

¿Qué hora es? What time is it?

- Time in English is neuter, that is, we say *What time is it? It is 1:00. It is 2:30.* In Spanish, time is feminine because the word for hour is *la hora*.
- The verb **ser** is used to tell time. Since there must be subject-verb agreement, one o'clock would be singular and two o'clock, three o'clock, etc. would be plural. This is different from the English.

Es la una	It is 1:00	Son las dos	It is 2:00
		Son las cinco	It is 5:00
		Son las nueve	It is 9:00

- To express the half hour in English we say *six-thirty* or *half past six*. The quarter hour can be *six-fifteen* or *a quarter past six*. Spanish has the same options.

Son las seis y treinta	six -thirty	Son las seis y media	half past six (6:30)
Son las seis y quince	six -fifteen	Son las seis y cuarto	a quarter past six (6:15)

- With the advent of digital watches, we have become more precise.

Son las ocho y dieciséis	It's 8:16	Son las tres y veintinueve	It's 3:29
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- In English, 6:40 can be expressed as six-forty or twenty minutes before seven. In Spanish, they would say the equivalent of "it is 7 less twenty (minutes)." The word minutes is usually understood.

Son las siete menos veinte (minutos)	It's 6:40	
Son las diez menos quince	or	It's 9:45
Son las diez menos cuarto		

- We have other expressions we use with time and so do Spanish speakers.

Es mediodía *	It's noon	Es medianoche	It's midnight
Son a eso de las cuatro	It is about 4:00		
Son las ocho y pico	It is a little past 8:00		
Son las once en punto	It is exactly 11:00 (11:00 on the dot)		

* This is masculine because *día* is a masculine word even though it ends in *a*, and we are saying it is the middle of the day. *Noche* is feminine, hence, *medianoche*, the middle of the night.

- To express a.m. or p.m., use *mañana* or *tarde*.

Es la una de la mañana.	It's 1:00 a.m.	Son las tres de la tarde.	It's 3:00 p.m.
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It's TIME to practice!

Write out the following times in Spanish.

1:00 pm _____

8:00 am _____

12:00 am _____

7:00 pm _____

4:00 pm _____

5:00 pm _____

9:00 am _____

10:00 pm _____

12:00 pm _____

1:00 am _____

2:20 pm _____

3:06 am _____

6:15 pm _____

12:30 am _____

1:27 pm _____

5:05 pm _____

4:15 am _____

11:23 am _____

7:10 pm _____

8:30 pm _____

Each of the following times can be written in two ways: by saying it's so many minutes after or so many minutes 'till the next hour. Write them both ways.

Examples:

2:45pm

1. Son las dos y cuarenta y cinco de la tarde.

2. Son las tres menos cuarto de la tarde.

(Three minus 15, or a quarter 'till three)

12:55pm

1. Son las doce y cincuenta y cinco de la tarde

2. Es la una menos cinco de la tarde.

(It's one minus five or five 'till one)

3:50 am _____

1:40 pm _____

6:57 pm _____

12:42pm _____

8:45 am _____

Extra Practice with Time: Using menos

To say “until” a certain time in Spanish, we use the formulas below:

Until 1:00 – Es la una menos (# minutes until 1) de la (mañana/ tarde/ noche)

Until any other time – Son las (hour) menos (# minutes until) de la (mañana/ tarde/ noche)

Let’s look at a few examples:

2:55pm – In English we could say this time two ways:

It’s two fifty five in the afternoon

It’s five minutes until three in the afternoon.

In Spanish we could say this time two ways also.

Son las dos y cincuenta y cinco de la tarde

Son las tres menos cinco de la tarde. (3:00 – 5 minutes)

Notice that when we use the “until” construction (in Spanish or English) we are really doing math! We round the time up to the next closest hour then subtract the actual number of minutes until that hour.

Step 1 : Round up to the next hour

Ex: 2:55 – we round up to 3:00 (Son las tres)

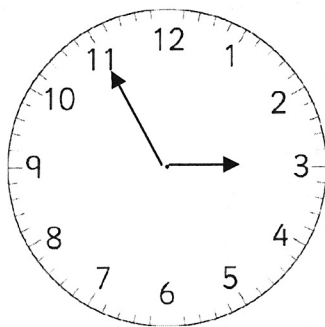
Step 2: Find out how many minutes there are between the two times.

Ex: Since there are 60 minutes in an hour and our clock says 2:55 we can subtract 55 from sixty (60 -55 = 5) to figure out the number of minutes until three. In this case there are 5.

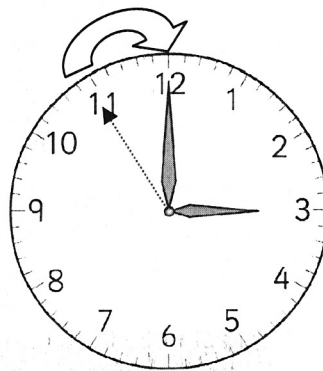
Step 3: Say the time:

Ex: Since 5 minutes will pass until the clock actually says 3:00, we have to subtract that five minutes from 3:00. So in English we say five ‘til 3:00. In Spanish, we say 3:00 minus five. Son las tres menos cinco de la tarde.

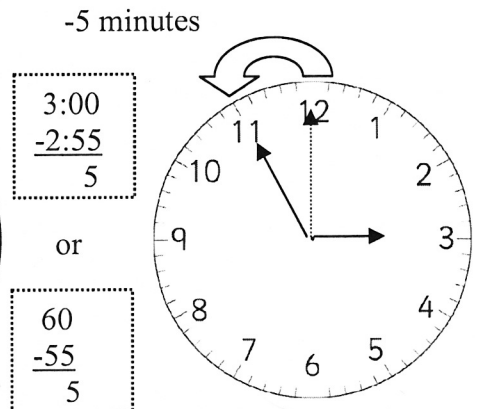
Let’s look at it pictorially.



