

LESSON 32

Telling the Time

Whole hours (o'clock)

Uair (hour) is used to signify o'clock. With plural numbers this changes to **uairean**:

uair - one o'clock †

dà uair - two o'clock

trì uairean - three o'clock

ceithir uairean - four o'clock

còig uairean - five o'clock

sia uairean - six o'clock

seachd uairean - seven o'clock

ochd uairean - eight o'clock

naoi uairean - nine o'clock

deich uairean - ten o'clock

aon uair deug - eleven o'clock

dà uair dheug - twelve o'clock

meadhan là - mid-day

meadhan oidhche - mid-night

† **aon** is not used before uair to signify one o'clock

Divisions of the hour:

còig mionaidean - 5 minutes

deich mionaidean - 10 minutes

còig mionaidean deug - 15 minutes

cairteal - quarter

fichead mionaid - 20 minutes

còig mionaidean fichead - 25 mins

leth-uair - half (half an hour)

Examples:

For **to the hour** use **gu**, and **after the hour** use **an dèidh**:

Dè an uair a tha e? - What time is it? (in speech this is often shortened to Dè 'n uair a tha e?)

1.00 - Tha e uair - It is one o'clock

2.00 - Tha e dà uair - It is two o'clock

3.05 - Tha e còig mionaidean an dèidh a trì

2.55 - Tha e còig mionaidean gu trì †

4.10 - Tha e deich mionaidean an dèidh a ceithir

3.50 - Tha e deich mionaidean gu ceithir

5.15 - Tha e cairteal an dèidh a còig

4.45 - Tha e cairteal gu còig

6.20 - Tha e fichead mionaid an dèidh a sia

5.40 - Tha e fichead mionaid gu sia

7.25 - Tha e còig mionaidean fichead an dèidh a seachd

6.35 - Tha e còig mionaidean fichead gu seachd

8.30 - Tha e leth-uair an dèidh a h-ochd

12pm - Tha e meadhan-oidhche/Tha e dà uair dheug

12am - Tha e meadhan-là/Tha e dà uair dheug

† the **a** before numbers is dropped after **gu**.

It is not uncommon to find **an uaireadair** (lit. of the watch) or **a thìde** (lit. of time) tagged on to the end of the reply when talking about elapsed time:

Bha mi ann dà uair an uaireadair - I was there for two hours

As in English you do not strictly have to reply starting with **Tha e**; simply state the time:

Question: Dè an uair a tha e?

Answer: Trì uairean

NEW WORDS

Adjectives

pongail - punctual, exact

Adverbs

air dheireadh - behind (slow as a clock)

air thoiseach - ahead (fast as a clock)

a thìde - of time

gu leth - and a half (an additional half of anything)

Nouns

adhar (m) - air

cairteal (m) - quarter

cairteal na h-uarach - quarter of an hour

trì chairteal na h-uarach - three quarters of an hour

coinneal (m) - candle

diog (m) - second (of time)

gleoc (m) clock

itealan (m) - aeroplane

leannan (m) - sweetheart, lover

mac-talla (m) - echo

searmon (m) - sermon

trèan (m) - train

uaireadair (m) - watch, timepiece

lethuir (f) - half-hour

mionaid (f) - minute

uair (f) - hour, time

Prepositions

an dèidh - after

Verbs

caith, caitheamh - spend (time), wear

cuir seachad, cur seachad - spend (time)

mair, mairsinn - last, endure

seall, sealltainn (do) - look, show (to)

EXERCISE 1 Translate into English

1. Bidh an t-itealan a' falbh aig cairteal gu trì feasgar
2. Bidh sinn anns an adhar airson còig uairean a thìde
3. Tòisichidh a' choinneamh mu chòig mionaidean gu ceithir
4. Cuin a bhitheas am bus gu Inbhir Nis a' falbh?
5. Aig lethuir an dèidh a dhà
6. Tha m' uaireadair còig mionaidean deug air dheireadh

7. Bha an gleoc a' sealltainn cairteal an dèidh uair
8. Bha mo leannan lethuair a thìde fadalach
9. Loisg an coinneal air falbh ann an uair gu leth
10. Bha sinn aig a' chèilidh gus cairteal gu aon uair deug

EXERCISE 2 Translate into Gàidhlig

1. The echo returned after ten seconds
2. They spent three quarters of an hour reading
3. The boat arrived punctually at five o'clock
4. He said they spent three hours climbing Ben Nevis
5. They got their dinner at one o'clock
6. The train will arrive at quarter past four
7. The clock was nearly ten minutes fast
8. He said he would come about half-past eight
9. The sermon lasted an hour and a half
10. I was at school before nine o'clock



LESSON 32: ANSWERS 2

1. Thill am mac-talla an dèidh deich diogan
2. Chuir iad seachad trì chairteal na h-uarach a' leughadh
3. Ràinig am bàta gu pongail aig còig uairean
4. Thuir e gun do chuir iad seachad trì uairean a' streap Beinn Neibhis
5. Fhuair iad an dinnear-san aig uair
6. Ruidh an trèan aig cairteal an dèidh a ceithir
7. Bha an gleoc faisg air deich mionaidan air thoiseach
8. Thuir e gun tigeadh e mu lethuair an dèidh a h-ochd
9. Mhair an searmon uair gu leth
10. Bha mi aig an sgoil ro naoi uairean

LESSON 32: ANSWERS 1

1. The aeroplane leaves at quarter to three in the afternoon
2. We'll be in the air for five hours
3. The meeting will start about five minutes to four
4. When will the bus to Inverness be leaving?
5. At half past two
6. My watch is fifteen minutes slow/behind
7. The clock was showing quarter past one
8. My girlfriend/boyfriend was half an hour late
9. The candle burnt away in an hour and a half
10. We were at the ceilidh until quarter to eleven