

People formerly used hour-glasses to measure their time by.

An hour-glass is divided into two hollow parts, connected by a narrow neck. The upper part is filled with sand sufficient to trickle out into the lower glass in the course of an hour, and when the lower glass is full, you turn it up, and the lower glass is again the empty one, till the sand has dribbled out again, and filled it. In this way people could measure their day, when once they knew the hour; but then, if they were so engaged as to be obliged to leave their glass unturned, they lost their reckoning. Still it was a very useful invention: but clocks and watches are far more admirable; because they not only tell you that an hour is past, but they point out which hour, and show you what portion of the hour, or how many minutes are past.

Every boy and girl should learn to read the hour of the day by a clock or watch. Look at the school clock; the hours, you see, are marked in a circle, from I. to XII. on the face of it, which face is called the dial plate; and there are two hands or pointers, which move round it. The shorter hand, which is called the hour hand, points to the hours which are marked I. II. III., and so on; the longer one points to the minutes, which are marked by these little strokes or dots which you see in a circle outside the figures; this long hand is called the minute hand.

The hour hand moves slowly; it is an hour in moving from one figure to the next, and twelve hours in passing round the whole circle, from any one hour to the same again.