

SCENE 21 • GRAMMAR

at nine, half past five

Telling the time and working hours

6 Exercises · Duration: 20 min.

The first week at work

English

Read & listen online 



Telling the time and working hours

Use **at** for a clock time: **at nine, at half past five**. British **half past five** is 5:30. **A quarter past nine** is 9:15; **a quarter to nine** is 8:45.

You can read a timetable directly: **nine twelve, seventeen forty**. Ordinary speech often uses twelve-hour times plus context: **five forty in the afternoon**.

Use **from ... to ...** or **from ... until ...** for a range: **from nine to half past five**. **In the morning/afternoon/evening** differs from the fixed phrase **at night**.

Form	Example	Meaning
at	Work starts at nine.	Give the start time.
thirty	Half past five is five thirty.	Explain the clock time.
forty-five	A quarter to nine is eight forty-five.	Explain quarter to nine.
from	We work from nine to half past five.	Introduce the beginning of a time range.
in	I work in the morning.	Name a part of the day.
at	Jack plays at night.	Use the fixed preposition with night.

Work starts at nine.

Give the start time.

Half past five is five thirty.

Explain the clock time.

A quarter to nine is eight forty-five.

Explain quarter to nine.

We work from nine to half past five.

Introduce the beginning of a time range.

I work in the morning.

Name a part of the day.

Jack plays at night.

Use the fixed preposition with night.

GRAMMAR

G1) NOTICE THE PATTERNS

Underline the form described in this unit.

1 Work starts at nine.

Meaning: Give the start time.

2 Half past five is five thirty.

Meaning: Explain the clock time.

3 A quarter to nine is eight forty-five.

Meaning: Explain quarter to nine.

4 We work from nine to half past five.

Meaning: Introduce the beginning of a time range.

5 I work in the morning.

Meaning: Name a part of the day.

6 Jack plays at night.

Meaning: Use the fixed preposition with night.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 Work starts _____ nine.

- ☐ A at
- ☐ B in
- ☐ C on

Meaning: Give the start time.

2 Half past five is five _____.

- ☐ A thirty
- ☐ B fifty
- ☐ C fifteen

Meaning: Explain the clock time.

3 A quarter to nine is eight _____.

- ☐ A fifteen
- ☐ B thirty
- ☐ C forty-five

Meaning: Explain quarter to nine.

4 We work _____ nine to half past five.

- ☐ A from
- ☐ B at
- ☐ C on

Meaning: Introduce the beginning of a time range.

5 I work _____ the morning.

- ☐ A at
- ☐ B on
- ☐ C in

Meaning: Name a part of the day.

6 Jack plays _____ night.

- ☐ A at
- ☐ B on
- ☐ C in

Meaning: Use the fixed preposition with night.

G3) COMPLETE A SHORT MESSAGE

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

at in

Work starts _____ nine.

Meaning: Give the start time.

thirty fifteen

Half past five is five _____.

Meaning: Explain the clock time.

forty-five fifteen

A quarter to nine is eight _____.

Meaning: Explain quarter to nine.

from at

We work _____ nine to half past five.

Meaning: Introduce the beginning of a time range.

in at

I work _____ the morning.

Meaning: Name a part of the day.

at in

Jack plays _____ night.

Meaning: Use the fixed preposition with night.

G4) BUILD USEFUL SENTENCES

Put the words in order.

- 1 starts Work at nine.
-

Meaning: Give the start time.

- 2 thirty. is Half five five past
-

Meaning: Explain the clock time.

- 3 is A nine to quarter eight forty-five.
-

Meaning: Explain quarter to nine.

- 4 five. from nine We half work past to
-

Meaning: Introduce the beginning of a time range.

5 morning. I work in the

Meaning: Name a part of the day.

6 at Jack plays night.

Meaning: Use the fixed preposition with night.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 Give the start time. You say:

- ☐ A Work starts in nine.
- ☐ B Work starts at nine.

2 Explain the clock time. You say:

- ☐ A Half past five is five thirty.
- ☐ B Half past five is five fifteen.

3 Explain quarter to nine. You say:

- (A) A quarter to nine is eight fifteen.
- (B) A quarter to nine is eight forty-five.

4 Introduce the beginning of a time range. You say:

- (A) We work from nine to half past five.
- (B) We work at nine to half past five.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) I work in the morning. | (A) Name a part of the day. |
| (2) We work from nine to half past five. | (B) Explain the clock time. |
| (3) A quarter to nine is eight forty-five. | (C) Use the fixed preposition with night. |
| (4) Half past five is five thirty. | (D) Explain quarter to nine. |

- ⑤ Jack plays at night. ⑤ Give the start time.
- ⑥ Work starts at nine. ⑥ Introduce the beginning of a
time range.