

**FUNCTION F: TELLING THE TIME**

**QUESTION “HOW MUCH”** ♦♦ The word for time *és-saaʿa* الساعة used in the expression “what’s the time?” is the same word used in Arabic for “o’clock”, “clock” “watch” and “hour”. The word used for “what” is not *shu* شو but *qaddeesh* قديش which literally means “how much”. The question you use to ask someone for the time is

*qaddeesh és-saaʿa?* قديش الساعة؟

The numbers you use after *és-saaʿa* الساعة are exactly the same as the numbers you have already learnt to count with, except for one and two o’clock. Look how one and two change:

*waaheed > és-saaʿa waaḥde* one o’clock واحد < الساعة واحدة  
*tneen > és-saaʿa ténteen* two o’clock ثنتين < الساعة ثنتين

This is because *és-saaʿa* الساعة is feminine and must be described by feminine numbers.

**“TO” VERSUS “PAST” THE HOUR** ♦♦ The word *w* و (and) is used to mean “past” the hour while *élla* إلا (less) is used to mean “to” the hour. Small units of time follow the hour for example

<i>sabʿa....</i>	....seven	سبعة...
<i>...w khamse</i>	5 past...	...و خمسة
<i>...w ʿashara</i>	10 past...	...و عشرة
<i>...w rébʿ</i>	quarter past...	...و ربع
<i>...w télt</i>	20 (‘a third’) past...	...و ثلث
<i>...w néss</i>	half past...	...و نص
<i>...élla télt</i>	20 (‘a third’) to...	...إلا ثلث
<i>...élla rébʿ</i>	quarter to...	...إلا ربع
<i>...élla ʿashara</i>	10 to...	...إلا عشرة
<i>...élla khamse</i>	5 to...	...إلا خمسة

And although such precise timing would rarely be used:

<i>...w néss élla khamse</i>	25 past...	...و نص إلا خمسة
<i>...w néss w khamse</i>	25 to...	...و نص و خمسة

**FRACTIONS** ♦♦ Notice that 15, 20 and 30 minutes of the hour are always described as fractions

<i>rébʿ</i>	a quarter	ربع
<i>télt</i>	a third	ثلث
<i>néss</i>	a half	نص

**“EXACTLY” VERSUS “ABOUT”** ♦♦ Other useful expressions you can add after the hour are

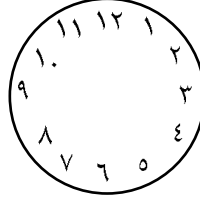
<i>tamaam</i>	exactly	تمام
<i>ḥawaali</i>	about	حوالي
<i>taqriiban</i>	about	تقريباً



1. Listen to the conversation and fill in the time.

A *qaddeesh és-saaʿa?*

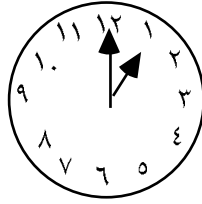
B *és-saaʿa* \_\_\_\_\_



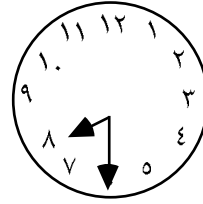
أ قديش الساعة؟

ب الساعة \_\_\_\_\_

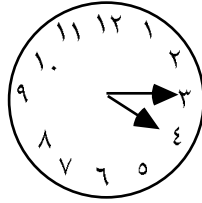
Now work with a teacher or classmate. Take it in turns to ask each other the time. Answer reading the clocks below.



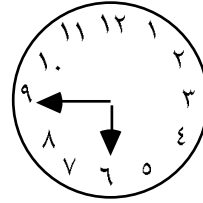
a.



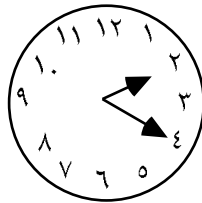
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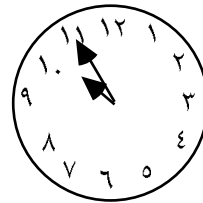
c.



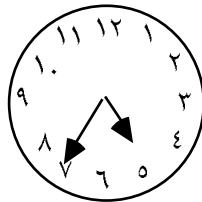
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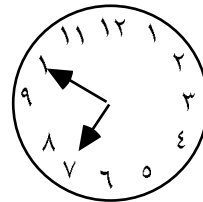
e.



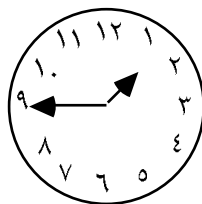
f.



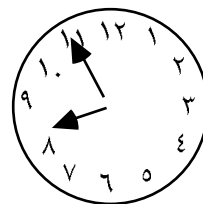
g.



h.



i.



j.

