

## ¿Qué hora es? What time is it?

- Time in English is neuter, that is, we say *What time is it? It is 1:00. It is 2:30.* In Spanish, time is feminine because the word for hour is *la hora*.
- The verb **ser** is used to tell time. Since there must be subject-verb agreement, one o'clock would be singular and two o'clock, three o'clock, etc. would be plural. This is different from the English.

Es la una	It is 1:00	Son las dos	It is 2:00
		Son las cinco	It is 5:00
		Son las nueve	It is 9:00

- To express the half hour in English we say *six-thirty* or *half past six*. The quarter hour can be *six-fifteen* or *a quarter past six*. Spanish has the same options.

Son las seis <b>y</b> treinta	six -thirty	Son las seis <b>y</b> media	half past six (6:30)
Son las seis <b>y</b> quince	six -fifteen	Son las seis <b>y</b> cuarto	a quarter past six (6:15)

- With the advent of digital watches, we have become more precise.

Son las ocho <b>y</b> dieciséis	It's 8:16	Son las tres <b>y</b> veintinueve	It's 3:29
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- In English, 6:40 can be expressed as six-forty or twenty minutes before seven. In Spanish, they would say the equivalent of "it is 7 less twenty ( minutes)." The word minutes is usually understood.

Son las siete <b>menos</b> veinte (minutos)	It's 6:40	
Son las diez <b>menos</b> quince	or	It's 9:45
Son las diez <b>menos</b> cuarto		

- We have other expressions we use with time and so do Spanish speakers.

Es mediodía *	It's noon	Es medianoche	It's midnight
Son a eso de las cuatro	It is about 4:00		
Son las ocho y pico	It is a little past 8:00		
Son las once en punto	It is exactly 11:00 (11:00 on the dot)		

\* This is masculine because *día* is a masculine word even though it ends in *a*, and we are saying it is the middle of the day. *Noche* is feminine, hence, *medianoche*, the middle of the night.

- To express a.m. or p.m., use *mañana* or *tarde*.

Es la una de la mañana.	It's 1:00 a.m.	Son las tres de la tarde.	It's 3:00 p.m.
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