

<sup>6</sup>Starting at the Prime Meridian list the longitudes of the centers of western time zones:

Name	Center Longitude	
W. European	0° W	
W. Aftrican	15° W	
Azores	30° W	
Brazilian	45° W	
Atlantic		
Eastern		

Name	Center Longitude		
Central			
Mountain			
Pacific			
Yukon	135° W		
Alaska-Hawaiian			
Nome	165° W		

Name

<sup>12</sup>The times of astronomical events is often given in **COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME (UT OR** UTC)<sup>1</sup>, which is the time on the prime meridian (Greenwhich, or Western European Time). The official time-keeper of the United States is the US Naval Observatory. You can use their site to convert from Universal Time to other time zones (both standard and daylight times)

⇒ Convert from Universal Time (http://tycho.usno.navy.mil/zones.html)

(note that some of the dates may change if an event occurs between midnight UT and Eastern time)

EVENT	UT		LOCAL TIME (EDT OR EST)		
	Date	Time (24 hr)	Date	Time (h:m AM/PM)	
Harvest <sup>2</sup> Moon	September 20	23:54	Sept. 20	7:54 pm EDT	
Autumnal Equinox	September 22	19:14			
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Moon	October 13	3:25			
Winter Solstice	December 21	15:53			

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Replaced Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) as the World standard for time in 1986. Also known as "Zulu Time," it is based on atomic measurements rather than the Earth's rotation. Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) is still the standard time zone for the Prime Meridian (Zero Longitude). Also, UTC is not the official time in any actual time zone. (www.timeanddate.com/time/qmt-utc-time.html)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Full moon names from Space.com (<u>www.space.com/16830-full-moon-calendar.html</u>). Not sanctioned by the <u>IAU</u>.

## Phys 102: Astronomy

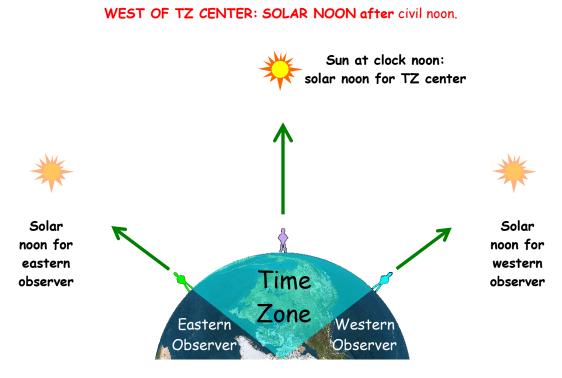
## Clock and Solar Noon

The **clock time** is the local clock time. Due to the finite width of the time zones, it does not always fit the solar meaning of time.

## SOLAR NOON = SUN ON OBSERVER'S MERIDIAN (TRANSIT)

On the time zone center longitude, clock noon corresponds (roughly) to solar noon. For each degree of longitude of difference between your location and the center meridian, there will be four minutes of difference between your solar noon and civil noon.

EAST OF TZ CENTER: SOLAR NOON before civil noon.



Thus solar noon occurs early in the eastern part of the time zone and late in the western part of the time zone. Complete the following table by calculating the difference between the city's longitude and that of the time zone center and using 1 hour = 15° and 1 min = 15'.

	Longitude				Solar Noon	
City	City	Time Zone Center	Diffe Deg. & min.	E or W	Early or Late	Clock Time
Canton, NY	75°10' W	75° W				
Portland, ME	70°15′ W	75° W				
Thunder Bay, Ontario	89°15' W	75° W				
Lhasa, Tibet (CCT: UTC + 8)	91° E	120° E				

Longitude is measured **west to east** in the eastern hemisphere! Use a globe!