**QUESTION “WHAT TIME”** •• The word *ayy* أي (which) is used before *saaʿa* الساعة (time) to mean “what time” as distinct from “what is the time”. Compare these sentences:

<i>ayy saaʿa éd-dars?</i>	What time is class?	أي ساعة الدرس؟
<i>qaddeesh éš-saaʿa hallaq?</i>	What is the time now?	قديش الساعة هلق؟

**TIMES OF THE DAY** •• Below are some useful expressions of times of the day:

<i>és-šébbḥ</i>	in the morning	الصبح
<i>baʿd éd-dékkir</i>	in the afternoon	بعد الظهر
<i>él-ʿasr</i>	in the late afternoon	العصر
<i>él-masa</i>	in the evening	المسا
<i>b-él-leel</i>	at night	بالليل

**QUESTION WORD “WHEN”** •• There are several words in Arabic that can be translated as “when” including *eemta* إيمتى, *lamma* لما and *waqt ma* وقت ما. The question word *eemta* إيمتى is used in sentences like

<i>eemta éd-dars?</i>	When is the class?	إيمتى الدرس؟
<i>eemta dawaamak?</i>	When are your working hours?	إيمتى دوامك؟

while *lamma* لما and *waqt ma* وقت ما are used in sentences like “the class will begin when the teacher arrives” and will be discussed later.

**DAYS OF THE WEEK** •• In Arabic, the week begins on Sunday with the first five days being named day “one”, “two”, “three”, “four” and “five”. Friday--the Muslim holy day and official weekend in Syria--literally means “the day of gathering” while Saturday means “the Sabbath”.

<input type="checkbox"/> <i>yoom ḥl-ahad</i>	Sunday	يوم الاحد
<i>yoom ḥl-taneen</i>	Monday	يوم الاثنين
<i>yoom ḥl-talaata</i>	Tuesday	يوم الثلاثاء
<i>yoom ḥl-ʿarbʿa</i>	Wednesday	يوم الأربعاء
<i>yoom ḥl-khamiis</i>	Thursday	يوم الخميس
<i>yoom ḥl-jémʿa</i>	Friday	يوم الجمعة
<i>yoom ḥl-sabʿt</i>	Saturday	يوم السبت

Note that the word *yoom* يوم (day) is often dropped.



**2. Listen to the conversation and fill in the missing words.**

A <i>eemta éd-dars?</i>	أ	إيمتى الدرس؟
B <i>éd-dars yoom _____ w _____</i>	ب	الدرس يوم _____ و _____
<i>yoom _____</i>		يوم _____
A <i>ayy saaʿa?</i>	أ	_____ ساعة
B <i>és-saaʿa _____</i>	ب	الساعة _____

**This week's schedule.**

<i>yoom</i> <sup>é</sup> <i>l-ahad</i>	<i>dars</i> <sup>él</sup> - <i>arabi</i>	(٩,٠٠)	درس العربي	يوم الاحد
<i>yoom</i> <sup>é</sup> <i>t-taneen</i>	<sup>él</sup> - <i>éjtimacæ</i>	(١١,٣٠)	الإجتماع	يوم الاثنين
<i>yoom</i> <sup>é</sup> <i>t-talaata</i>	<i>dars</i> <sup>él</sup> - <i>éngliizi</i>	(٤,٤٥)	درس الإنكليزي	يوم الثلاثاء
<i>yoom</i> <sup>é</sup> <i>l-ar'ba'a</i>	<sup>él</sup> - <i>hafle</i> <sup>él</sup> - <i>mausiiqiyye</i> (٨,٠٠)		الحفلة الموسيقية	يوم الاربعاء
<i>yoom</i> <sup>é</sup> <i>l-khamiis</i>	<sup>él</sup> - <i>hafle</i>	(١٠,٠٠)	الحفلة	يوم الخميس
<i>yoom</i> <sup>é</sup> <i>jém'a</i>	<sup>él</sup> - <i>étle</i>		العطلة	يوم الجمعة
<i>yoom</i> <sup>é</sup> <i>s-sab't</i>	<sup>él</sup> - <i>réhle</i>	(٧,٠٠)	الرحلة	يوم السبت

Now work with a teacher or classmate. Only one of you should refer to the information above while the other asks about these appointments and fills in the diary below.

a. <i>dars</i> <sup>él</sup> - <i>arabi</i>	Arabic lesson	درس العربي
b. <i>dars</i> <sup>él</sup> - <i>éngliizi</i>	English lesson	درس الإنكليزي
c. <sup>él</sup> - <i>hafle</i>	party	الحفلة
d. <sup>él</sup> - <i>hafle</i> <sup>él</sup> - <i>mausiiqiyye</i>	concert	الحفلة الموسيقية
e. <sup>él</sup> - <i>étle</i>	holiday (the weekend)	العطلة
f. <sup>él</sup> - <i>réhle</i>	trip	الرحلة
g. <sup>él</sup> - <i>éjtimacæ</i>	meeting	الإجتماع

الأحد

الاثنين

الثلاثاء

الأربعاء

الخميس

الجمعة

السبت