

Telling Time

Besides this explanation, you also have models on pages 56-57 to use as a guide.

1. Telling basic time on the hour: *Son las _____*, except for 1:00, which is *Es la una*.
2. Minutes after the hour are placed after the word *y* (“and”): *Son las tres y veinticinco*. (It’s 3:25.) *Son las nueve y diez*. (It’s 9:10.) *Es la una y veinte*. (It’s 1:20.)
3. Minutes before the hour (used for anything after :30 past the hour will be expressed as the next hour, minus the amount of minutes until the hour. *Son las seis menos diez*. (It’s ten ‘til six.) *Es la una menos veinte*. (It’s twenty ‘til one.)
4. Each fifteen minutes, use *cuarto* (a quarter) or *media* (half) instead of a number: *Son las cinco y cuarto*. (It’s a quarter after five.) *Son las cuatro menos cuarto*. (It’s a quarter ‘til four.) *Es la una y media*. (It’s 1:30.)
5. For *am*, add *de la mañana* (of the morning) or *de la tarde* (of the afternoon). For *pm*, add *de la noche* (of the night) after the time. *Son las ocho y veinte de la mañana*. (It’s 8:20 in the morning.) *Son las diez de la noche*. (It’s ten at night.)
6. Sometimes you don’t want to say “it’s five o’clock”, but “at five o’clock”. Instead of ...*son las cinco*, say ...*a las cinco*. Instead of ...*es la una*, say ...*a la una*.
7. It’s midnight: *Es la medianoche*. At midnight: *A la medianoche*. It’s noon: *Es el mediodía*. At noon: *Al mediodía*.

Practice: Translate into Spanish.

1. It’s eight thirty.
2. It’s one nineteen.
3. At five forty-five (at quarter ‘til six).
4. It’s seven nineteen in the morning.
5. At nine o’clock at night.
6. It’s a quarter ‘til three in the afternoon.
7. It’s twenty ‘til ten at night.
8. It’s noon. (See p. 56)
9. At ten ‘til eight in the morning.
10. At nine fifty-five.
11. It’s one o’clock.

12. It's midnight.