

Reference 2.3 Expressing Time

Expressing the Hour

1. Son las
 - a. When the hour of focus is plural, we use the expression “son las”.
 - b. Hour of focus is: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
 - c. Use caution when subtracting, if it is 1:30-1:59, we still use “son las” because we are subtracting from the hour of focus, which is “2”.
2. Es la
 - a. When the hour of focus is singular, we use the expression “es la”.
 - b. Hour of focus is: 1
 - c. Use caution when subtracting, if it is 12:30-12:59, we still use “es la” because we are subtracting from the hour of focus, which is “1”.

Adding Minutes

3. When the minutes are **before or at** thirty, we add them to the hour with the word “y”.

Example: It is 2:05.

- **Hour:** Son las dos.
- **Adding Minutes:** Son las dos **y cinco**.

Subtracting Minutes

4. When the minutes are **after** thirty, we subtract them from the **next hour** with the word “menos”.

Example: It is 2:54.

- **Hour:** Son las tres. (This is because we know the minutes are past thirty, so we must go to the next hour.)
- **Subtracting Minutes:** Son las tres **menos seis**.
 - **Note:** There are six minutes remaining until 3:00, which is why we subtract six.
 - **Note:** We are literally saying, “It is three o’clock minus six.” Essentially, that is 2:54.

Time Vocabulary

5. cuarto- replaces “quince” (fifteen). literally meaning “quarter”
6. media- replaces “treinta” (thirty). literally meaning “half”
7. minuto- minute
8. segundo- second
9. hora- hour
10. el reloj- clock, watch
11. a punto- sharp (It is 12:00 sharp.) Son las doce a punto.