǎn er*)
3. Drop e.g. raindrop 雨点 (*yǔdiǎn*)
4. Point e.g. the first point 第一点 (*dì yī diǎn*)
5. Dot e.g. spot 斑点 (*bāndiǎn*)
6. Place 地点 (*dìdiǎn*) and attractions 景点 (*jǐngdiǎn*)
7. Dessert 点心 (*diǎnxīn*). Please note Cantonese also use 点心 but it means dimsum which is Cantonese speciality

CLASSROOM EXERCISE 1.4 – WORK, STUDY AND PLAY TIME



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- Working with the person next to you, ask the time of the following scenarios:

Scenario 1:

What time is your birthday party? 你的生日派对几点? *nǐ de shēngrì pàiduì jǐ diǎn*

From _____ to _____ 从 _____ 到 _____. *cóng _____ dào _____*

Scenario 2:

What time do you go to work? 你几点上班? *nǐ jǐ diǎn shàngbān*

I go to work at _____ 我 _____ 上班。 *wǒ _____ shàngbān*

Upper

上
shàng

Scenario 3:

What time do you finish class? 你几点下课? *nǐ jǐ diǎn xiàkè*

I finish class at _____ 我 _____ 下课。 *wǒ _____ xiàkè*

Lower

下
xià