

91 SNOW TIME

- 15:55 *Diibmu lea vihtta váile njeallje* ('five to four')
 16:20 *Diibmu lea logi váile beal vihtta* ('ten to half before five')
 18:35 *Diibmu lea vihtta badjel beal čieža* ('five past half before seven')
 22:10 *Diibmu lea logi badjel logi* ('ten past ten')

The main difference between telling the time in Sami and in English is that the Sami use the phrase 'half before' the next hour, whereas in English it's 'half past' the previous hour. Here's one way you might have got there.

The phrase *diibmu lea* appears in every line, so it probably means something like 'the hour is...' We don't need to know its exact translation to solve the problem. The word *okta* appears in both 13:10 and 12:30. In what way might the same word be included in these two times? Well, 13:10 is ten past one, and 12:30 is half an hour before one. So let's assume that *okta* is one, which would mean that *logi badjel* is 'ten past', and *beal* is 'half before'. From *vihtta badjel čieža*, five past seven, we could deduce that *vihtta* = 5, *badjel* = past, and *čieža* = 7. This is beginning to make sense. *Logi váile vihtta* is ten to five, confirming that *logi* = ten, so *váile* = to.

Since 12:30 is written as 'half before one', it's logical to assume that 9:30 would be written as 'half before ten', or *beal logi*. Which is why 9:25 is written as 'five before half before ten.' And 3:40 is written as 'ten after half before four', giving us *njeallje* = 4.