

# SURVIVAL ENGLISH LESSON 2- SPECIAL OCCASIONS

## Exercise One

‘When’s your birthday?’

‘It’s on the second of September.’

How can we write it?

02/09/81

02.09.81

2<sup>nd</sup> September 1981

2<sup>nd</sup> Sept. 1981

1. When’s your birthday? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How do we say it? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How do we write it? \_\_\_\_\_

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Say these dates

1907

1977

1954

1970

2000

2010

1999

1818

1962

1920

2008

September 31<sup>st</sup> 2003

The 1980’s

02.05.65

10.08.79

15<sup>th</sup> January 2007

(Note: in American English the month comes before the day)

## Exercise Two

Listen and repeat. (Ordinal numbers)

1 <sup>st</sup>	first	17 <sup>th</sup>	seventeenth
2 <sup>nd</sup>	second	18 <sup>th</sup>	eighteenth
3 <sup>rd</sup>	third	19 <sup>th</sup>	nineteenth
4 <sup>th</sup>	fourth	20 <sup>th</sup>	twentieth
5 <sup>th</sup>	fifth	21 <sup>st</sup>	twenty first
6 <sup>th</sup>	sixth	22 <sup>nd</sup>	twenty second
7 <sup>th</sup>	seventh	23 <sup>rd</sup>	twenty third
8 <sup>th</sup>	eighth	24 <sup>th</sup>	twenty fourth
9 <sup>th</sup>	ninth	25 <sup>th</sup>	twenty fifth
10 <sup>th</sup>	tenth	26 <sup>th</sup>	twenty sixth
11 <sup>th</sup>	eleventh	27 <sup>th</sup>	twenty seventh
12 <sup>th</sup>	twelfth	28 <sup>th</sup>	twenty eighth
13 <sup>th</sup>	thirteenth	29 <sup>th</sup>	twenty ninth
14 <sup>th</sup>	fourteenth	30 <sup>th</sup>	thirtieth
15 <sup>th</sup>	fifteenth	31 <sup>st</sup>	thirty first
16 <sup>th</sup>	sixteenth		

Note: We use the preposition **on** before the date it's **on** the fifth of August

## Exercise Three

1. It's her thirtieth birthday  
How old is she?
2. It's their twenty fifth wedding anniversary  
How long have they been married?
3. They've been married for ten years.  
It's their \_\_\_\_\_ wedding anniversary
4. He's four years old  
It's his \_\_\_\_\_ birthday.

## Exercise Four

Let's say the months together

January  
February  
March  
April  
May  
June  
July  
August  
September  
October  
November  
December

What preposition do we use with months....  
My birthday is.....

## Exercise Five

**Put in the missing days of the week**  
**Friday I'm in love - The Cure**

I don't care if Monday's blue  
T\_\_\_\_\_ 's grey and Wednesday too  
T\_\_\_\_\_ I don't care about you  
It's F\_\_\_\_\_, I'm in love

M\_\_\_\_\_ you can fall apart  
 T\_\_\_\_\_ day, W\_\_\_\_\_ day break my heart  
 Oh, T\_\_\_\_\_ doesn't even start  
 It's F\_\_\_\_\_ I'm in love

S\_\_\_\_\_, wait  
 And S\_\_\_\_\_ day always comes too late  
 But F\_\_\_\_\_ day, never hesitate...

I don't care if \_\_\_\_\_ days black  
 \_\_\_\_\_ day, \_\_\_\_\_ day - heart attack  
 T\_\_\_\_\_ day, never looking back  
 It's F\_\_\_\_\_, I'm in love

I don't care if \_\_\_\_\_ day's blue  
 T\_\_\_\_\_ day's grey and W\_\_\_\_\_ day too  
 \_\_\_\_\_ day I don't care about you  
 It's \_\_\_\_\_ day, I'm in love

\_\_\_\_\_ day you can fall apart  
 \_\_\_\_\_ day, Wednesday break my heart  
 \_\_\_\_\_ day doesn't even start  
 It's \_\_\_\_\_ day I'm in love

What preposition do we use with days? ...

We're going to the cinema \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday.

Note: Remember that days and months start with CAPITAL letters.

Note: We do not use at/on/in before

This....this morning	They have a computer class this morning.
Last....last week	She took her driving test last week.
Next.....next weekend	I'm going to Achill Island next weekend.
Every....every day	Do you eat rice every day?

Note	at	in
	at night	in five minutes (time)
	at the weekend	in 2 weeks
	at night	in a few weeks



Spanish festival in Valencia and its province.

### When is the festival?

The festival begins on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March at midnight and it finishes on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March at midnight also. It celebrates the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### What are the Fallas?

