

Tell Time until Sunset by the Sun!



Would you like to know how long until sunset? There's a way to do this with no equipment except your hand and the Sun.

The illustration above shows a hand with fingers slightly spread, and the Sun showing between forefinger and middle finger. The bottom of the pinky is on the horizon. The Sun will set in 45 minutes.

How do you know? Stand facing the Sun. If you're right-handed, extend your right arm as far as possible toward the Sun. Your arm should be straight out, elbow extended. Bend your wrist inward until your hand is parallel to your body. Extend your fingers so light shows between all of them. Put the bottom of your pinky on the horizon line. Move your hand until it intercepts the Sun. **NO! DON'T LOOK DIRECTLY AT THE SUN!** Gosh, I'm glad I caught you before you did that! It's bad for your eyes.

If the Sun is behind your hand, like the picture above, which fingers is it between? Each finger represents 15 minutes before sunset. A whole hand is one hour. If the Sun is above your hand, put your other hand on top and add another hour. One hand + two fingers = 1-1/2 hours before sunset. If you know what time the Sun sets, you can make an educated guess as to what time it is now.

This works to tell how many hours after sunrise, too.

But you'll have to get up earlier to try it!

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