

SCENE 21 • NUMBER 7

Five to nine

Monday, your first day. At five to nine exactly, a neat man in a blue shirt waits at the office door: the man from the café. "I'm Tom. You're late."

129 Words · 5 Exercises · Duration: 15 min.

The first week at work

English

Read & listen online ↗



LEARNING GOAL

I can tell the time, say when work starts and give my email address.

Tom = ■ Lena (Lukas) = ○

- Good morning. I'm Tom. You're late.
- Late? It's only five to nine.
- Work starts at nine. I arrive at quarter to nine. Every day.
- So early? Every day?

○ I know you from the café. Table three!

■ And you are the new colleague from number seven. With the cat.

○ Yes. But Milo is not mine.

A bright office with two desks side by side, one of them perfectly tidy.

He writes your new email address on a yellow note and sticks it exactly in the middle of your screen.

■ Here is your desk. The computer is by the window. I sit next to you. Your surname, please.

○ Becker. B, E, C, K, E, R.

■ Good. becker@millbrook.example. I'll write it here.

○ Until when do we work?

■ From nine until half past five. The break lasts thirty minutes.

○ Eight hours of work?

■ Exactly. And half an hour of break.

He picks something off your jacket on the back of your chair and stares at it.

■ What is this? A grey hair. From Milo?

☐ Yes. Sorry, Tom.

☒ Then one metre of distance, please.

Vocabulary

DOING THINGS

start	start
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TIME AND THE CLOCK

late	late
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hour	hour (sixty minutes)
-------------	----------------------

minute	minute
---------------	--------

COLOURS

grey	grey
-------------	------

SMALL WORDS

until	until
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LIFE AND WORK

address	address
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PEOPLE AROUND YOU

man	man
------------	-----

colleague	colleague
------------------	-----------

EVERYDAY THINGS

desk	desk
-------------	------

computer	computer
-----------------	----------

email	email
--------------	-------

metre	metre
--------------	-------

DATES AND EVENTS**quarter**

quarter

LISTENING & UNDERSTANDING**L1) WHO SAYS IT**

Read the dialogue again. Who says these words? Tick the right person.

1 Good morning. I'm Tom. You're late.

☐ A Tom

☐ B Lena

2 Good. becker@millbrook.example. I'll write it here.

☐ A Tom

☐ B Lena

L2) WHAT DOES IT MEAN

Tick the right English meaning.

1 So early? Every day?

- ☐ A Until when do we work?
- ☐ B So early? Every day?
- ☐ C Eight hours of work?

2 Until when do we work?

- ☐ A And you are the new colleague from number seven. With the cat.
- ☐ B Yes. Sorry, Tom.
- ☐ C Until when do we work?

L3) HOW DO YOU SAY IT

Tick the right English sentence.

1 I know you from the café. Table three!

- ☐ A I know you from the café. Table three!
- ☐ B From nine until half past five. The break lasts thirty minutes.
- ☐ C Good morning. I'm Tom. You're late.

2 Eight hours of work?

- (A) Eight hours of work?
- (B) And you are the new colleague from number seven. With the cat.
- (C) Yes. Sorry, Tom.

L4) PUT THE WORDS IN ORDER

Write the words in the right order on the line.

- 1** Yes. not But Milo is mine.

- 2** this? From Milo? What A hair. grey is

L5) WHAT HAPPENS FIRST

Number the lines in the order they come in the scene.

- ☐ I know you from the café. Table three!
- ☐ Exactly. And half an hour of break.
- ☐ Late? It's only five to nine.
- ☐ Good. becker@millbrook.example. I'll write it here.
- ☐ Yes. Sorry, Tom.

SCENE 21 • WORDS

Five to nine

Five to nine

4 Exercises • Duration: 10 min.

The first week at work

English

Read & listen online ↗

late
late



start
start



quarter
quarter



man
man



colleague
colleague



desk
desk



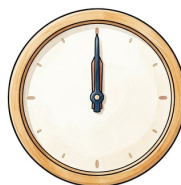
computer
computer



email
email



address
address



hour
hour (sixty
minutes)



minute
minute



grey
grey

Words

late

late

Late? It's only five to nine.

start

start

Work starts at nine. I arrive at quarter to nine. Every day.

quarter

quarter

Work starts at nine. I arrive at quarter to nine. Every day.

man

man

colleague

colleague

And you are the new colleague from number seven. With the cat.

desk

desk

Here is your desk. The computer is by the window. I sit next to you. Your surname, please.

computer

computer

Here is your desk. The computer is by the window. I sit next to you. Your surname, please.

email

email

address

address

until

until

Until when do we work?

hour

hour (sixty minutes)

Eight hours of work?

minute

minute

From nine until half past five. The break lasts thirty minutes.

grey

grey

What is this? A grey hair. From Milo?

metre

metre

Then one metre of distance, please.

