

El ballet de las horas

A motivating way of practising Spanish clock times through physical response

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Overview

In this document

Before using the resource, which is way of demonstrating learning, pupils need to have a working knowledge of telling the time in the target language.

Start by showing the title slide 4. A click forward will simultaneously show the first clock time on slide 4 and start the Blue Danube tune playing. Embedded animation then moves the PP on at the correct time.

Do not delete the audio symbol on slide 4 as this will delete the sound recording.

Before using the resource, which is way of demonstrating learning, pupils need to have a working knowledge of telling the time in the target language.

Here are the steps for practising clock times in ballet form.

- 1) Pupils all stand up.
- 2) Teacher explains that the left arm will always be the hour and that the right arm will be the minute hand.
- 3) Teacher demonstrates the arm position for a whole hour*. This is done by raising the right minute arm to a vertical position and moving the left hour arm to the approximate position of an hour.
- 4) Pupils follow the same action and repeat the time in the target language.
- 5) Repeat procedure with other whole hours.

Overview

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- 6) Teacher shows and then practises 'quarter past' ie left hand to an hour position and right arm horizontally positioned to the right.
- 7) Teacher shows and then practises 'half past' ie left hand to an hour position and right arm positioned vertically.
- 8) Teacher shows and then practises 'quarter' ie left hand to an hour position and right arm positioned horizontally across the chest to the left.
- 9) Teacher leads lots of practice with a mixture of clock times.
- 10) Tell the pupils that the whole class is going to show the ability to achieve perfect synchronisation in the acting out of Spanish clock times to music. Explain that a Power Point with music is going to run and that different clock times will appear on the screen. When a new clock time appears, pupils hold the previous time whilst thinking about where their arms are going to be position to show the next clock time. Arms only move to the new position on the second beat of the Blue Danube 'da da da da da, da-da, da-da'.
- 11) Practise a couple of times, making sure that pupils all move their arms at the correct and same time.
- 12) In a gracefully synchronised way, the class performs the clock times ballet in its entirety.

* Note that it best for the teacher to have their back to the class so that everyone's left and right are the same.

Follow-up: For further fun practice sessions in the future, simply resave the Power Point with a new sequence of times written in.

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**Son las
nueve y cuarto.**



**Son las
doce y media.**

**Son las
doce menos cuarto.**

**Son las
seis y cuarto.**

**Es la
una menos
cuarto.**

**Son las
doce y cuarto.**

Son las doce.

MFL

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