Telling Time in Mvskoke

Telling Time Rather Than Just Saying a Number

You let the listener know that the numbers you are about to say have to do with time by saying: **HVSE-VKERKV** before the number.

Hvse-vkerkv literally means "sun measurements", but it is how we say "time" or "o'clock".

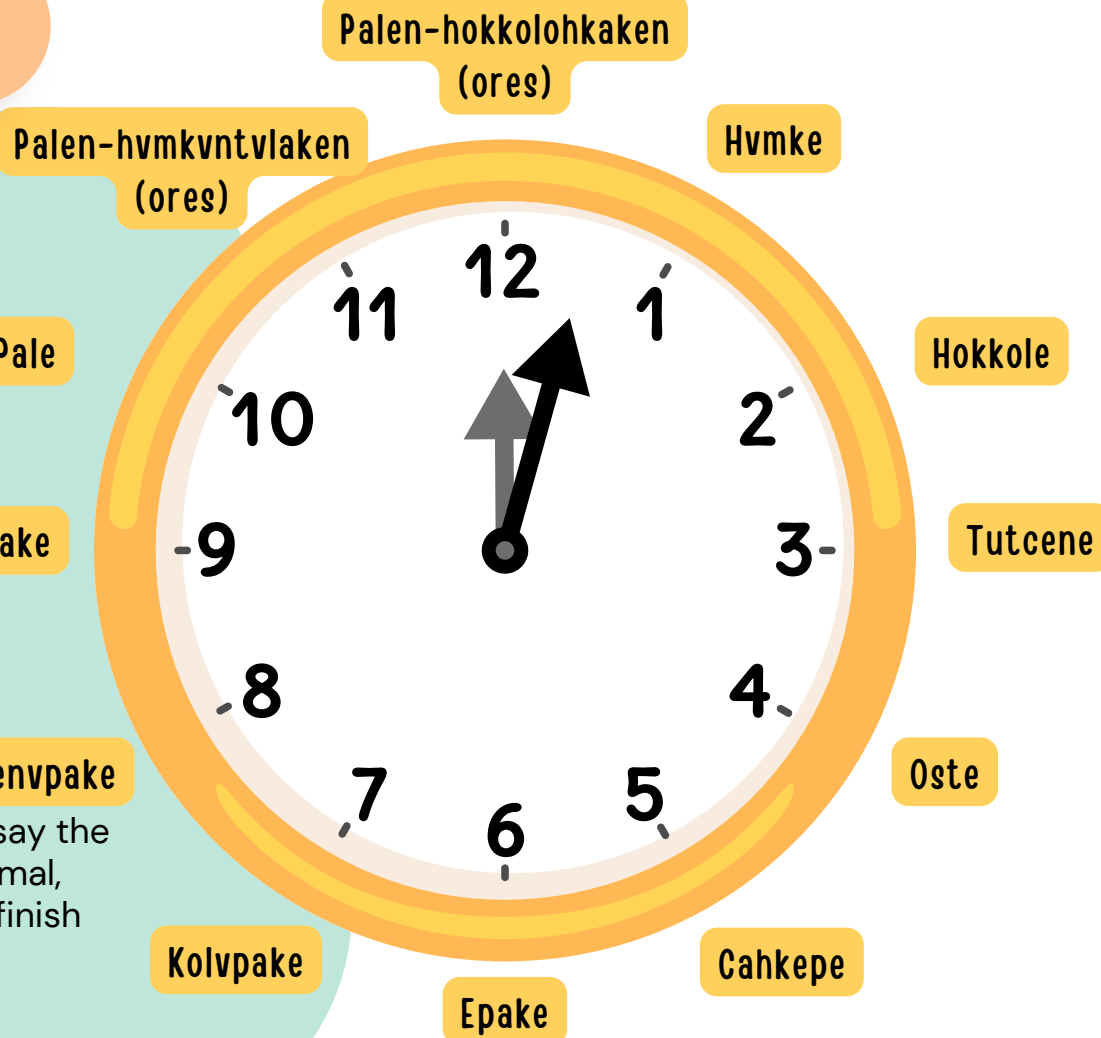Hiyowat hvse-vkerkv hvmkes. / Hiyowat hvse-vkerkv hvmke tos.

It is 1 o'clock

Using Time in Full Sentences

For 1 o'clock to 10 o'clock, you can either add an 's' to the end of the base number to finish the sentence OR you can add 'tos' (*is*) to finish the sentence.

Hvse-vkerkv kolvpakes
OR
Hvse-vkerkv kolvpake tos

It's 7 o'clock

For 11 o'clock and 12 o'clock, say the numbers "11" and "12" like normal, then use 'ores' (*to reach*) to finish the sentence

Hvse-vkerkv palen-hokkolohkaken ores

It's 12 o'clock

Palen-hokkolohkaken (ores)

Palen-hvmkvntvlaken (ores)

Hvmke

Pale

Hokkole

Ostvpake

Tutcene

Oste

Cenvpake

Cahkepe

Kolvpake

Epake

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Using Time in a Longer Sentence

When you want to mention time in a larger sentence, you will introduce the time first with HVSE-VKERKV, then the number, then the rest of the sentence.

Time is generally at the beginning of the sentence.

Hvse-vkerkv cahkepat cuko ayi tos

I go home at 5 o'clock

Why do we use '-at' ?

The ending '*–at*' helps designate the specific time. Without this ending, it might feel like you aren't talking about time at all.

To form this ending, take off the '*–e*' that the numbers end in (or in the case of *'ores'* for 11 and 12 o'clock, take off the '*–es'*) and replace it with '*at*'

Hvmke	→	Hvmkat
Oste	→	Ostat
Pale-hokkolohkaken ores	→	Pale-hokkolohkaken orat

General Time in Mvskoke

Do you always say the exact time? Chances are you probably just say "in the morning" or "at night" and other general phrases.

These phrases are very common in Mvskoke. Because they are time, they also generally go at the beginning of the sentence and also follow the '–at' rule.

- **Hvthvyvtke**
  Morning
- **Fvccv-like**
  Noon
- **Fvccv-lik hoyanen**
  Afternoon
- **Yafke**
  Evening
- **Nere**
  Night

Hvthvyvtkat aklope tos

He takes a bath in the morning

You can combine one of these words with the exact time to specify whether something is happening at the **AM** or **PM**

Hvyvtken hvse-vkerkv cenvpohkakat hompetv-cuko vpeyvhanes

We are going to go to the restaurant at 8 in the morning.