

24-hour clock

24-hour clock	12-hour clock
00:00	12:00 midnight
01:00	1:00 a.m.
02:00	2:00 a.m.
03:00	3:00 a.m.
04:00	4:00 a.m.
05:00	5:00 a.m.
06:00	6:00 a.m.
07:00	7:00 a.m.
08:00	8:00 a.m.
09:00	9:00 a.m.
10:00	10:00 a.m.
11:00	11:00 a.m.
12:00	12:00 noon
13:00	1:00 p.m.
14:00	2:00 p.m.
15:00	3:00 p.m.
16:00	4:00 p.m.
17:00	5:00 p.m.
18:00	6:00 p.m.
19:00	7:00 p.m.
20:00	8:00 p.m.
21:00	9:00 p.m.
22:00	10:00 p.m.
23:00	11:00 p.m.
24:00	12:00 midnight

The **24-hour clock** is a method of telling the time in which the day runs from midnight to midnight and is divided into 24 hours, numbered from 0 to 24. This system is also referred to (only in the US and Canada) as **military time** or (only in the United Kingdom and now very rarely) as **continental time**. In some parts of the world, it is called **railway time**. Also, the international standard notation of time (ISO 8601) is based on this format.

A time in the 24-hour clock is written in the form hours:minutes (for example, 01:23), or hours:minutes:seconds (01:23:45). Numbers under 10 have a zero in front; e.g. 09:07. Under the 24-hour clock system, the day begins at midnight, 00:00, and the last minute of the day begins at 23:59 and ends at 24:00, which is identical to 00:00 of the following day. 12:00 can only be mid-day. Midnight is called 24:00 if used to mean the end of the day and 00:00 if used to mean the beginning of the day. For example, you would say "Tuesday at 24:00" and "Wednesday at 00:00" to mean the exact same time.

However, the US military prefers not to say 24:00 - they do not like to have two names for the same thing, so they always say "23:59", which is one minute before midnight.

To convert between the 12-hour clock and the 24-hour clock, use the table to the right.

24-hour clock time is used in computers, military, public safety, and transport. In many Asian, European and Latin American countries people use it to write the time. Many French, Italian and Romanian people use it in speaking.

Many models of digital wristwatches and clocks are available that display the time of day using the 24-hour clock.

In railway timetables 24:00 means the *end* of the day. For example, a train due to arrive at a station during the last minute of a day arrives at 24:00; but trains which depart during the first minute of the day go at 00:00.

To write shop opening hours until midnight use, for example, "00:00–24:00", "07:00–24:00".

Advantages over the 12-hour system:

- Fewer confusions between morning and evening; e.g. 7 o'clock.
 - People don't have to figure out if noon is 12 a.m. or 12 p.m.
 - It is easier to calculate duration. From 10:30 a.m. till 3:30 p.m. is 5 hours. From 10:30 till 15:30 indicates this better.
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Article Sources and Contributors

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