The Fallas are big cardboard monuments and they are all placed in the streets of a city town or village. They criticise the politicians like the town mayor or any famous or well known person who has done something badly all year round. It is a satirical and ironic vision of local provincial national and even international problems and themes.

The Fallas criticise almost everything and everyone imaginable although they do so with tongue in cheek. Over 370 full-scale fallas and 368 are mounted throughout Valencia City, and some of these can reach extravagant heights, although they do not usually exceed 20 metres.

In a city of 26,000 population there can be 15 or 16 different monuments, and people from around the world come to see and enjoy the festival.

In each different monument there are a lot of falleros.

### Who are the falleros?

These are the people who take part in the festival. They all have premises where they spend the 5 days of the festival. They have lunch and dinner all together and sometimes they stay there all night, drinking, eating and dancing, there is no time for sleep. They all have to wear the traditional Valencia clothes which origins come from the 18<sup>th</sup> century also. These clothes are usually very expensive and not everybody can afford them.

### Tell me about the Fallas Queen?

Each fallas elects their own Fallas Queen from among the fallas maidens who form the court of honour of that particular fallas. For many years the Fallas Queen of Valencia was chosen by the mayor, who was the president of the central fallas committee responsible for coordinating all of the fallas commissions. This election changed in 1961 when Lolita Alfonso, an orphan from the House Of Goodwill became the Valencia children's fallas Queen. This marked a new starting point for the selection of fallas Queens among Valencians. Today the election of the fallas queens of Valencia is governed by democratic vote amongst the candidates being presented

### What do they do every day?

Every day at 8 o'clock in the morning the falleros wake everybody in the city up because they throw fireworks to make a lot of noise and wake up all the city. They also have a band music playing around the streets. They do different activities all day long.

### Which is the most important activity they do?

The flower offering to the patron saint of Valencia is on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. Thousands and thousands of flowers are placed over a wooden structure that serves as the framework upon which her image is formed. Almost 100,000 Valencia's take part in this flower offering.



What happens then on the last day?

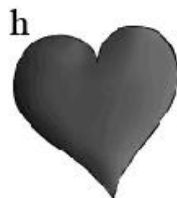
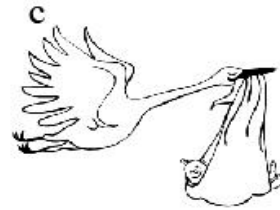
On the night of the 19<sup>th</sup> Valencia's burn down their creations saving only what is known as the 'Ninot Indultat' or the 'retrieved figure' which becomes a museum piece. The children's fallas are burnt at 10 in the evening, with the exception of the first prize in the children's category, which is set alight at 10.30.

At 12 o'clock midnight, preceded by a grand fireworks display, the large fallas are set to the torch. The entire city is filled with flaming fallas, and at 12.30 the first prize fallas is burnt, and this is the end of a semi-pagan, semi-patriotic and semi-religious festival.

## Exercise nine

Look at these cards - what do you think you would write inside each card?

May God bless you on your special day  
Happy Birthday  
Good luck in your new home  
Get well soon  
Best wishes for your retirement  
I love you  
Congratulations and best wishes for the future  
Congratulations. I hope you are all doing well.  
Happy Christmas



1. Can you think of some more examples of occasions when you would say 'Good Luck'?
2. When do we say 'cheers'?
3. When do we say 'bless you'?
4. When do we say 'watch out'?

**Note:** Thank you very much for + noun/ing

Thank you very much for all your help

Thank you for helping me.

Congratulations on passing your leaving cert.

Congratulations on the birth of your new baby

Best wishes for the future

Best wishes

Good luck with your new job

## Exercise ten

Test yourself

1. What do you say to your friend who has just had a new baby girl?
2. Your neighbour who is 65 and is stopping work
3. To someone who is sick in hospital
4. Your teenage cousin who is taking school exams
5. To your wife who is taking her driving test
6. To someone who is celebrating 25 years of marriage
7. Your friend is 18 tomorrow.
8. Someone you know is getting married on Saturday.
9. Your wife has passed her driving test.

## Exercise Eleven

**This is a party invitation. Listen to the dialogue and fill in the message.**

To:

When:

Day

Date

Time:

Where:

From:

Phone number;

Sadly they cannot go to the party.  
Fill in this note by choosing the best answer.

Dear Diane/Sandra

I'm so sorry/I regret to inform you that we/I cannot attend the party on Saturday/Sunday evening.

We're going on holiday tomorrow and won't be back until Sunday. We will phone you when we return.

Sincerely/best wishes

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What words do you use to apologise:  
When someone apologises to you How can you respond?

