

Hi!

Are you ready for some numbers and the clock? I hope so, as we are diving in right now!

klockan 4 / klockan 16 - To say 4 o'clock in the afternoon, in Swedish we can use both of these forms. "Klockan 16" is quite common even when talking, not only in writing.



Kvart över 4



Halv 5 – this could be tricky for you if you use the British English "half x" as "half 5" means "half past five" whereas "halv 5" means "half an hour to 5" that is, "half past four"



Kvart i 5



Pay a bit of extra attention to these, as Swedes use these quite frequently. I hope you will be pleased with the similarities to English!

10 över 4 = 10 past 4

20 över 4 = 20 past 4

20 i 5 = 20 to 5

10 i 5 = 10 to 5

It is also very common to start from "half", don't get surprised:

10 i halv 5 = 10 minutes to half past 4.

5 över halv 5 = 5 minutes past half past 4.

So you see, it is very logical. You just need to get used to it and you will be able to use it well, I am sure. One suggestion is to always try first to tell the time in this format (and if you want to double check then say 16:20 or 16:35. This way you will learn faster!

As a summary of what you see above: to indicate how many minutes before "whole" hour and "half" hour it is, we use "i" and to indicate how many minutes after these the time is, we use "över."

And now let's make some use of our knowledge!

Hur mycket är klockan? = What's the time?

Det är kvart i fem. = It is a quarter to five.

Det är kvart över elva. = It is a quarter past eleven. (Have you noticed that there is no "en" in front of "kvart"? That is how it is! So do not directly translate this from English!

Det är klockan fem. = It is five a c'clock.

När ska vi ses? = When shall we meet?

Vi träffas halv sex. = We meet at half past 5. (Can you see that there is another little word that is not there in the Swedish phrase? The equivalent or direct translation of "at." In Swedish we only state the time and it is understood that it is "at" that time we are talking about.)

Vilken tid kommer du hem? = What time are you coming home?

Kvart i tolv kommer jag hem. = I'm coming home quarter to twelve.

Our other topic for today is ordinal numbers:

Den första bilen är min. = The first car is mine.

Det var andra gången vi träffades. = It was the second time we met.

Tredje året i rad vinner han tävlingen. = He wins this contest for the third year in a row.

Vi bor på fjärde våningen. = We live on the fourth floor.

You can practise these with interesting tasks and exercises on the Swency website. Subscribe and work on it, and also practise these on the bus, when taking a walk or cleaning or standing in line. And everywhere else you have the chance, look around and use these phrases to create your own sentences! Say it out loud or think it in your head – use them to learn them!

Enjoy learning and praise yourself often!

Warmly

Your Swency Team