

¿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.** The expression *¿Qué hora es?* means "What time is it?"
Es la hora una = It is one o'clock **NOTE: SPANISH DOES NOT SAY THE WORD "HORA," BUT IT IS UNDERSTOOD.**
Es la una = It is one o'clock

For two o'clock, it would be *Son las dos* **NOTE: THIS IS PLURAL FROM SON LAS (HORAS) DOS**

All the hours except one o'clock are plural. Below are some examples.

Son las tres It is 3:00 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*. Spanish has the same options. Spanish builds on the original hour and adds to it.

6:30 *Son las seis y treinta: six -thirty* *Son las seis y media: half past six*

- **The quarter hour** can be *six-fifteen* or *a quarter past six*. Spanish has the same options.

6:15 *Son las seis y quince: six -fifteen* *Son las seis y cuarto: a quarter past six*

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

It's 8:16 *Son las ocho y dieciséis* **It's 3:29** *Son las tres y veintinueve*

TIME After the half hour

- 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.

It's 6:40 *Son las siete menos veinte (minutos)*

It's 9:45 *Son las diez menos quince or Son las diez menos cuarto*

Other expressions used with time

Es (el) mediodía*	It's noon	Son <u>a eso de</u> las cuatro	It is <u>about</u> 4:00
Es (la) medianoche**	It's midnight	Son las <u>once en punto</u>	It is <u>exactly</u> 11:00 (<u>on the dot</u>)
		Es la una y <u>pico</u>	It is <u>a bit</u> after 1:00

*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, tarde or noche.

It's 1:00 A.M.	Es la una de la mañana.	It's 8:00 A.M.	Son las ocho de la mañana.
It's 3:00 P.M.	Son las tres de la tarde.	It's 11:00 P.M.	Son las once de la noche.

¿A qué hora? (At) What time?

The expression *¿A qué hora?* Asks what time something takes place. The questioner doesn't need to know the time now, but the scheduled time of something (either future or past).

What time is the class? *¿A qué hora es la clase?* (The class is) *At 9:00. A las nueve.*

The party is at midnight. *La fiesta es a medianoche.*