

La Hora (The Time)

Telling time in Spanish is much different than telling time in English

1. To designate an hour other than 1 a.m. or 1p.m., use the plural form “son las” followed by the hour. The formula for this is: **son las (it is) +hour+ y (and) + minutes**. If you are noting the half hour, use the word “media” instead of the number of minutes.

Example: It is 7:00.

Spanish: **Son las** siete.

Example: It is 2:30.

Spanish: Son las dos y media.

2. For the 1:00 hour, use the singular verb form “es la,” instead of using the plural verb “son las.”

Example: It is 1:20.

Spanish: **Es la** una y veinte.

3. To note that the time is after the half hour on the clock, you must go to the next hour and then subtract however many minutes from that time.

Example: It is 8:40.

Spanish: Son las **nueve menos veinte**.

- You are going to the next hour, which is 9:00 and subtracting twenty minutes to make it 8:40.

4. To indicate a.m. or p.m., use the phrases “de la noche” (at night), “de la tarde” (in the afternoon, or “de la mañana (in the morning).

Example: It is 8:30 p.m.

Spanish: Son las ocho y media **de la noche**.