

Notes/Apuntes  
Español 1  
Week of October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008

## Telling Time

The basics—

Es la una—It is 1 o'clock  
Son las dos—It is 2 o'clock  
Son las tres—It is 3 o'clock  
Son las cuatro—It is 4 o'clock  
Son las cinco—It is 5 o'clock  
Son las seis—It is 6 o'clock

Son las siete—It is 7 o'clock  
Son las ocho—It is 8 o'clock  
Son las nueve—It is 9 o'clock  
Son las diez—It is 10 o'clock  
Son las once—It is 11 o'clock  
Es el mediodía—It is noon.  
Es la medianoche—It is midnight

De la mañana—in the morning  
De la tarde—in the afternoon  
De la noche—at night

— simply add these to the end of any time to express time of day.

Ex. 8:12 am—Son las ocho y doce de la mañana

NOTE: The only time you use the verb “Es” is when talking about 1 o'clock, noon and midnight

All of the other times, you use the verb “son”.

When telling time other than on the hour, there are two ways to express it.

When speaking of a time where the  
Minutes are between 1 and 29....

Ex. 5:12 is expressed  
Son las cinco y doce.  
You use the expression for it is 5 and  
Use “y” to express “and” and then the  
Number between 1 and 29.

Ex. 9:24  
Son las nueve y veinticuatro

When speaking of a time where the minutes  
Are between 31 and 59....

Ex. 5:40 is expressed  
Son las seis menos veinte.  
You begin by using the expression for the  
next hour (in this case the hour after 5)  
you then add menos and then the number of  
Minutes until the next hour. In this case,  
you express the hour as 6 and then minus 20  
because it is 20 minutes before the hour.

Ex. 8: 35  
Son las nueve menos veinticinco  
(It is nine minus twenty five)

Two more key terms:

Cuarto= “15” or “45” (depending on if you use “y” or “menos”

EX. 6:15—Son las seis y cuarto. (It is six and a quarter/or 15)

6:45—Son las siete menos cuarto (It is 7 minus a quarter/or 15)

Media= “30”

Ex. 6:30—Son las seis y media (It is 6 and half/or 30)