

A white paper bag is tilted, pouring small, oval-shaped orange seeds into dark, rich soil. In the background, a vibrant green plant with many small leaves is visible, suggesting a garden or farm setting. The scene is brightly lit, highlighting the textures of the soil, seeds, and foliage.

HOW TO TELL TIME AND TALK ABOUT SCHEDULES

Semillas: Elementary Spanish



How to ask about and tell time



Note that *tiempo* means “weather” or “time in general,” but you do not use it when asking about or telling time. Instead, you use the word *hora*.



To ask what time it is in Spanish, you say:

¿Qué hora es?





¿Qué hora es?



PASO 1

To answer the question, you will use **son**.
The only exception is with the 1:00 hour. Then you use **es**.

PASO 2

You use the feminine article **las** or **la** before the number.
This refers to **la hora** (the hour).

- You use **la** for any 1:00 hour.
- You use **las** for all other times.



Some examples of telling time on the hour



¿Qué hora es?

What time is it?



Son las cuatro.

- *It is four o'clock.*
- **Son las once.** *It is eleven o'clock.*
- **Es la una.** *It is one o'clock.*



Son las once.

Es la una.

It is one o'clock.



Telling time not on the hour



If it isn't exactly on the hour, you can say:
the hour + y + minutes up to the half hour.

Son las tres **y veinte**. *It's 3:20.*

After the half hour:

you subtract minutes from the next hour by saying:

the next hour + menos + minutes.

Son las seis **menos diez**.

It's 5:50.

Option 1

you add minutes to the previous hour by saying:

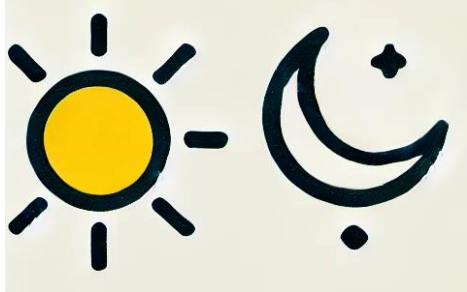
the previous hour + y + minutes.

Son las dos **y cuarenta**.

It's two forty.

Option 2

More about telling time



Es mediodía

It's noon

Es medianoche

It's midnight

To refer to quarter, you say **cuarto**,
and to refer to the half hour, you use **media**.

Son las siete y **cuarto**. *It's a quarter past seven.*

Es la una y **media**. *It's one thirty.*



More about telling time

To specify morning, afternoon, or night

use ***de la mañana***, ***de la tarde***, or ***de la noche***.

Son las nueve menos cuarto **de la noche**.

It's a quarter to nine in the evening.

a.m.

p.m.



Let's practice: ¿Qué hora es?



5:25 pm

- *Son las cinco y veinticinco de la tarde.*

1:15 am

-

7:45 am

-

12:00 pm

-

Using time to talk about schedules



Talking about time and schedules

To ask about plans **at a specific time**, you say:

¿A qué hora + **verb**?

¿A qué hora **corres** en el parque?

At what time do you run in the park?



To answer, you use: **verb** + **a** + **la/las** + **hour**.

Corro en el parque **a las** nueve.

I run in the park at 9:00.

Remember that when you talk about days of the week, you use the article **el** or **los** with the day.

La clase de español es a las dos y media **los** lunes y **los** miércoles.

Spanish class is at 2:30 on Mondays, and Wednesdays.