

## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

# Absolute Beginner S1 #5 Why Are You Always Twenty Minutes Behind the Spanish Time?

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# INTRODUCTION

Fernando: Welcome, everyone. I'm Fernando. This is Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 5, "why are you always 20 minutes behind the Spanish time?" Yes and I know, JP, how are you?

JP: I'm fine, thanks. How are you, Fernando?

Fernando: I'm good.

JP: These titles always crack me up.

Fernando: I know.

JP: Welcome to the new SpanishPod101.com. We are learning Spanish with some fun and effective lessons. Fernando, why don't you give some preview of what are we going to talk about today in this podcast?

Fernando: Well, in this lesson, you will learn how to tell time. This conversation takes place on the street and the conversation is between Eva and Marco. They will be using the familiar register.

JP: All right. Now, we're going to take a listen to this dialogue, but before we do, I want to remind you all to go to the website which is [www.SpanishPod101.com](http://www.SpanishPod101.com) and check out the lesson notes for this lesson. There, while you're listening to this dialogue, you can follow along with the written form, the transcript of the dialogue which is always helpful.

Fernando: Okay. Are you ready to listen? Let's go.

# LESSON CONVERSATION

Eva: ¿Qué hora es?

Marco: ¿Mande?

Eva: ¿Qué hora tienes?

Marco: Son veinte para las tres.

JP: Let's hear it again in dramatic speed.

Eva: ¿Qué hora es?

Marco: ¿Mande?

Eva: ¿Qué hora tienes?

Marco: Son veinte para las tres.

JP: One more time with the translation.

Eva: ¿Qué hora es?

JP: What time is

it?

Marco: ¿Mande?

Fernando: Excuse me?

Eva: ¿Qué hora tienes?

JP: What time do you have?

Marco: Son veinte para las tres.

Fernando: It's 20 to 3:00 o'clock.

## POST CONVERSATION BANTER

JP: All right. We're back and we have an absolute beginner dialogue which means it's a pretty simple one, right?

Fernando: Pretty simple, yeah. It's just about telling time.

JP: So Eva starts off with the classic question asking what time it is.

Fernando: ¿Qué hora es?

JP: ¿Qué hora es? So whenever you want to know what it is, you can always ask ¿Qué hora es?, right. Now, it doesn't seem that Marco understood her question.

Fernando: At all. Not good, Marco. So he asked, "Excuse me?" Mande.

JP: Mande, is excuse me?

Fernando: Yes!

JP: Now, that strikes me as kind of a Mexican thing to say, ¿Mande?.

Fernando: Mande, well, it's a proper thing to say as opposed to: ¿Qué?

JP: Okay. ¿Qué? would be what.

Fernando: What?

JP: So instead he says, ¿mande?

Fernando: Yes.

JP: Okay. Then she kind of rephrases her question.

Fernando: By saying ¿Qué hora tienes?

JP: ¿Qué hora tienes? "So what time do you have?" That word Tienes is the verb Tener, okay, "to have."

Fernando: To have.

JP: ¿Qué hora tienes?, "What time do you have?"

Fernando: To which he responds, Son veinte para las tres.

JP: Son veinte para las tres, it's 20 to 3:00, okay. So it's 20 minutes to 3 o'clock, so it's 2:40.

Fernando:

2:40.

JP: All right, piece of cake. Let's take a look at the vocabulary in this lesson.

## VOCAB LIST

Fernando: ¿Qué hora es?

JP: What time is it?

Fernando: ¿Qué ho-ra es?, ¿Qué hora es? Mande

JP: Excuse me, what did you say?

Fernando: man-de, mande. ¿Qué hora tienes?

JP: What time do you have?

Fernando: ¿Qué ho-ra ti-e-nes?, ¿Qué hora tienes? Veinte.

JP: 20.

Fernando: ve-in-te, veinte. Las tres.

JP: 3 o'clock.

Fernando: las tr-es, las tres.

