**Talking About Time**

Materials: Daylight Savings Time, Make the clocks show the correct time, Time Vocabulary and Expressions

Objectives: Students will be able to translate spoken times to numeric times and translate written times to numeric and clock times, they will be able to use common time expressions correctly, they will have a good understanding of our attitude about time in the U.S.

Vocabulary: See Time Vocabulary and Expressions page

1. Give the students the Daylight Savings Time handout and ask for volunteers to read that section aloud. Let that students talk about whether they used to change the clocks for Daylight Savings Time in their countries. Let them discuss whether they think it is a good idea or not. If it is a large group you can have them work in pairs, but if it is a small group you can have a group discussion.

2. Ask for volunteers to read the next section, Attitudes about Time. When you get to the questions you can have them discuss them in pairs or as a group.

3. Ask the students to complete the exercise Write Your Appointment Date and Time which is at the bottom of the page. When they have finished, volunteers can write their answers on the board.

4. Give the students the handout Make the clocks show the correct time. They can work on these individually and volunteers can draw their answers on the board. Discuss any problems they had filling out the clocks.

5. Give the students the Time Vocabulary and Expressions handout. Ask for volunteers to read each of the lines. Let them ask questions as you go through the list. See if other students can answer the questions before supply the correct answer. Ask the students if they have heard other words or expressions to talk about time that are unclear to them and other students or you can clarify.

6. If there is time in class have the students write their own sentences using the words and expressions listed. They should especially practice: *for*, *since*, *ago*, and *during*.

Daylight Savings Time

Every year in most of the United States, people must change their clocks one hour ahead in the spring for Daylight Savings Time. This year Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 A.M. on Sunday, March 8. Most people will change their clocks before they go to bed Saturday night so when they wake up on Sunday morning it will be the correct time.

Why do we change the clocks? Long ago it was thought that if we moved the clocks ahead early in the spring we would use less energy. It would be lighter later in the afternoon so we wouldn’t have to turn on our lights so early.

In the autumn we change the clocks one hour back to Standard Time. This year we will change the clocks back one hour at 2 A.M. on Sunday, November 1. Many people agree this is a good idea so children won’t be going to school in the dark!

Not all countries change their clocks. Did you change your clocks in the country where you were born? Do you think it is a good idea to change our clocks? Why? Why not?

Attitudes About Time

In the United States most people take time very seriously. When you make an appointment you are expected to be on time. When you have a job or are enrolled in school you are expected to be on time. When you make a date to meet a friend you are expected to be on time. Were you expected to be on time in your country?

In the United States there is an expression TIME IS MONEY. What do you think this means? Do you think that the most important thing to do with your time is to make money? What do you think is the most important thing to do with your time?

Write Your Appointment Date and Time

**For example**: Your dentist appointment is at ***nine-thirty on March fourth***.  **Write** – ***9:30 on 3/4***

Your hairdresser appointment is at half past ten on November twelfth. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Your car repair appointment is at quarter to twelve on July sixteenth. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Your job interview is at twenty past three on September ninth. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Your parent/teacher conference is at four thirty on April second. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Make the clocks show the correct time.

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 eight fifty 0 8 5 0 twenty of seven

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 quarter past five half past two

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 six fifty-three noon

Time Vocabulary and Expressions

in the morning / in the afternoon / in the evening / at night

yesterday / today / tomorrow

last (week, year, winter, semester, etc.) / next (week, year, winter, semester, etc.)

early / late / on time

before / after

always / never

usually / most of the time

sometimes / now and then / occasionally

noon (midday) / midnight

quarter to (of) / quarter past (after)

half past

around / about / almost / nearly – For example: at 2:55 PM it’s around 3 o’clock (about 3 o’clock, almost 3 o’clock, nearly 3 o’clock)

for – this word is used when you are talking about a particular length of time. For example: I worked at Stop & Shop for two years.

since – this word is used when you are talking about when something started. For example: She has lived in the United Sates since 2005. I have been waiting for the bus since 3 PM.

ago – this word is used to say how far back in the past something happened. For example: I came to the United States seven years ago. Two weeks ago we had a snow storm.

during – this word is used to talk about something that happens (or doesn’t happen) all through a particular time. For example: Please don’t talk on your cells phones during class. It snowed during the night.