



Clocks and watches

Have you enjoyed our *Vokabeltrainer Die Zeit?* Here, ANNA HOCHSIEDER presents even more words and phrases to talk about time and how to measure it.

MEDIUM PLUS



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| 1. face [feɪs] | 10. alarm clock [ə'la:m klɒk] |
| 2. grandfather clock ['grændfɑ:ðə ,klɒk] | 11. stopwatch ['stɒpwɒtʃ] |
| 3. pendulum ['pendjələm] | 12. second hand ['sekənd hænd] |
| 4. time clock ['taɪm ,klɒk] | 13. smartwatch ['smɑ:twɒtʃ] |
| 5. cuckoo clock ['kʊku: klɒk] | 14. fob watch ['fɒb wɒtʃ], pocket watch |
| 6. hourglass ['aʊəglɑ:s] | 15. sundial ['sʌn,daiəl] |
| 7. digital clock ['dɪdʒɪtəl ,klɒk] | 16. egg timer ['eg ,taɪmə] |
| 8. minute hand ['mɪnɪt hænd] | 17. watch strap ['wɒtʃ stræp] |
| 9. hour hand ['aʊə hænd] | 18. watch [wɒtʃ], wristwatch ['rɪstwɒtʃ] |

On spotlight-online.de/teachers/picture-it you can find German translations for these words and expressions, as well as our Vocabulary archive.

anticipate [æn'tɪsɪpeɪt]
• erwarten

commitment [kə'mɪtmənt]
• Verpflichtung

eagerly ['i:gəli]
• ungeduldig

elapse [ɪ'læps]
• verstreichen, vergehen

faraway [ˌfɑ:rə'weɪ]
• abgelegen, weit entfernt

juggle ['dʒʌɡl]
• jonglieren

last [lɑ:st]
• dauern

literally ['lɪtərəli]
• wörtlich, buchstäblich

longitude ['lɒŋɡɪtʃu:d]
• Längengrad

mnemonic [nɪ'mɒnɪk]
• Gedächtnisstütze

observe [əb'zɜ:v]
• einhalten

put off [pʊt 'ɒf]
• aufschieben



seize [si:z]
• ergreifen; hier: nutzen, genießen

slave [sleɪv]
• Sklave

snail's pace ['sneɪlz peɪs]
• Schnecken tempo

Perceptions of time

As children, we think we **have all the time in the world**. Time seems to **go by at a snail's pace**. "Are we nearly there?" we ask on any car journey **lasting** more than ten minutes. Birthdays, Christmases, the first day of school are **eagerly anticipated**. If only time didn't **pass** so slowly!

The older we get, though, the faster time seems to **elapse**. Women in particular, but men, too, **hear the biological clock ticking**. **Juggling** a job with family **commitments** can feel like a constant **race against the clock**. If only we could **make time stand still!**

For children who can't yet **tell the time**, **punctuality** is meaningless. But once we start school, we begin to **live by the clock**. We remain **slaves** to it at least until we retire. Then, one day, we realize that we are old and **literally running out of time**. **If only we could put the clock back!**

That's not possible, of course, but maybe there's a lesson to be learned from all this: let's not **put off** the important things in life, and let's make the most of **the time we have left!** As the Romans said, *Carpe diem* — **Seize the day!**

Spring forward, fall back

GMT, or **Greenwich Mean Time**, is the time on the line of 0° **longitude**. It is used as an international standard in many English-speaking countries.

In some parts of the world, the clocks are **put forward** one hour in spring, so that daylight lasts longer in the evening. This is called **summer time** in the UK and **daylight saving time** in North America. In the autumn, the clocks are **put back to standard time**, giving us an extra hour of sleep during the night.

Large countries like the US, Canada and Australia have several **time zones**, and not all areas there **observe** daylight saving time. So, before you call someone in a **faraway** place, be sure to check the **local time**.

By the way, our headline is a useful **mnemonic** to help you remember which way to turn your clocks: move them forward in spring, and move them back in autumn — which is called "fall" in North America.

PS: Turn to "Easy English" (page 58) to read a short dialogue with a watchmaker and to find out more about one of the most famous clocks in the world: Big Ben.



Seize the day! Take the time to practise the vocabulary you've learned on these pages. You'll find exercises in **Spotlight plus**: spotlight-online.de/spotlight-plus