In previous lesson, we learned about how to express year, month, day and date. Since, we have already know many expressions related numbers, in this lesson, we will teach you more specifically on TIME. The Chinese time system is fairly straightforward. Let's look at some conversations.

**Sample Conversation:**

1. A: 现在几点了？[xian zai ji dian le？]
   - What time is it now?
   B: 现在8点1刻。[xian zai ba dian yi ke.]
   - It is eight fifteen now.

   现在 [xian zai] — now
   点 [dian] — o’clock
   15 minutes / a quarter (of an hour) = 1刻 [yi ke]
   30 minutes / half an hour = 半 [ban]
   45 minutes / three quarters (of an hour) = 3刻 [san ke]

2. A: 每天早上你几点起床？[mei tian zao shang ni ji dian qi chuang？]
   - What time do you get up in the morning everyday?
   B: 我6点半起床。[wo liu dian ban qi chuang.]
   - I get up at half past six.
   A: 你上午什么时候上课 / 上班 [ni shang wu shen me shi hou shang ke / shang ban？]
   - What time do you have class / go to work in the morning？
   B: 我7点3刻开始上课 / 上班。[wo qi dian san ke kai shi shang ke / shang ban.]
   - Class / Work begins at 7:45.
Let’s take a look at these expressions;

点 [ dian ] — o’clock
7:00 – qi dian
9:00 – jiu dian

Please try: 11:00, 5:00, 12:00

** 2:00, you can say “er dian”, it is understandable, but not accurate, we’d better say “liang dian”. As before all measure words, 2 will be pronounced as “liang”.

分 [ fen ] — minute
7:10 – qi dian shi fen
9:25 – jiu dian er shi wu fen

Please try: 10:20, 3:40, 12:55

** If the minute part / ‘fen’ part is less than 10 minutes, such as 8:03, 12:07, you need to emphasize with 0 [ ling ] in the ‘fen’ part. For example, ba dian ling san fen, shi er dian ling qi fen.
Lesson 8

半 [ ban ] – half
7: 30—qi dian ban / qi dian san shi fen

刻 [ ke ] – quarter
4:15 – si dian yi ke (one quarter)

How about 4:45 then?...... Yes, si dian san ke (three quarters)

** 半 [ ban ] for half you can use anywhere, while 刻 [ ke ] for quarter is only used for time expressions.