¿Qué hora es? What time is it?

- Time in English is neuter, that is, we say *What time is <u>it</u>? <u>It</u> is 1:00. <u>It</u> 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

- 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 medi**o**día *	It's noon	Es medi**a**noche	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, medi**a**noche, 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.