

In this edition:  
talking about  
your daily  
routine; saying  
at what time  
you do things

# Lesson 42

## Notes

### La rutina diaria

### More present tenses

#### Programme Notes

Coffee Break Spanish notes guide you through the content of each lesson. In this week's notes we'll be continuing to talk about regular verbs in the present tense within the context of your daily routine. We'll also be talking about time.

#### A little review

We begin this lesson with a review of the six parts of a regular *-ar* verb. Given that we're talking about daily routine this week, let's look at a new verb in this case: *desayunar*, meaning "to have breakfast".

desayunar (to have breakfast)	
desayuno	desayunamos
desayunas	desayunáis
desayuna	desayunan

You'll already be familiar with the word *el desayuno*, meaning "breakfast". Note that it's exactly the same as the verb form for "I have breakfast".

#### Saying at what time you do things

Talking about the time at which you do things in Spanish is very easy. "At five o'clock" in Spanish is *a las cinco*; "at six o'clock" is *a las seis*; "at seven o'clock" is *a las siete*, and so on. The only time this changes is when you're talking about "at one o'clock" when *las* becomes *la*. This makes perfect sense, of course, since there's only one hour at one o'clock!

giving times	
a la una	at one o'clock
a las dos	at two o'clock
a las tres	at three o'clock
a las cuatro	at four o'clock
a las cinco	at five o'clock
a las seis	at six o'clock
a las siete	at seven o'clock

a las ocho	at eight o'clock
a las nueve	at nine o'clock
a las diez	at ten o'clock
a las once	at eleven o'clock
a las doce	at twelve o'clock
a mediodía	at noon / midday
a medianoche	at midnight
... y media	half past...

To say “half past four” you say *a las cuatro y media*. To say “at what time...” in Spanish, you literally say “at what hour...”: *¿a qué hora...?*

## Putting it all together

You can now say at what time you have breakfast:

**desayuno a las siete**  
I have breakfast at seven

Given that we already know how to say “(do) you have breakfast”, we can now create the question:

**¿a qué hora desayunas?**  
at what time do you have breakfast?

## Other daily activities

A number of other daily activities were covered in this lesson. The chart below gives these:

infinitive	first person singular	translation
desayunar	desayuno	I have breakfast
salir	salgo de la casa	I leave home
llegar	llego al trabajo	I arrive at work
comer	como	I have lunch
volver	vuelvo a casa	I return home
descansar	descanso	I have a rest/break
cenar	ceno	I have dinner

Notice that some of these verbs in the infinitive form end in *-er* and *-ir*. You’ll also notice in the list of questions below that there are sometimes *-es* endings in the *tú* form where you may expect *-as*, based on what we learned previously when conjugating *-ar* verbs. Don’t worry about this just now - we’ll be covering this in a future lesson. It just means that the 6 forms will be very slightly different when you conjugate these verbs, as you can already see in the question forms below.

Question	Answer
<b>¿a qué hora...?</b>	<b>... a las 7, 8, 9, etc.</b>
(¿a qué hora...) desayunas?	desayuno ...
¿... sales de la casa?	salgo ...
¿... llegas al trabajo?	llego ...
¿... comes?	como ...
¿... vuelves?	vuelvo ...
¿... descansas?	descanso ...
¿... cenas?	ceno ...

### Comprehension text

Below you will find the text of Mark's daily routine. This is a transcription of the text from lesson 42.

Desayuno a las siete y media. Salgo de la casa a las ocho y llego al trabajo a las ocho y media, más o menos. Como a la una y vuelvo a casa a las cinco y media. Luego descanso y ceno a las ocho.

Having read and understood the text, try to make up one yourself. Don't forget that you can post your own efforts on the Radio Lingua Network forum:

[Direct link: http://www.radiolingua.com/bb/cbf-bb/viewtopic.php?t=37](http://www.radiolingua.com/bb/cbf-bb/viewtopic.php?t=37)

Mark used the phrase *más o menos*, meaning "more or less". Another way of giving an approximate time is to say ... *a eso de las ocho*, again meaning "around eight o'clock".



**CoffeeBreak  
Spanish**

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