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 1 p.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.