

Time

Flying around the world: Working out time

(PHONE RINGS)

Oh no, it's Mum.

Hello!

Dad's not here. He must have missed his connection.

No I can easily work out the next flight.

I can do all the maths. No, it's no problem. Bye.

What's he say? Emirates via Dubai, he told me he usually gets in early.

So see you at four o'clock.

What time is it now?

It's after five. Where is he?

Well I've got a great phone app for looking up flight times.

So this is the only Emirates flight from Perth.

Landing at 13:07 local time in Dubai.

So he was in Dubai at lunch time. He's not going to get here for ages.

Oh no, there's a time difference.

I can work this out and I'm going to use his present.

Serves him right for not giving me a ring.

Now it may be long winded but I'm going to work out all the flight times in UK time.

Then using my app, I've got a chance of working out where he is and what flight he's on.

It's all about time zones.

He flew from Perth to Dubai.

With a stopover in Dubai and then arriving in the UK.

Bitesize

Now the world spins anti-clockwise.

You count the time differences from Greenwich, which is Greenwich Mean Time at zero.

Anything to the east you add on hours and anything to the west you take away hours. Cool!

As the world spins once a day, the world is split into 24 time zones.

I know Dubai is four hours ahead and Perth is eight hours ahead.

So travelling from Perth to Dubai is like travelling back in time.

So let's get back to the app and find a flight from Perth to Dubai.

Here's one. That left Perth at 05:54 local time and that's eight hours ahead.

So 05:54 minus eight hours.

The first five hours take us to 00:54 hours.

Which in the 24 hour clock is 00:54 and then the next three hours takes us to three hours before that which is 21:54.

Hmm, 21:54. Let's check this on a 12 hour clock.

From 05:54 going back eight hours.

Eight turns of the dial, round and round past midnight.

Takes us to 21:54 in the evening, that's PM.

So he's been travelling since about ten o'clock last night and he arrived in Dubai while I was having breakfast.

That makes more sense.

Let's just look at this on the globe.

13:07 local time in Dubai.

Four hours back would be 09:07 UK time.

So he's had all day to get here!

So what I'm looking for is a flight that left Dubai after 13:07 Dubai time.

That he would have had a chance to catch to fly to London.

Bitesize

And there it is, leaving Dubai at 14:05, arriving in London late at 17:07.

That's now!

Oops! Better wrap his present.

Mmm, tasty.