## KEY VOCABULARY AND PHRASES

JP: Okay, cool. Now, that we've heard those words in isolation, let's elaborate a little bit more in their meaning. So we're going to start with a phrase.

Fernando: Let's start with the phrase ¿Qué hora es?

JP: ¿Qué hora es? Now, we already talked a little bit about it. ¿Qué hora es? means, "What time is it?" Now, if you break it down, you have the word for "what."

Fernando: Qué

JP: The word for "hour."

Fernando: hora

JP: And the word for "it is."

Fernando: es

JP: Okay. So you put it all together and it's what time is it.

Fernando: ¿Qué hora es?

JP: ¿Qué hora es? Now this is the standard way to ask for the current time, right?

Fernando: Right.

JP: So the answer is going to be the time.

Fernando:

Right.

JP: So somebody is going to look at their watch and read off their watch to you.

Fernando: Or their phone.

JP: Okay. Now, as we said before, Marco didn't hear very well, so he says...

Fernando: Mande

JP: Mande

Fernando: Which is our next word.

JP: Now, we said this means excuse me or what did you say. Now, I've noticed this is a particularly Mexican expression because in other regions of the Spanish speaking world, you might say like ¿Cómo? ¿Perdón?

Fernando: Yeah, that's true. I can see that. But you understand even if you're in, let's say, Paraguay, if you use Mande, they'll understand.

JP: They'll understand and they'll go, "Aha, Mexican."

Fernando: Mexican, mexicano.

JP: Okay. Mande.

Fernando: It's a proper way to get repetition, yes.

JP: So she rephrases with ¿Qué hora tienes?

Fernando: ¿Qué hora tienes? which is our next phrase.

JP: And as I said before, this is, "What time do you have?" So she's trying to be more specific to Marco who didn't get it the first time.

Fernando: Exactly.

JP: Well, he's not a strong listener. What time do you have on your watch? Look at it with your eyes and tell me using words, what time it is now.

Fernando: With three little words.

JP: ¿Qué hora tienes?

Fernando: Let's move on, veinte.

JP: Veinte. Now this is the word for 20, right?

Fernando: Yes.

JP: And so why is the word, veinte, in the lesson?

Fernando: Marco answers by saying Es veinte.

JP: It's 20.

Fernando: para las tres.

JP: Para las tres. Okay. It's 20 until, las tres, which is our next word, right?

Fernando: Las tres, yes.

JP: Las tres, is 3 o'clock. Now, Fernando, we're going to go in the time later, but if I wanted to say, 4

o'clock.

Fernando: Las cuatro.

JP: Okay. How about if I want to say 2 o'clock?

Fernando: Las dos.

JP: All right. So it's: las cuatro, las tres, las dos. So what about if it's 1, 1 o'clock.

Fernando: La una.

JP: La una. Okay. Now, una, is singular, right?

Fernando: Exactly.

JP: Because there's only one of them.

Fernando: There's only one.

JP: Okay. So it's: La una, but the rest of them are: las.

Fernando: Yes.

## LESSON FOCUS

JP: Okay, cool. Let's get to our grammar point which is telling time.

Fernando: So telling time.

JP: So telling time.

Fernando: Tell us about that.

JP: Okay. First of all, there's a difference between telling the current time and telling like a schedule, okay? So when we tell the current time, we're always going to use the verb: ser, okay?

Fernando: Right.

JP: For example, if I want to say, "It's 4 o'clock."

Fernando: Son las cuatro.

JP: Son las cuatro. Okay. You heard that, son, that's the verb: ser, in the third person plural, Son las cuatro. How about it's 3 o'clock?

Fernando: Son las tres.

JP: Son las tres. How about it's 2 o'clock?

Fernando: Son las dos.

JP: And it's 1 o'clock.

Fernando: Es la una.

JP: Es la una. Okay. Now, we all understand that it's: Es la una, because: la una, is singular.

Fernando: Right.

JP: So you're going to use:

es.

Fernando: Yes.

JP: Okay.

Fernando: For all other time, you want to use a plural.

JP: Right. When it's 2 or 3 or 4 or 12.

