

LA HORA

¿Qué hora es?

What time is it?

Es la una.

It is one o'clock.

Son las dos (tres, cuatro, etc.).

It is two (three, four, etc.) o'clock.

1. To tell time in Spanish, start with **Son las** and add the number of the hour. The exception is one o'clock: **Es la una**.

"A Quarter Past" and "Half Past"

Es la una y cuarto.

It is a quarter past one.

Es la una y media.

It is half past one.

Son las ocho y cuarto.

It is 8:15.

Son las diez y media.

It is 10:30.

Expressing Minutes After the Hour

Es la una y diez.

It is ten (minutes) past one. (It is 1:10.)

Son las nueve y veinte.

It is twenty (minutes) past nine. (It is 9:20.)

Son las dos y diecisiete.

It is seventeen (minutes) after two. (It is 2:17.)

Expressing Time Past the Half-Hour

Son las diez menos cuarto.

It is a quarter to ten. (It is 9:45.)

Son las tres menos cinco.

It is five (minutes) to three. (It is 2:55.)

Es la una menos veinte.

It is twenty (minutes) to one. (It is 12:40.)

To express time after the half-hour, start with the next hour and subtract the number of minutes from the next hour. Remember to start with the coming hour. (It is 11:50 is the same as *It is ten minutes to twelve*: **Son las doce menos diez**.)

Expressing "A.M." and "P.M." in Spanish

Son las seis de la mañana.	It is 6:00 A.M.
Es la una de la tarde.	It is 1:00 P.M.
Son las diez y veinte de la noche.	It is 10:20 P.M.
Es mediodía.	It is 12:00 noon.
Es medianoche.	It is 12:00 midnight.

- Between 12:01 A.M. and noon, we add **de la mañana** to the time to indicate A.M.
- Between 12:00 noon and nightfall, we add **de la tarde** to indicate P.M. From nightfall to midnight, we add **de la noche** to indicate P.M.
- Noon* is **mediodía**; *midnight* is **medianoche**.
- In Spanish-speaking countries, it is actual darkness that determines whether the afternoon has ended. Thus, if there is still light in the sky, 7:30 P.M. will be expressed as "las siete y media de la tarde."

"At" + Time of Day

¿A qué hora llegas a casa?	At what time do you arrive home?
Vuelvo a casa a las cinco.	I return home at 5:00.
La clase empieza a la una y diez.	The class begins at 1:10.
A mediodía almorzamos en la escuela.	At noon we have lunch in school.
A medianoche dormimos.	At midnight we are sleeping.

- To express *at* with the hour, use **a**: **a la una** (*at one o'clock*), **a las dos** (*at two o'clock*), etc.
- A common mistake is to confuse the answers to **¿A qué hora?** and **¿Qué hora es?** The answer to the first question requires **a** ("¿A qué hora vienes? "Vengo a las tres."). The answer to the second questions begins with **Es** or **Son** ("¿Qué hora es?" "Son las tres.>").

Common Time Expressions

¿Qué hora es?	What time is it?	a mediodía.	at noon
¿A qué hora?	At what time?	Es medianoche.	It's midnight.
a las ocho (nueve)	at eight (nine) o'clock	a medianoche	at midnight
de la mañana	in the morning, AM	Es tarde.	It's late.
de la tarde	in the afternoon, PM	a tiempo	on time
de la noche	in the evening, PM	en punto	exactly, sharp
Es mediodía.	It's noon.	Es temprano.	It is early.

Estudiamos por la mañana (por la tarde, por la noche).

We study in the morning (in the afternoon, in the evening).

The phrases *por la mañana*, *por la tarde*, etc., refer to parts of the day and are not used after expressions of clock time.