2:55 = Son las dos y cincuenta y cinco



Round-up to 3:00
Son las tres.



2:55 = 3:00 – 5 min.
Son las tres menos cinco

12:31 – 1:59 gets a bit trickier

Remember: When dealing with 1:00, you say “Es la” instead of “Son las”

For example: 12:45pm = Son las doce y cuarenta y cinco de la tarde

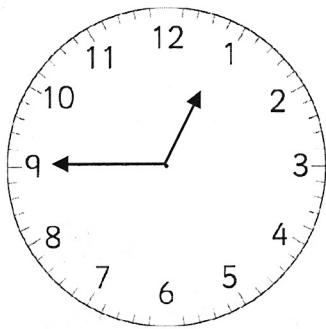
A quarter ‘til 1:00 = Es la una menos cuarto de la tarde.

1:50pm = Es la una y cincuenta de la tarde

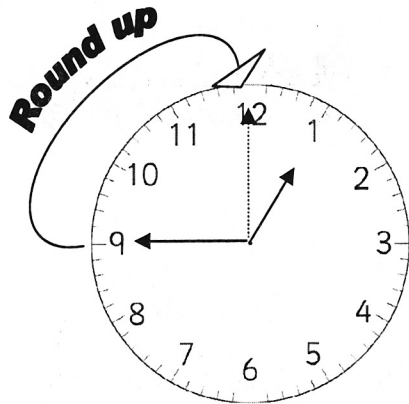
Ten ‘til 2:00 = Son las dos menos diez

Whether you are saying “it’s one minus (so many minutes)” or “It’s one and (so many minutes), you have to use “Es la”.

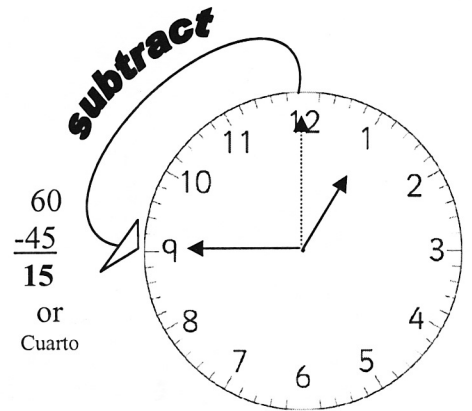
Look at the first example



12:45 = Son las doce y cuarenta y cinco

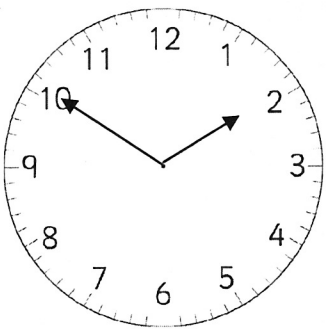


Round up to 1:00 =
Es la Una

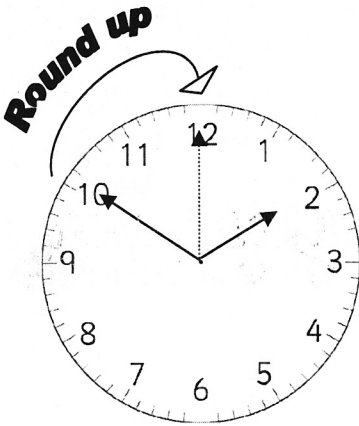


12:45 = 1:00 - 15
Es la una menos cuarto.

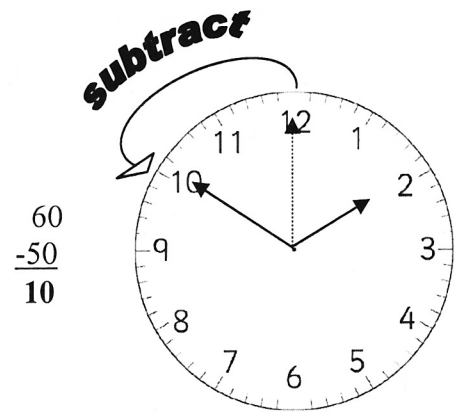
Look at the second example



1:50 = Es la una y cincuenta



Round up to 2:00 =
Son las dos



1:50 = 2:00 – 10 minutes
Son las dos menos diez

Practicing Time with “menos”

Write out the following times using the “menos” construction.

- 12:39 pm _____
- 5:46 am _____
- 4: 54 pm _____
- 9:38 am _____
- 6:42 pm _____
- 8:57 pm _____
- 10:45 am _____
- 3: 33 pm _____
- 2:59 pm _____
- 1: 40 pm _____
- 7: 31 pm _____
- 11: 50 am _____
- 12: 55pm _____
- 8: 35 am _____
- 1: 49 pm _____

Read the following times and write the digital form with am or pm on the line provided.

- 1. Son las cuatro menos veinte y nueve de la tarde. _____
- 2. Es la una menos diez y siete de la tarde _____
- 3. Son las diez menos cuatro de la mañana _____
- 4. Son las dos menos doce de la tarde _____
- 5. Son las once menos cuarto de noche _____

Read the following times and re-write them using the “and” construction.

- 1. Es la una menos veinte de la tarde. _____
- 2. Son las dos menos once de la tarde _____
- 3. Son las doce menos trece de la noche _____
- 4. Son las ocho menos catorce de la manana _____