Fernando: Exactly.

JP: Okay, cool. Es la una, son las dos, son las tres. Okay. So that's the answer. Now, the question again was...

Fernando: ¿Qué hora es?

JP: ¿Qué hora es? Now that is the standard proper way to ask for the time, right?

Fernando: Yes, and you'll still hear people say ¿Qué horas son?

JP: Okay. So now we know how to tell time on the hour, right?

Fernando: Yes.

JP: But let's talk a little bit, what if we want to tell time on the half hour, like it's 3:30?

Fernando: Son las tres y media.

JP: Son las tres y media. Now, what's that word: media?

Fernando: Media: half, literally translated.

JP: Okay. So like in English, we say, "It's half past 3:00."

Fernando: Right.

JP: Okay. So what if I want to say it's 3:20, it's not quite 3:30, it's 3:20?

Fernando: Son las tres y veinte.

JP: Son las tres y veinte. Okay, that's the classical textbook thing. Now, Fernando, you say other things because I listen to you and when you tell me the time, it's not always that classical textbook way.

Fernando: Yes. I say: tres veinte or...

JP: Tres veinte, 3:20.

Fernando: Yes, or Tres con veinte.

JP: Okay, 3 with 20.

Fernando: I'm very scarce with my words, so I'll just go with 3:20.

JP: Okay.

Fernando: Tres veinte.

JP: Tres veinte. Now, what if it's 3:40?

Fernando: Es veinte para las cuatro.

JP: Es veinte para las cuatro. Wait a second, now in the dialogue, it was: Es veinte para las tres, right?

Fernando:

Exactly.

JP: Okay. So that should have been 2:40.

Fernando: 2:40.

JP: Oh, did I screw that up?

Fernando: Maybe it was a time zone change.

JP: Okay. Es veinte para las tres. 2:40. Okay. Anyway, what's happening is there are some subtraction going on, right, so there's 3 o'clock and 20 minutes before that is 2:40.

Fernando: Yes, Es veinte para las cuatro.

JP: That would be 3:40.

Fernando: 3:40.

JP: Okay. Okay. So Fernando, when you tell the minutes, you just add the minutes, so you say, Son las tres veinte, right?

Fernando: Son las tres veinte.

JP: And then you get 3:30.

Fernando: Tres y media.

JP: And after 3:30, you're going to say, "It's 20 to 4:00," right?

Fernando: Es veinte para las cuatro.

JP: Okay. And then 15 to 4:00 or quarter to 4:00?

Fernando: Cuarto para las cuatro.

JP: Cuarto para las cuatro. Now, that word: cuarto, is a quarter, right?

Fernando: Yes, exactly.

JP: So it's a quarter to 4:00. That might be a little tongue twister for our listeners because the word four is...

Fernando: is cuatro

JP: And the word for a quarter...

Fernando: cuarto.

JP: Okay. Cuatro, cuarto.

Fernando: cuarto para las cuatro

JP: Okay. Now, you can get really exact in the time, right?

Fernando: You can.

JP: You can if you wanted to, if you're in the military or if you're particularly time obsessed. You're kind of a time obsessed kind of guy, aren't you, Fernando?

Fernando: Not really.

JP: No?

Fernando: I'm



Mexican.

JP: You're Mexican. So you can just kind of guesstimate what time it is and people will get it?

Fernando: I don't really pay too much attention. If it's close to 3:45, I'll say, quarter to 4:00.

JP: Okay. If it's close, right? All right. So it doesn't have to be exact. Cool. You know what, we have a complete write up of how to tell the time in the grammar section of this lesson which you can find in the lesson notes. All right. And you can find the lesson notes for this lesson at our website which is [www.SpanishPod101.com](http://www.SpanishPod101.com). Oh, while you're there, don't forget that you can leave us comments on this lesson. You can leave us comments, questions, suggestions. We always love to hear what you have to say. So I think for now, it's time to go.

Fernando: Nos vemos.

JP: Okay, hasta luego.