

LESSON 3 ASKING AND TELLING TIME IN WOLOF

Grammar Notes

To ask the time in Wolof, you use the subject focus conjugation:

(1) (1) ban waxtu moo jot? “What time is it?”

The verb *jot* means something like, “to strike an hour,” as in “the clock struck seven.” Thus, the question in (1) is more literally, “which hour has struck?” In that case, when you ask the time in Wolof, you are asking about a subject. This means that the subject focus conjugation must be used.

Expressing the hour

To tell the time when it is on the hour, you answer by using the subject focus conjugation with the time:

Q: ban waxtu moo jot?

A: fukki waxtu moo jot “It’s ten o’clock.”

Expressing the half hour

Q: ban waxtu moo jot?

A: fukki waxtu ag genn wàll moo jot “It’s 10:30.”

The pattern for expression of the half hour is: ____ **waxtu ag genn wàll**

Expressing Minutes

Wolof has two different expressions for minutes between the hour and the half hour and minutes from the half hour to the next hour.

Minutes from the hour to the half hour

Q: ban waxtu moo jot?

A: fukki waxtu teg na ñaar fukki minit “It’s 10:20.”

The general formula is: ____ **waxtu teg na** ____ **minit**

The expression roughly means, “X hour with Y minutes put on.” Remember that the verb *teg* means, “put.” The idea is that these minutes added to the hour.

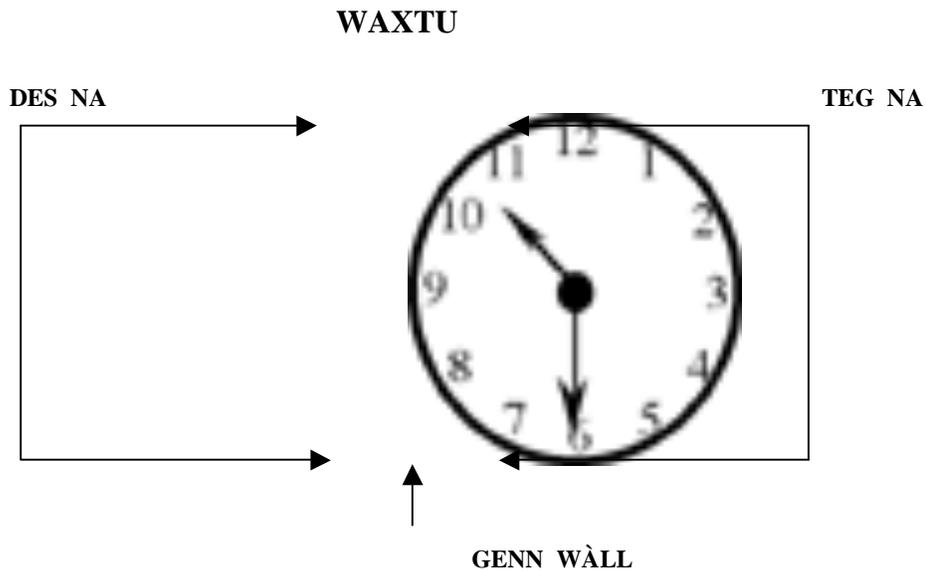
Minutes from the half hour to the following hour

Q: ban waxtu moo jot?

A: fukki waxtu des na ñaar fukki minit “It’s 9:40.”

The general formula is: ___ **waxtu des na** ___ **minit**

The verb *des* means “remain, to be left.” Thus, the expression literally means something like, “X o’clock, Y minutes are left.”



Q: Ban waxtu moo jot?

A: Fukki waxtu ag gennwàll moo jot.

Exercise 1

Looking at the clocks below, say what time it is.



fukki waxtu des na
fukki minit ag juróóm

Exercise 2

Q. Ban waxtu nga yeewu?

- 1. **Ci** fukki waxtu laa yeewu
- 2. **Bi** fukki waxtu teggee fukki minit ag juróóm laa yeewu

Using the clocks below, and the examples given above, write answers to the question in Exercise 2 above.

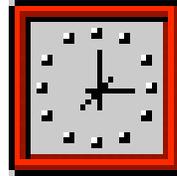


- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____



- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____

Exercise 3
Ban Waxtu moo jot?

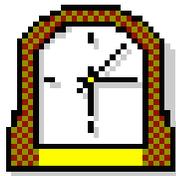
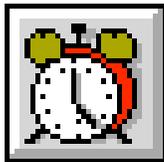


Montar bu jëkk bi: _____

Ñaareelu montar bi: _____

Ñetteel bi: _____

Ñeenteel bi: _____



Montar bu jëkk bi: _____

Ñaareelu montar bi: _____

Ñetteel bi: _____

Ñeenteel bi: _____