



## A.M. and P.M.

Although a day has 24 hours, most clocks show only 12 hours. Clocks go around twice in one day. This means that<sup>25</sup> it is one o'clock at two times in every day, two o'clock at two times, and so on.

To tell these two times apart, the<sup>50</sup> letters "A.M." were added to the time to indicate the period from midnight to noon. The letters "P.M." indicate the period from noon to midnight.<sup>75</sup> "A.M." and "P.M." are abbreviations for the Latin phrases meaning "before noon" and "after noon." This means, for example, that the abbreviation 2 A.M. indicates<sup>100</sup> that it is 2 o'clock in the morning. The abbreviation 2 P.M. indicates that it is 2 o'clock in the afternoon.<sup>121</sup>