



Telling the Time

Clock time, parts of the day, and how often things happen.

The basics

время	time	утро	morning
час	hour / o'clock	день	day / afternoon
минута	minute	вечер	evening
секунда	second	ночь	night
полдень	midday	сейчас	now
полночь	midnight	потом	later

Asking and answering

Сколько времени?

What time is it?

Сейчас пять часов.

It is five o'clock.

Который час?

What time is it? (slightly more formal)

Половина шестого.

Half past five (literally "half of the sixth").

Сейчас час.

It is one o'clock.

Во сколько?

At what time?

Сейчас два часа.

It is two o'clock.

В три часа.

At three o'clock.

When

утром	in the morning	вчера	yesterday
днём	in the afternoon	послезавтра	the day after tomorrow
вечером	in the evening	позавчера	the day before yesterday
ночью	at night	рано	early
сегодня	today	поздно	late
завтра	tomorrow	сразу	straight away

How often

всегда	always	никогда	never
часто	often	каждый день	every day
иногда	sometimes	обычно	usually
редко	rarely	уже	already

Why час changes

After 1 it is час, after 2–4 часа, and after 5 and above часов. That is the Russian number rule in miniature: 2–4 take the genitive singular, 5 and up the genitive plural. The same pattern governs минута > минуты > минут.