

Time / El tiempo

One of the first topics in any class in any language that you will start to learn is how to refer to the passing of time and how to tell the time. Here you have a summary with the main expressions that you can use to help you get to where you are going on time.

It is very important to know how to talk about the time, as it is used in many situations and without it, you might start to feel a bit lost should you travel to a Spanish speaking country. If you have made some new friends amongst Spanish speakers and you want to meet up with them for a night out or to have them show you around the highlights of a city, then you will need to organize a time at which you can meet up in order to get started. If someone asks you the time in the street then you will want to be able to tell them, and if you need to know it from someone else then you will need to be able to ask them and also to understand their answer. Knowing important times during the day will help you to avoid missing things or arriving too early, and it is essential for organizing anything at all which you need to be sure of.

You will see that it is very, very easy to talk about the time in Spanish. It is enough to know just a few expressions: these are acceptable at any time of the day. Review your numbers which helps you to say time in Spanish so that you know how to name all of the hours and minutes without any hesitation! When you have reached that point you will find that you no longer have any trouble at all with talking about the time in Spanish, and you will be all set to deal with any situations which might arise.

What time is it?	¿Qué hora es?
It's one o'clock.	Es la una.
It's two o'clock.	Son las dos.
It's 1:15.	Es la una y cuarto.
It's 1:30.	Es la una y media.
It's 1:45	Son las dos menos cuarto.
It's midnight.	Es medianoche.
It's noon.	Es mediodía.
Five minutes ago.	Hace cinco minutos.
After 8 pm	Después de las ocho de la noche.
Before 9 am.	Antes de las nueve de la mañana.
When does it begin?	¿Cuándo empieza?
He came on time.	Él llegó a tiempo.
early.	temprano.
late	tarde