

Unit 10: What Time Is It Now?

Part I: Listen and Learn

1.

Lǐ Xiānsheng zài Jiā Zhōu Dàxué niàn shū.
Mr. Li is studying in the Univ. of California.
李先生在加州大学念书。

Tā měitiān shàngwǔ yǒu kè.
He has class in the morning every day.
他每天上午有课。

Tā jiǔ diǎn qù xuéxiào.
He goes to school at 9 o'clock.
他九点去学校。

Zhōngwǔ zài xuéxiào chī zhōngfàn.
At noon, he has lunch at school.
中午在学校吃中饭。

Xiàwǔ tā zài túshūguǎn kàn shū.
In the afternoon, he reads books in the library.
下午他在图书馆看书。

Sì diǎn tā huí jiā.
At four o'clock he goes home.
四点他回家。

Wǎnshang tā zài jiā lǐ xuéxí.
In the evening he studies at home.
晚上他在家里学习。

Tā yìbān shíyī diǎn shuìjiào.
He usually goes to bed at eleven o'clock.
他一般十一点睡觉。

2.

Xiànzài bā diǎnzhōng.
It is eight o'clock now.
现在八点钟。

John dào gōngsī qù shàngbān.
John goes to the company to work.
John 到公司去上班。

Tā měitiān bā diǎn chū mén.
He leaves home at eight o'clock every day.
他每天八点出门。

Bā diǎn bàn dào gōngsī.
He arrives in the company at half past eight.
八点半到公司。

Shàngwǔ tā zài bàngōngshì gōngzuò.
He works in his office in the morning.
上午他在办公室工作。

Xiàwǔ tā gēn biéde gōngsī dǎ diànhuà, tán shēngyì.
In the afternoon, he calls other companies and discusses business.
下午他跟别的公司打电话，谈生意。

Tā wǔ diǎn xià bān.
He finishes work at five o'clock.
他五点下班。

Wǔ diǎn bàn tā líkāi bàngōngshì.
At half past five, he leaves the office.
五点半他离开办公室。

Liù diǎn huí dào jī.
At six o'clock, he arrives home.
六点回到家。

Tā měitiān dōu hěn máng.
He is very busy every day.
他每天都很忙。

3.

A: John, nǐhǎo.

A: Hello, John.

A: John,你好。

B: Lǐ Xiānsheng, nǐhǎo.

B: Hello, Mr. Li.

B: 李先生，你好。

A: Xiànzài jǐ diǎnzhōng?

A: What time is it now?

A: 现在几点钟？

B: Xiànzài bā diǎnzhōng.

B: It is eight o'clock now.

B: 现在八点钟。

A: Nǐ dào nǎlǐ qù?

A: Where are you going?

A: 你到哪里去？

B: Wǒ dào gōngsī qù shàngbān.

B: I am going to my company to work.

B: 我到公司去上班。

A: Nǐ shénme shíhòu huí jiā?

A: What time do you go home?

A: 你什么时候回家？

B: Wǒ wǔ diǎn bàn huí jiā.

B: I go home at half past five.

B: 我五点半回家。

A: Wǒmén jīntiān wǎnshàng xué Yīngwén, duì bu duì?

A: We are going to learn English tonight, is it right?

A: 我们今天晚上学英文，对不对？

B: Duì. Wǒmen wǎnshàng qī diǎn jiàn, hǎo bu hǎo?

B: Right. We'll meet at seven in the evening, is it OK?

B: 对。我们晚上七点见，好不好？

A: Hǎo. Wǎnshàng jiàn.
A: Good. See you in the evening.
A: 好。晚上见。

4.

A: Lǐ Xiānsheng, xiànzài jǐ diǎn le?
A: Mr. Li, what time is it now?
A: 李先生，现在几点了？

B: Bā diǎn shí fēn.
B: Eight ten.
B: 八点十分。

A: Wǒmen xué le yí ge xiǎoshí le.
A: We have studied for one hour.
A: 我们学了一个小时了。

B: Yào bu yào xiūxi yíxià?
B: Do you need rest?
B: 要不要休息一下？

A: Hǎo, wǒmen xiūxi shí fēnzhōng, bā diǎn èrshí fēn zài kāishǐ.
A: Fine, let's take a ten minute break. Let's resume at eight twenty.
A: 好，我们休息十分钟，八点二十分再开始。

B: Xíng.
B: OK.
B: 行。

B: John, xiànzài bā diǎn èrshí wǔ fēn le.
B: John, it is already eight twentyfive.
B: John, 现在八点二十五分了。

A: Wǒmen jìxù xué ba.
A: Let's continue our study.
A: 我们继续学吧。

A: Hǎo. Lǐ Xiānsheng, 'five to nine' Zhōngwén zěnmé shuō?
A: Good. Mr. Li, how do you say 'five to nine' in Chinese?
A: 好。李先生，'five to nine' 中文怎么说？

B: Chà wǔ fēn jiǔ diǎn.

B: Five to nine.

