

## Telling Time the Military Way

There are two main systems for telling time: the 12-hour and the 24-hour.

In the United States, civilians (people who are not in the Military) use the 12-hour clock - the day is divided into two sections: the 12 hours from midnight to noon, and the 12 hours from noon to midnight. The outside numbers on this clock tell the hours. The time is written 8:18 p.m and it is pronounced “eight eighteen p.m.”



Under the 24-hour clock system, the hours of the day run from 0-24, midnight to midnight. Midnight is 00:00 and the last minute of the day is 23:59. Midnight is also sometimes rendered as 24:00 to indicate the end of the day. So for example, you would say that Monday ends at 24:00 tonight, and Tuesday begins at 00:00. The hours on this clock use the inside circle of numbers. The time on this clock would be written 20:18. It would be pronounced “twenty hundred one eight.”

Some say the 12-hour clock can be confusing. Time has to be given in either am or pm. Midnight is 12:00 am while it seems like it should be pm because it’s in the middle of the night. Others say the 24-hour clock is easier to use in other ways. It’s much easier to figure out that something lasts for five hours if you know it runs from 9:30 to 13:30 than having to figure out the hours by thinking how far it is from 9:30 to noon and then add the extra 1 hour.

The 24-hour clock is used around the world, not just in the military. First Responders (Fire Fighters and Police) usually use the 24 hour clock over dispatched messages.

MILITARY TIME	REGULAR TIME	MILITARY TIME	REGULAR TIME
0100	1:00 AM	1300	1:00 PM
0200	2:00 AM	1400	2:00 PM
0300	3:00 AM	1500	3:00 PM
0400	4:00 AM	1600	4:00 PM
0500	5:00 AM	1700	5:00 PM
0600	6:00 AM	1800	6:00 PM
0700	7:00 AM	1900	7:00 PM
0800	8:00 AM	2000	8:00 PM
0900	9:00 AM	2100	9:00 PM
1000	10:00 AM	2200	10:00 PM
1100	11:00 AM	2300	11:00 PM
1200	NOON	0000 or 2400	MIDNIGHT