*I'm sorry/I'm so sorry/I'm really sorry*

*Don't worry.*

*I'm afraid*

*It doesn't matter*

*Never mind/that's alright*

What would you say? Think of your own ideas and then listen to the dialogues. Listen and note.

1. How does she apologise?
2. What is her reason for being late?
3. What does she say or do to apologise.

1. You arrange to meet your friend at a café. You arrive thirty minutes late. What would you say?

2. You promised your friend you would go to Galway and help her choose her wedding dress.

Now you can't go. Think of a reason why and try to organise another day out with her.

3. Your boss wants you to work late but you want to take your new girlfriend out for dinner.

**Practise these dialogues.**

## Exercise twelve

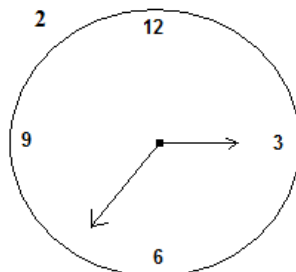
1. We are going to look at telling the time.

It's 3.30pm

It's 15.30

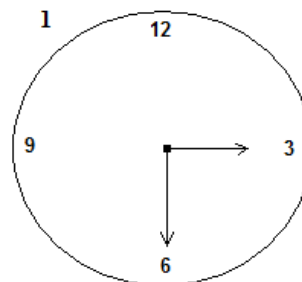
It's three thirty.

It's half past three.



2. It's 3.35

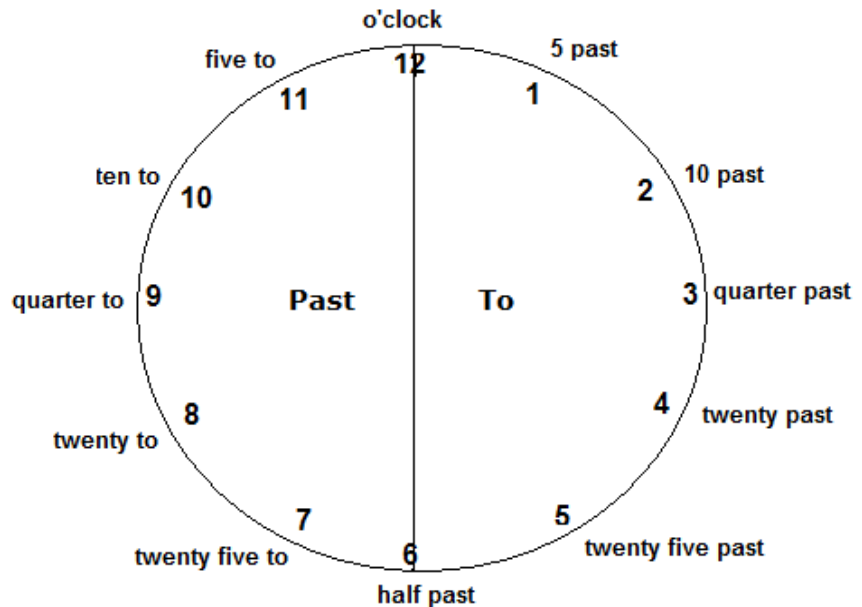
It's 15.35



It's three thirty five  
 It's twenty five to four.

**Let's read around the clock**

- 5 past
- 10 past
- quarter past
- twenty past
- 25 past
- half past
- 25 to
- 20 to
- quarter to
- 10 to
- five to
- o' clock



Or we can count around the clock  
 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55

Say these times in two different ways.

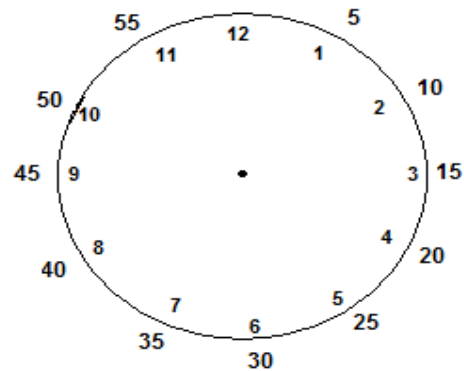
**Practise the dialogue using the times.**

A: Begin with excuse me can you tell me the time please?

B: Yes. Of course. It's ***half past one.***

A: Thanks.

- A) 4.45 B) 12.15 C) 7.00 D) 9.25 E) 6.40 F) 2.50 G) 3.15  
 K) 10.10 L) 11.20



**Proverbs with time**

Time flies

A stitch in time saves nine

**Famous quotes about time**

Time and tide waits for no man (William Bradford)

Time heals all wounds (Geoffrey Chaucer)

Better late than never (Lu Hsun)