TIME

"People like us, who believe in physics, know that the distinction between past, present and future is only a stubbornly persistent illusion."

Albert Einstein (1879 – 1955), theoretical physicist

1. Time Discussion

1. How do you manage your personal time? Do you ever make a schedule? What do you do at the same time every day?
2. When you go on holiday/vacation, do you like to make a plan for your time?
3. Do you think people are too concerned about time these days?
4. Which nationalities are most obsessed with time? Which nationalities are not so concerned about time?
5. Does time fly when you're having fun? Why do you think this is? Can you think of an example of this?
6. Why might someone say, "better late than never"? Do you agree with this saying?
7. Do you have enough time to do all the things you'd like to do? What would you like to do if you had more time?
8. What takes up too much time in your life?

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2. Time Vocabulary

- **to waste time** (verb), **a waste of time** (noun) – *to use time in a useless way; time used in a useless way.*
- **(to) race against time / (to) race against the clock** (verb, noun) – *to have a limited amount of time to do something, especially with urgency.*
- **to pass (the) time / to kill time** (verb) – *to do something that makes a period of time seem shorter, especially due to boredom.*
- **to take one's time** (verb) – *to take as much time as is necessary; to do something slowly or carefully.*
- **spare time** (noun) – *time spent not working or without any obligations.*
- **on time** (adverb), **punctual** (adjective) – *according to a schedule or an agreed time.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun)

1. Facebook is great for **passing the time**. You can spend hours just looking at cat memes.
2. I'm so busy these days it's rare that I get any **spare time**, but when I do, I love to curl up with a good book.
3. In Japan, train companies pride themselves with always being **on time/punctual**. In fact, one company apologised because one of its trains had departed 20 seconds earlier than scheduled!
4. It doesn't matter if you arrive late. Always **take your time** if you're driving in rainy conditions.
5. We had to **race against time/the clock** to check in on time at the airport. I forgot to set my alarm, so we had overslept.
6. When I arrived at the bank, I had to wait for nearly two hours only to be told to call their call centre. What a **waste of time**!

Time vocabulary comprehension questions

1. When have you wasted your time?
2. When have you had to race against the clock?
3. How do you pass the time when you're waiting for something?
4. When should you take your time?
5. What do you like to do in your spare time?
6. In your country, are people usually on time? Are you always on time?

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3. Video: What Is Time?

You are going to watch a TED Ed video called "Does Time Exist?"

Watch the video here: https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-time/

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. What did early humans use to measure the time?

   a) seasons *b) sundials* *c) primitive clocks*

2. The Theory of Relativity says that time passes at which rate for people in different situations?

   a) the same rate ***b) at different rates*** *c) at accelerated rates*

3. How does space-time behave?

   a) predictably *b) unpredictably* *c) how it wants*

4. Einstein showed that time is woven into the fabric of what?

   a) gravity *b) the speed of light* ***c) the Universe***

Sentence completion

5. Einstein's theory didn't resolve the question of why we can only move through time in only one **direction**.
6. If food colouring went from filling a glass of water to collecting into a drop, it would appear as if time were flowing **backwards**.
7. The Second Law of Thermodynamics says that systems will gain **disorder**, or entropy, over time.
8. Entropy determines the direction of time's **arrow**.

Short answer

9. General relativity describes the behaviour of what? **Very large things**
10. What would be the result of combing the theory of general relativity with quantum physics? **A theory of everything / one fundamental theory of everything**
11. What does the Wheeler-DeWitt equation not include? **Time**
12. What do movies use to create the perception of changes through time? **Still images**

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4. Time Conversation Questions

1. What is time? Does it exist? Does it have a direction? Does it have a beginning or an end?
2. What is more important to you: the past, the present or the future?
3. When does time go by slowly? Did time seem to pass more slowly when you were a child compared to now? If so, why do you think this is?
4. Is it considered rude to be late in your culture? When would it be rude? When wouldn't it be rude? How long after an agreed time is considered 'late' in your culture?
5. Do you show up to social occasions on time? If you had arranged to have a party at your house at 6pm, what time would you expect people to arrive? How would you feel if people showed up at 5pm, 6pm or 7pm?
6. Why might someone say, “time is money”? Do you agree with this saying?
7. Would you rather have more time or more money?
8. Do good things come to those who wait? Has this ever happened to you?

5. Time Writing Task

Write about your experience of time. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- What you like to pass the time doing.
- What you consider to be a waste of time.
- Your culture's attitude towards time.

Alternative exam practice question:

For some people, time is as precious a commodity as money. Other people, however, are much more relaxed when it comes to time. To what extent do you agree or disagree that time is the most important thing in life?

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