

Absolute beginner #9 - What time is it?

ABE

LESSON CONTENT

● Hur mycket är klockan?

Den är fem i tolv.

● När börjar filmen?

Om en timme ungefär. Prick klockan åtta.

To ask someone for the time, we Swedes literally ask how much is the clock?

. This doesn't, however, mean that we want to buy a new watch – it's just the expression we use. In Swedish, this is

hur mycket är klockan?

.

Mycket

is a new word in this lesson, and is usually used with an uncountable amount of something. It is thus the equivalent of the English

much

. We could also use the question word

instead and ask what the clock is.

When referring back to the word

klockan

, we have to use

, which means

it

. In Swedish, both

and

are used in this situation, depending on the gender of the noun they refer back to. This is something we will talk about later on in the beginner course. Right now, you just need to know that we say

when referring to

klockan

For historical reasons we can also say when referring back to our clock. This means *she*. Fun fact.

When we want to specify minutes

to

or

past
the whole hour, we use the prepositions

and

. We can also skip (and this is more the norm than an exception) the word

minuter

as we see fit. As you can see in the examples, we could also say

klockan

instead of

or

.

Sometimes we want to ask when something is going to happen in the future. Here we use the word
which means

when

. This is then followed by a verb.

Remember that we don't use *do* as an auxiliary verb here. So no "when does the movie begin", only "when begins the movie".

When answering this type of question we need to know how to talk about the duration until a point of time.

This is done with the preposition

and

NOT

which is the equivalent of

in

in English. This is used to talk about the duration of something. This is confusing, I know. Hang in there.

Abstract prepositions cannot be translated directly.

When talking about quarter and half, we say

and

. Important to note here is that we

only

say

without any preposition and it refers to the next whole hour and not the previous, like in English.

In Swedish, we can also talk about five minutes to the

half hour

.

In Sweden we use the 24 hour clock, however the 12 hour clock is more common in everyday speech. In this case we usually specify with words like *morgonen* (in the morning) or *kvällen* (in the evening) when needed.