VOCABULARY & COMMUNICATION**W1) WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

What does it mean?

1 until

- ☐ A second (ordinal)
- ☐ B price
- ☐ C until

2 computer

- ☐ A computer
- ☐ B April
- ☐ C today

3 start

- ☐ A start
- ☐ B egg
- ☐ C good morning

4 late

- ☐ A late
- ☐ B arrive
- ☐ C nice to meet you

5 email

- ☐ A learn
- ☐ B tea
- ☐ C email

6 metre

- ☐ A metre
- ☐ B look / watch
- ☐ C time

W2) COMPLETE THE CONVERSATION

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

Late So Work Good

_____ morning. I'm Tom. You're late.

Meaning: Good morning. I'm Tom. You're late.

Late Good Work So

_____? It's only five to nine.

Meaning: Late? It's only five to nine.

So Good Late Work

_____ starts at nine. I arrive at quarter to nine. Every day.

Meaning: Work starts at nine. I arrive at quarter to nine. Every day.

Work So Good Late

_____ early? Every day?

Meaning: So early? Every day?

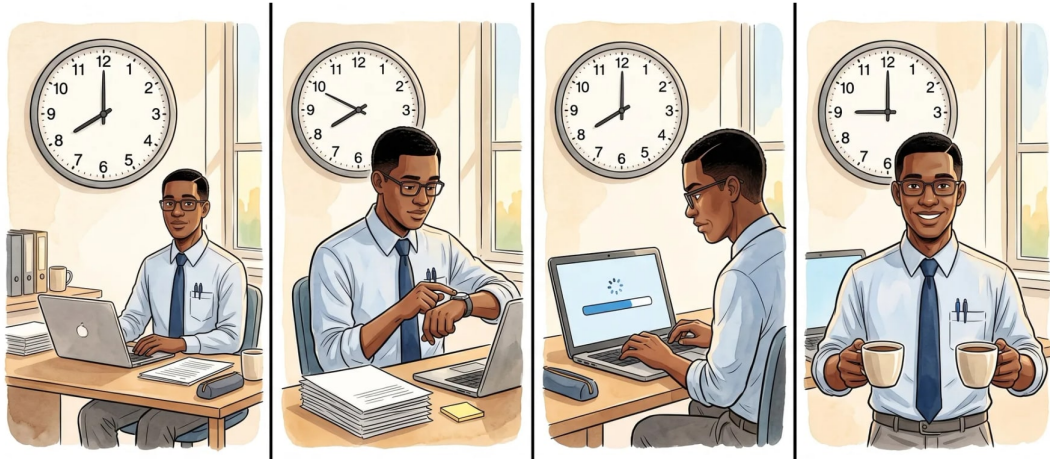
Good know Work Late

I _____ you from the café. Table three!

Meaning: I know you from the café. Table three!

W3) MORNING, TOM! TEN TO NINE. I'M NOT LATE!

Fill the speech bubbles.



nine Good slow Morning

Lena: _____, Tom! Ten to nine. I'm not late!

Tom: _____. I'm always here by half past seven.

Tom: My computer's very _____. It needs an hour.

Tom: And now it's _____. First job: coffee!

Meaning: 1. Morning, Tom! Ten to nine. I'm not late!

2. Good. I'm always here by half past seven.

3. My computer's very slow. It needs an hour.

4. And now it's nine. First job: coffee!

W4) COMPLETE THE CONVERSATION

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

So Good Late Work

_____ morning. I'm Tom. You're late.

Meaning: Good morning. I'm Tom. You're late.

Late Work Good So

_____? It's only five to nine.

Meaning: Late? It's only five to nine.

Late Work So Good

_____ starts at nine. I arrive at quarter to nine. Every day.

Meaning: Work starts at nine. I arrive at quarter to nine. Every day.

So Late Work Good

_____ early? Every day?

Meaning: So early? Every day?

Good Work Late know

I _____ you from the café. Table three!

Meaning: I know you from the café. Table three!

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.