

Global View - Daylight Savings Time (C0191)

- A: Did you set your clock forward for daylight savings time?
- B: What? Why do we have to do that?
- A: Well, at the start of the spring we usually have more daylight in the mornings and less in the afternoon. This is basically due to our position on the planet and the rotation of the earth. In any case, to take better advantage of the daylight available, we compensate by moving our clocks forward one hour.
- B: I see. That's convenient! I never understood things like this, such as GMT. I never know what time zone we are in or when to change my clock!
- A: That just stands for Greenwich Mean Time. Here in California, we are in Pacific Standard Time, that is eight time zones west of Greenwich. Remember when we were in Beijing? Well, then we were in China Standard Time, and that's eight time zones east of Greenwich!

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B: That's why it was so weird traveling from Beijing to LA! Because of the huge time difference, even though we left Beijing at noon and flew for more than eight hours, we still arrived in LA the same day at noon! It's like we went back in time!

Key Vocabulary

rotation	common noun, singular	circular motion of turn- ing around as on an axis
daylight savings time	phrase	system that provides more daylight during the day
compensate	principle verb, present simple	provide or be an equiv- alent; make up; make amends
time zone	phrase	a region where the same standard time is used
go back in time	phrase	to travel to a time that has already passed
Supplementary Vo	ocabulary	
Spring forward, fall back	phrase	set clocks ahead 1 hour in the spring and back 1 hour in the fall
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DST

European

Summer

Time

daylight savings time

the name for "daylight savings time" in Europe

clock shift	common singular	noun,	the amount of time by which to set a clock for- ward or backward
equinox	common singular	noun,	the twice yearly times when the lengths of day and night are almost equal



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