

3rd Grade Math: Telling Time

What Is Time?

Time tells us the **duration** of events and helps us keep track of when things happen. In 3rd grade, students learn to tell time using both **analog** and **digital clocks** and how to calculate elapsed time.

Parts of an Analog Clock

An **analog clock** has:

- **12 numbers** around the face, representing the hours.
- **Hour hand:** The shorter hand that points to the current hour.
- **Minute hand:** The longer hand that points to the number of minutes.
- **Second hand:** A thin hand that counts seconds (not always present on every clock).

Each number on the clock represents **5 minutes**, so when the minute hand moves from one number to the next, it has moved 5 minutes.

Key Time Facts:

- **60 minutes = 1 hour**
- **24 hours = 1 day**
- A day is divided into two 12-hour periods: **a.m.** (morning) and **p.m.** (afternoon and evening).

Reading an Analog Clock

Example 1: Telling Time

Imagine the hour hand is pointing to the 3, and the minute hand is pointing to the 6.

Step 1: Look at the **hour hand**. It points to 3, so it's 3 o'clock.

Step 2: Look at the **minute hand**. It points to the 6, which is **30 minutes** (because $6 \times 5 = 30$).

The time is **3:30**.

Parts of a Digital Clock

A **digital clock** shows the time with numbers, like this:

- **3:45** means it's 3 hours and 45 minutes.
- **7:00** means it's exactly 7 o'clock.

A **digital clock** is easier to read because it tells you the time directly, but you still need to understand how the numbers represent hours and minutes.

Elapsed Time

Elapsed time is the amount of time that has passed between two events.

Example 2: Finding Elapsed Time

Problem:

You start reading a book at 2:00 p.m., and you finish at 2:45 p.m. How much time did you spend reading?

Solution:

- Start time: **2:00 p.m.**
- End time: **2:45 p.m.**

To find the elapsed time, subtract the start time from the end time:

$$2 : 45 - 2 : 00 = 45 \text{ minutes}$$

You spent **45 minutes** reading.

Practice Problem: Elapsed Time

Problem:

You start soccer practice at 3:15 p.m., and it ends at 4:00 p.m. How much time did you spend at practice?

Solution:

- Start time: **3:15 p.m.**

- End time: **4:00 p.m.**

To find the elapsed time:

- From 3:15 to 4:00 is **45 minutes**.

You spent **45 minutes** at practice.

Time to the Nearest Minute

Sometimes you need to tell time to the **nearest minute**. Each small mark on the clock between the numbers represents **1 minute**.

Example 3: Time to the Nearest Minute

Problem:

If the minute hand is on the 7, how many minutes is that?

Solution:

- Each number is worth 5 minutes.
- So, $7 \times 5 = \mathbf{35 \text{ minutes}}$.
- The time would be **:35** (e.g., 3:35 if the hour hand is on 3).

Conclusion:

- Telling time involves reading both **analog clocks** and **digital clocks**.
- You can calculate **elapsed time** by figuring out how many hours or minutes have passed between two events.
- Keep practicing with both clocks to get better at telling time and solving real-world time problems!

With these skills, you'll be able to manage your daily schedule and understand how long things take!