



## It's about time!

### Overview

This is an activity to play during mathematics that focuses on the language of time. Use it at the beginning of a sequence of learning as a pre-assessment to gauge what students already know about the language of time. It could also be used as a post-assessment after a series of lessons on time to note the language students use in describing the concepts or words.

### How to play

The activity is based on a literacy task I was introduced to by [Annette Gray](#) (acknowledging its origin from Sue Bremner). Annette called it the 12-word vocabulary task. Students play in pairs; one student has the A card and one has the B card (there are cards for Early Stage 1 to Stage 3 below). Each card has 6 different words. The object of the activity is to take turns in explaining one of your words. As one student correctly guesses their partner's word, they write in on their sheet. Students continue to take turns until they have both filled in the missing words. Students are able to pass if they need to or can come back to describing one of the words later.

### Differentiating the activity

For younger students, you could use pictures instead of the words. You could also use the words for the game celebrity head or use them for charades.

This activity has similar benefits for students as the game [Mathoo!](#) That can also be found on our [Resources page](#).



It's about time!

Student A

ES1

before		tomorrow	
	later		now
yesterday		day	

It's about time!

Student B

ES1

	after		next
week		first	
	morning		soon



It's about time!

Student A

S1

future		past	
	clock		year
minute		hour	

It's about time!

Student B

S1

	second		weekly
earlier		before	
	month		after



It's about time!

Student A

S2

duration		sequence	
	timeline		event
calendar		fortnight	

It's about time!

Student B

S2

	digital		analogue
yearly		third	
	midnight		longer



It's about time!

Student A

S3

elapsed		time zone	
	sequence		24 hour
timetable		schedule	

It's about time!

Student B

S3

	speed		rate
scale		timer	
	hourly		expected