Telling time to the hour and half hour

How do you read a clock and write the time?

WORDS TO KNOW

Hour hand: the short hand.

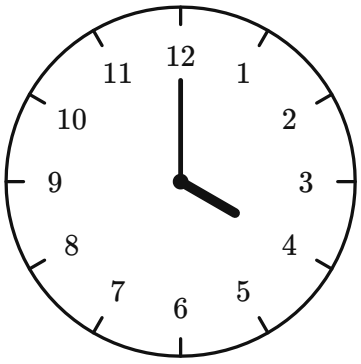
Minute hand: the long hand.

KEY IDEAS

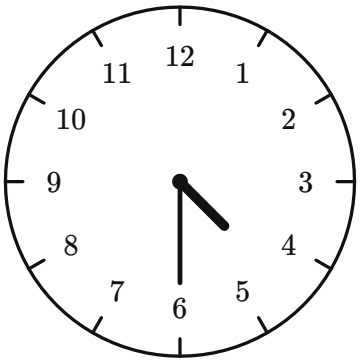
1. Look at the long hand first

Long hand on 12? It is o'clock. Long hand on 6? It is half past.

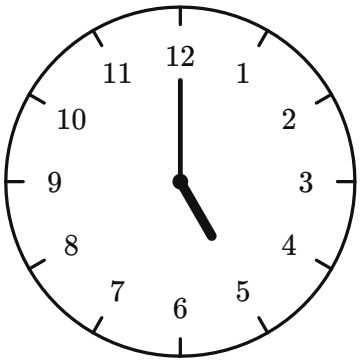
> At half past, the short hand is halfway to the next number.



4:00



4:30



5:00

2. Before the colon is the hour

A digital clock shows the hour, two dots called a colon, then minutes.

> After the colon, write 00 for o'clock or 30 for half past.

WATCH OUT

- **Mixing up the hands.** The short hand tells the hour.
- **Reading the next number at half past.** That hour has not come yet.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Write half past 8 the way a digital clock shows it.

1. Write the hour, 8, and a colon. Half past is 30 minutes, so write 30.

Answer: 8:30

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