B: 差五分九点。

A: Xiànzài chà liǎng fēn jiǔ diǎn, duì bu duì?

A: It is two to nine, is it correct?

A: 现在差两分九点，对不对？

B: Duì. Wǒmen gāi xià kè le.

B: Correct. We should finish class now.

B: 对。我们该下课了。

Part II. Utterances and Notes

- Pay attention to the position of time words. In Chinese, time words often go before the verbs. This is different from English.

- Pay attention to the following time expressions:

9:00	jiú diǎn
9:05	jiú diǎn (líng) wǔ fēn
9:10	jiú diǎn shí fēn
9:15	jiú diǎn shíwǔ (fēn)
	jiú diǎn yí kè
9:30	jiú diǎn bàn
	jiú diǎn sānshí fēn
9:45	jiú diǎn sān kè
	jiú diǎn sìshíwú fēn
	chà yí kè shí diǎn
9:57	jiú diǎn wǔshíqī (fēn)
	chà sān fēn jiú diǎn
morning	shàngwǔ
noon	zhōngwǔ
afternoon	xiàwǔ
evening	wǎnshang
night	wǎnshang

- 'fēn' (minute) is optional when it appears at the end of a time expression as in jiú diǎn wǔshíqī (fēn). It cannot be omitted if it appears in the middle as in 'chà sān fēn jiú diǎn'.
- zhōng and diǎnzhōng are variants. 8 o'clock – bā diǎn or bā diǎnzhōng.
- The sequence of time words follows the rule in Chinese: year>month>day>part of a day>hour, e.g. 1995 nián liù yuè 30 rì shàngwǔ jiú diǎn (9 o'clock in the morning, June 30, 1996.)
- 'le' indicates the change of status. 'Xiànzài jǐ diǎn le?' means 'What time is it now?' as compared to the past.

More examples:

Xiànzài bā diǎn èrshí wǔ fēn le. 'It is already 8:20 now.'

Part III. New Sentence Modules

1. What time is it now? It is (already)...

xiànzài jǐ diǎn (zhōng) le?

xiànzài	bā diǎn (zhōng) wǔ diǎn bàn bā diǎn shí fēn bā diǎn èrshí fēn bā diǎn èrshíwǔ fēn chà wǔ fēn jiǔ diǎn chà liǎng fēn jiǔ diǎn	le
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2. Somebody does something at ... (time)

Nǐ	měitiān yībān jīntiān	shénme shíhòu jǐ diǎn zhōng	shàngbān yǒu kè xià kè dào gōngsì qù qù xuéxiào chū mén shuǐjiào chī zhōngfàn huí jiā líkāi bàngōngshì huí dào jiā
Wǒ	měitiān yībān jīntiān	bā diǎn (zhōng) wǔ diǎn bàn bā diǎn shí fēn bā diǎn èrshí fēn bā diǎn èrshíwǔ fēn shíyī diǎn	shàngbān yǒu kè xià kè dào gōngsì qù qù xuéxiào chū mén shuǐjiào chī zhōngfàn huí jiā líkāi bàngōngshì huí dào jiā

3. ... do something somewhere

zài	xuéxiào	chī zhōngfàn
	túshūguǎn	kàn shū
	jiā lǐ	xuéxí
	bàngōngshì	gōngzuò

4. ... do something with somebody

gēn	biéde gōngsī	dǎ diànhuà
		tán shēngyì

Part IV. Practice Makes Perfect***Tell the following time in Chinese:***

8:00	12:30	10:30 am
9:07	1:35	2:45 pm
10:15	2:45	6:00 am
11:25	3:58	
6:00 pm		

How to say the following expressions in Chinese?

every day	to discuss business
to study	to go to work
to have class	one hour, two hours...
to eat lunch	to take a rest
to read books	(Do you) need ...?
to go home	to begin (to start)
to go to the company to work	to start again (to resume)
to finish work	to continue
to leave home	how to say... in Chinese
to leave office	to finish class
to arrive in the company	should, should go to eat lunch, should go
to arrive home	to work, should go home (please always
to make phone calls	use 'le' at the end)

Answer the following questions in Chinese:

Nǐ měitiān jǐ diǎnzhōng shàngbān?
 Nǐ jǐ diǎnzhōng dào gōngsī qù?
 Jǐ diǎnzhōng chūmén?
 Shàngwǔ nǐ zuò shénme?
 Xiàwǔ nǐ zuò shénme?
 Jǐ diǎnzhōng xià bān?
 Jǐ diǎnzhōng líkāi bàngōngshì?
 Jǐ diǎnzhōng dào jiā?
 Nǐ měitiān dōu hěn máng ma?
 Nǐ shénme shíhòu (what time) xué Zhōngwén?
 Xiànzài jǐ diǎn le?
 '9:30' Zhōngwén zénme shuō?
 Nǐ juéde Zhōngwén nán bu nán?

Tell me something about your daily activities. Please describe what time you do what. You can write it first and then say it.