

Military Time



Military Time

Military time is a concise method of expressing time that is used by the Military as well as emergency services such as law enforcement, firefighting and emergency medical personnel.

Military time operates on a 24-hour clock that begins at midnight, 0000, and the last minute of the day begins at 2359.

2400 may also be used to refer to midnight at the end of a given date – that is 2400 of the current day is the same point in time as 0000 of the following day.

Military Time Chart

Regular Time	Military Time	Regular Time	Military Time
Midnight	0000	Noon	1200
1:00 am	0100	1:00 pm	1300
2:00 am	0200	2:00 pm	1400
3:00 am	0300	3:00 pm	1500
4:00 am	0400	4:00 pm	1600
5:00 am	0500	5:00 pm	1700
6:00 am	0600	6:00 pm	1800
7:00 am	0700	7:00 pm	1900
8:00 am	0800	8:00 pm	2000
9:00 am	0900	9:00 pm	2100
10:00 am	1000	10:00 pm	2200
11:00 am	1100	11:00 pm	2300

Military Time in Spoken English

To pronounce the time, you say the number-word for the hour followed by "hundred" with an optional "hour".

For instance 1600 would be pronounced "sixteen hundred" or "sixteen hundred hours".

The time 2030 is usually pronounced "twenty thirty"

Military Time in Spoken English

The time 1805 is usually pronounced as "eighteen oh five".

In military time, a leading zero for the hours before 1000 may be pronounced – as in "oh three oh five" or as "zero three zero five" for 0305.

Zulu Time

When it comes to military matters, such as communication, training exercise, deployment, ship-movements, aircraft flights, etc., the military must often coordinate with bases and personnel located in other time zones.

To avoid confusion, the military uses the time in Greenwich, England, which is commonly called "Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)".

The US Military refers to this time zone as "ZULA TIME" and they attach the "Zula" (Z) suffix, to ensure the time-zone referred to is clear.

Zulu Time

For example, a military message or communication might state, "The ship will cross into the area of operation at 1400Z." That means the ship would arrive when it is 2:00 PM in Greenwich, England.

The military calls this "Zulu Time" because the world is divided into 24 time zones. For each time zone a letter of the alphabet has been assigned. The time zone for Greenwich, England has been assigned the letter "Z".

The military phonetic alphabet for the letter "Z" is "Zulu".


