

## Activity Type

Vocabulary Exercises: matching, gap-fill, sentence completion

Speaking Activity: guided discussion, freer practice (pair work)

## Focus

Time expressions and time idioms

## Aim

To learn and practice some common expressions and idioms using the word *time*.

## Preparation

Make one copy of the two-page worksheet for each student.

## Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

## Time

30 minutes

## Introduction

This time expressions and time idioms worksheet helps to teach upper-intermediate students some common expressions and idioms that use the word *time*.

## Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

Students begin by matching sentence halves together that use expressions and idioms with the word *time*.

### Exercise A - Answer key

1. i	4. b	7. c	10. h
2. d	5. f	8. e	11. l
3. a	6. j	9. g	12. k

Next, students match the time expressions and idioms to their definitions.

### Exercise B - Answer key

1. e	4. a	7. k	10. i
2. g	5. j	8. c	11. h
3. l	6. b	9. d	12. f

Students then move on to complete gap-fill sentences with the time expressions and time idioms from the previous exercises.

### Exercise C - Answer key

1. in the nick of time	7. time consuming
2. in no time	8. time to kill
3. time off	9. overtime
4. on time	10. waste of time
5. take your time	11. a whale of a time
6. From time to time	12. save time

After that, students complete sentences with true information about themselves.

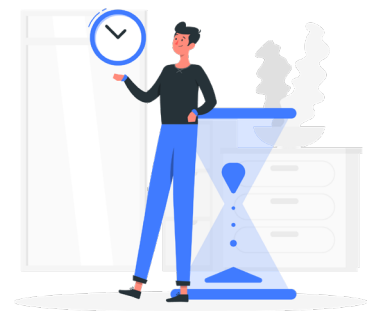
Finally, in pairs, the students take it in turns to read their sentences to their partner and discuss them.

**A. Match the sentence halves together that use expressions and idioms with the word *time*.**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. If I don't hand in my homework .....                  | a. we work <b>overtime</b> .               |
| 2. I was nearly late but luckily I got there .....       | b. <b>a waste of time</b> .                |
| 3. We get paid extra if .....                            | c. to <b>save time</b> .                   |
| 4. Playing video games is .....                          | d. <b>in the nick of time</b> .            |
| 5. I play games on my phone if .....                     | e. can <b>take your time</b> .             |
| 6. I don't eat meat but I eat .....                      | f. I <b>have time to kill</b> .            |
| 7. I cooked the potatoes in the microwave in order ..... | g. there <b>in no time</b> .               |
| 8. There's no need to hurry, you .....                   | h. so I took some <b>time off</b> .        |
| 9. There isn't much traffic. We'll get .....             | i. <b>on time</b> , my teacher gets angry. |
| 10. My aunt came to visit from Rome .....                | j. fish <b>from time to time</b> .         |
| 11. The party was amazing! I had .....                   | k. cooking is so <b>time consuming</b> .   |
| 12. I eat a lot of takeaways because .....               | l. <b>a whale of a time</b> .              |

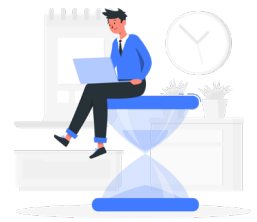
**B. Match the time expressions and idioms with their correct definitions.**

- |                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Overtime .....            | a. In barely enough time.      |
| 2. A waste of time .....     | b. Have too much time.         |
| 3. Save time .....           | c. Time away from work.        |
| 4. In the nick of time ..... | d. Punctual.                   |
| 5. Take your time .....      | e. Extra time spent at work.   |
| 6. Have time to kill .....   | f. A really good time.         |
| 7. In no time .....          | g. A bad use of time.          |
| 8. Time off .....            | h. Takes a long time.          |
| 9. On time .....             | i. Occasionally.               |
| 10. From time to time .....  | j. Don't hurry.                |
| 11. Time consuming .....     | k. In very little time.        |
| 12. A whale of a time .....  | l. To give yourself more time. |



**C. Complete each sentence with a suitable time expression or idiom from the previous page.**

1. I got to school ..... If I'd arrived a minute later, I would have been late.
2. The restaurant is really close. We'll get there .....
3. I really need to take some ..... I haven't had a holiday in ages.
4. I always arrive ..... I think it's rude to keep people waiting.
5. You don't need to rush. The film doesn't start for an hour so .....
6. .... I wonder what my life would be like if I hadn't had kids.
7. Commuting to work is so ..... I wish I could work from home.
8. My plane was delayed so I had lots of ..... at the airport.
9. I earned more than usual last month because I did a lot of .....
10. Standing in a queue is a complete .....
11. My holiday was brilliant. I had .....
12. I caught a taxi to the meeting in order to .....



**D. Complete the sentences with true information about yourself.**

1. It is important to be on time for .....
2. It takes no time to .....
3. I think that ..... is a complete waste of time.
4. The last time I arrived in the nick of time was .....
5. I take my time when I .....
6. From time to time, I .....
7. I think that ..... is very time consuming.
8. If I have time to kill, I .....
9. If I had more time off, I would .....
10. I would work overtime if .....
11. I try and save time by .....
12. The last time I had a whale of a time was .....

**E. Now, in pairs, take it in turns to read your sentences to your partner and discuss them.**