

Yesterday we went off daylight saving time. Does your country use daylight saving time? How do you feel about it? Do you like it being lighter in the morning, or being lighter at night? What are some pros and cons to daylight saving time.

Read and summarize these conversations. Tell what the underlined word or phrase means.

A: When you have time, I'd like to talk to you about an idea.

B: We can talk now if you like.

A: Are you sure. I don't want to take up your time if you're busy.

B: I don't have any free time this afternoon. But I was going to grab a quick bite to eat. Come with me and we'll talk over lunch.

What do you do with your free time? Do you have more free time since you have moved to the U.S.? Is there such a thing as too much free time?

C: I need to call the L.A. office, but they won't be in yet. By the time they are up and running, it will be lunch time here. It's really annoying to have offices in several time zones.

D: My home office is in London. There is a seven hour time difference. Imagine how difficult it is for me to contact them. They are leaving work about the time I arrive. Sometimes I have to come in at 6 AM for a phone conference with London. Fortunately, that's a rare occurrence.

Do you have problems with time zones in your personal or business life?

E: I gave Sally a belated birthday gift. I was out of town on her actual birthday. But I brought her some wonderful chocolates from Holland, so she forgave me.

F: A belated gift is certainly better than no gift at all.

What kind of gifts do friends exchange on birthdays in your country? Do you give gifts to friends on their birthdays? Are you insulted if someone forgets your birthday?

G: The bells in my old grandfather's clock chime every quarter hour. It's charming, but it can sometimes be a nuisance. Especially at 3 AM when the chimes wake me out of a sound sleep.

H: I know what you mean. I have a clock that chimes, but I turn the chimes off before I go to bed.

What kinds of clocks do you have at your home? alarm clock, digital clock, grandfather clock, wristwatch
When I was in college, there was a clock tower. It has chimes which played at 6PM every evening. Every I hear chimes, I think about my college days. Do you have any romantic thoughts about clocks chiming?

Mom: Carol, Jim is here to take you to the dance.

Carol: I'll be down in a jiffy. I am finishing up my makeup.

Mom: I'm sorry, Jim. Usually Carol is punctual. She got off schedule when her grandmother stopped by for a surprise visit. She's had a hard time catching up.

Jim: It's not a problem. I'm sure she'll be ready momentarily.

Are you usually on time or seldom on time? How do you feel about people that are constantly late? Is being on time important in your culture?

J: You have an unusual accent. Where are you from?

K: I'm from Mumbai.

J: I don't know where that is.

K: Mumbai was formerly known as Bombay.

J: Oh, OK. You're from India then. How often do you go back to India?

K: I try to return annually. My parents are still living there and I like to get back frequently to see them.

How often do you return home? Do you wish you could go more frequently? Do you visit your relatives regularly?

L: I want to be a professor at a major university. It seems like I've been a student forever.

M: All in due time. You will achieve your dreams, but you have to lay the groundwork with a good education.

What do you dream of doing? Do you feel like it is taking a long time to achieve your dreams?

Husband: Time out. I don't understand what you are saying.

Wife: I'm suggesting you arrange for some time off so that we could spend more time together. You are working twelve to fourteen hours per day. It leaves little time for you and I. We are young and healthy. This should be the time of our lives. But you are wasting your youth working all the time.

Husband: You know it's my dream to make the big time and I'm really close. I'm in a race against time to finish this big project. If it goes well, I may be promoted to vice president. I feel like I have no time to lose if I'm going to succeed.

Have you ever had a conversation like this? Do you feel pressured to succeed?

Read these sentences. Explain the underlined words and make a sentence with the underlined words.

1. Being successful is sometimes a result of being in the right place at the right time.
2. We jumped on the train in the nick of time. The doors closed right behind us.
3. If I had time to kill, I wouldn't spend it watching TV. I think TV is a huge waste of time.
4. I'd like to visit New York over the holidays. At the same time, we haven't seen much of Texas and we could travel here much more cheaply.
5. At the present time, we have no openings.
6. Is it twelve o'clock already. How time flies.
7. He is walking over here as if he has all the time in the world. Doesn't he realize the train is about to leave.
8. My town has a parade every Veteran's Day. It has been that way since time immemorial.
9. The man served time in federal prison back in the 90's.
10. Elvis' music has stood the test of time. His music is as popular now as it was when he was alive.
11. My grandmother went to medical school back in the 30's. She was ahead of her time, as most women didn't even attend college in her day, much less go to medical school.
12. Stall for time while I call the police.

Discussion:

1. When did you learn your time management skills?
2. Do you make a schedule every week of what you want to accomplish?
3. Do you and your spouse share the same ideas about punctuality?
4. Americans value being "on time". Is being on time valued in your country?
5. If you could time travel, what time would you choose to go to?