

## Re: Time in various languages...

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2006-01/msg01657.html>

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- *From:* "Brian M. Scott" <b.scott@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Sat, 14 Jan 2006 22:23:19 -0500
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On Sun, 15 Jan 2006 02:57:33 -0000, Neeraj Mathur

<neemathur@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in

<[news:dqcdmp\\$coh\\$1@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:dqcdmp$coh$1@xxxxxxxxxxxx)> in sci.lang:

> "Brian M. Scott" <b.scott@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message

> [news:1vkfa80lndzhv\\$.ag2yd6b0dak4\\$.dlg@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:1vkfa80lndzhv$.ag2yd6b0dak4$.dlg@xxxxxxxxxxxx)

>> On Sun, 15 Jan 2006 02:35:42 -0000, Neeraj Mathur

>> <neemathur@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in

>> <[news:dqccdq\\$ct\\$1@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:dqccdq$ct$1@xxxxxxxxxxxx)> in sci.lang:

>>> "Brian M. Scott" <b.scott@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message

>>> [news:1nyg56iccd80l\\$.1kvafxls58u4q.dlg@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:1nyg56iccd80l$.1kvafxls58u4q.dlg@xxxxxxxxxxxx)

>>>> On Sat, 14 Jan 2006 13:32:00 +0000, Thomas Widmann

>>>> <twid@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in

>>>> <[news:m3fynr2awf.fsf@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:m3fynr2awf.fsf@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> in sci.lang:

>>>>> Does it mean 9:30 in any variety of English?

>>>>> I don't believe so. Unfortunately. 'Halb zehn' = 9:30

>>>>> makes sense; the English usage is thoroughly unreasonable.

>>>> Not at all! When half of the ten o'clock hour has gone

>>>> past, it is half ten - 10.30.

>>> That makes no sense to me, because I don't consider 'the ten

>>> o'clock hour' a natural entity.

> You're thinking of 10:00 as the end of the tenth hour, but

> this is highly unnatural -

Not to me! Nor is it necessary to think this way to get 9:30 out of 'half 10': 'half 10' immediately suggests 'half of 10', which is readily understood in this context as elliptical for 'half of the way to 10 (from the previous whole hour)'.

[...]

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- > That's why 'half 10' meaning 'halfway through all those
- > times that start with 10' is rather the opposite of
- > 'thoroughly unreasonable'.

Not to me! Seriously, 'half of the way to 10' has \*always\* seemed to me the obvious interpretation of 'half 10', and I really do find the English usage unnatural.

Brian

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- **Follow-Ups:**

- ◆ **Re: Time in various languages...**

- ◆ *From:* Paul J Kriha

- **References:**

- ◆ **Time in various languages...**

- ◆ *From:* FredB

- ◆ **Re: Time in various languages...**

- ◆ *From:* Seán O'Leathlóbhair

- ◆ **Re: Time in various languages...**

- ◆ *From:* Peter T. Daniels

- ◆ **Re: Time in various languages...**

- ◆ *From:* Thomas Widmann

- ◆ **Re: Time in various languages...**

- ◆ *From:* Brian M. Scott

- ◆ **Re: Time in various languages...**

- ◆ *From:* Neeraj Mathur

- ◆ **Re: Time in various languages...**

- ◆ *From:* Brian M. Scott

- ◆ **Re: Time in various languages...**

- ◆ *From:* Neeraj Mathur

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- Next by Date: **Re: Wow! It's a Yogh!**

- Previous by thread: **Re: Time in various languages...**

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