

When using subtraction, we can read the phrase backwards in order to check our work.

Ex: It's 4:40    Son las cinco menos veinte  
                            (5)            (20)

Could be read it's 20 minutes to 5

When you come to 15 minutes after the hour or 15 minutes before the hour, you will use the term "cuarto" (quarter) instead of number 15.

Ex: It's 7:15.     Son las siete y cuarto.

Ex: It's 6:45.     Son las siete menos cuarto.

When you come to 30 minutes after the hour, you will use the term "media" instead of the number 30.

Ex: It's 7:30.     Son las siete y media.

The term media which is a substitution for the number 30 can never be subtracted. We cannot use "media" with "menos".

Remember that on a round clock, the big hand represents the minutes and the small hand represents the hour.

Expressions:

It's 12:00.            Son las doce.

It's 12 noon .        Es mediodía.

It's 12 midnight.    Es medianoche.

Military Time is based on a 24 hour clock

AM hours are the same. Ex: 8:00, 9:00, 10:00 etc.

PM hours continue after 12:00 noon with 13:00, 14:00, 15:00 - 24:00

Conversion: Subtract 12 to get the PM hour EX: 23:00 -12 = 11:00 PM

Unit Question: ¿Qué hora es? What time is it?

Example Answer: Son las cinco.     It's 5 o'clock.