

## 1.4

## Telling time



## ANTE TODO

In both English and Spanish, the verb *to be* (**ser**) and numbers are used to tell time.

- To ask what time it is, use **¿Qué hora es?** When telling time, use **es + la** with **una** and **son + las** with all other hours.



Es la una.



Son las dos.



Son las seis.

- As in English, you express time in Spanish from the hour to the half-hour by adding minutes.



Son las cuatro y cinco.



Son las once y veinte.

- You may use either **y cuarto** or **y quince** to express fifteen minutes or quarter past the hour. For thirty minutes or half past the hour, you may use either **y media** or **y treinta**.



Es la una y cuarto.



Son las nueve y quince.



Son las doce y media.



Son las siete y treinta.

- You express time from the half-hour to the hour in Spanish by subtracting minutes or a portion of an hour from the next hour.



Es la una menos cuarto.



Son las tres menos quince.



Son las ocho menos veinte.



Son las tres menos diez.