

¿A qué hora abre?

Like *Un billete para...*, this activity practises asking about time – but here the focus is on opening and closing hours. The fact that, in Spanish-speaking countries, shops stay open much later in the evening than in the UK but are often closed in the afternoon usually comes as quite a shock to people.

Getting ready

Display page 2 to present the questions *¿A qué hora abre?* and *¿A qué hora cierra?* Follow this with examples of when various places open and close, e.g. *El museo abre a las dos de la tarde. Cierra a las cinco y media.* You could also display page 3, to check that everyone is familiar with the Spanish words for places in the town.

For the activity, print pages 2 and 3 onto thin card, cut into individual illustrations and shuffle. You'll also need a copy of the grid on page 4 for each person.

Getting them talking

1. Learners work in pairs, with the two piles of cards face down between them. One partner picks up the first "place" card and asks, e.g. *¿A qué hora abre la piscina?* The other partner takes the first "time" card and replies, e.g. *Abre a las dos y cierra a las cinco y media.* Given the random nature of this activity, the hours of opening won't always be very realistic, but that doesn't matter. It's the practice that counts.
2. Once learners are comfortable with the language, they come together as a group. This time, give out a "place" card and a "time" card to each member of the group. Make sure everyone has a blank grid too.





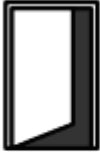




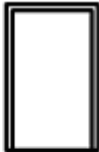







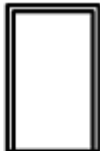






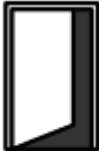























Tell them to circulate in order to find out the opening times of all the places on the list, e.g. *¿A qué hora abre el banco?* As they find them, they note down the information on their copy of the grid.

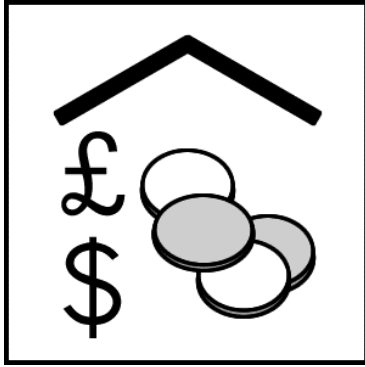
Insist on the use of greetings and other social language such as:

Perdone, señor/señora, ¿Puede repetir?, Gracias

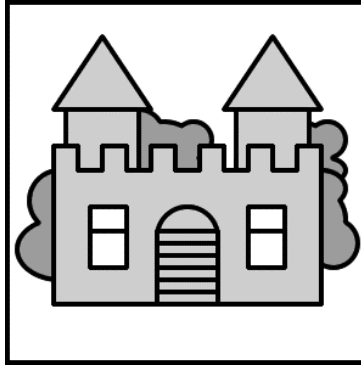
At first, people can only answer according to the information on the pictures they've been given. So when someone asks them about other places, they answer with ***Lo siento, no sé.*** However, as the activity moves on, everyone will have acquired more and more information and will be able to pass it on.

At the end, debrief with the whole group. Ask, e.g. *¿A que hora abre la farmacia?* If you get different answers, then someone has misunderstood, or else someone has given wrong information. Either way, it's an excellent check on communication. Refer back to the person who had the picture at the beginning.

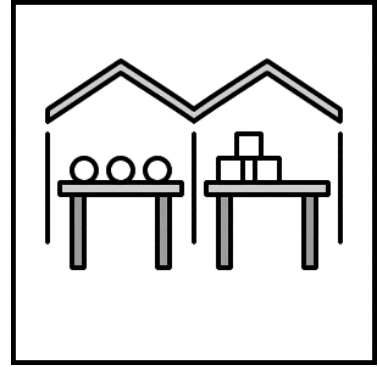
   	   	   
   	   	   
   	   	   
   	   	   



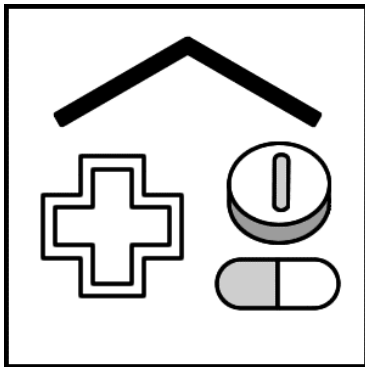
el banco



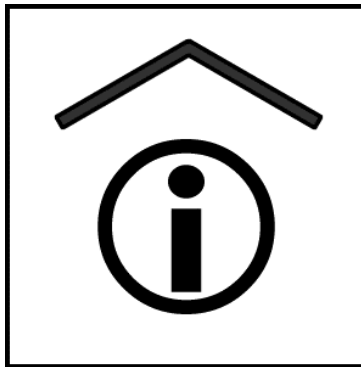
el palacio



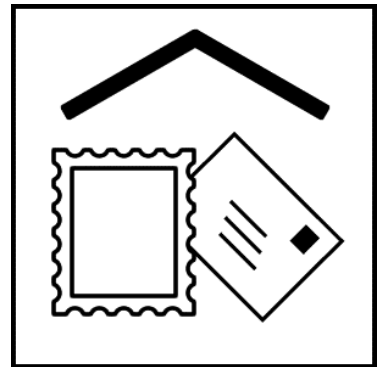
el mercado



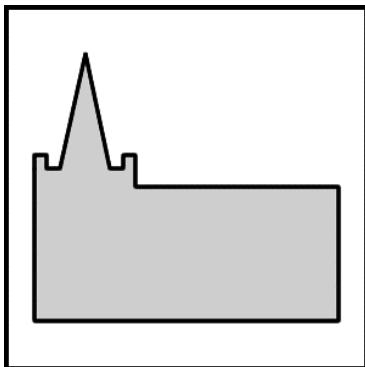
la farmacia



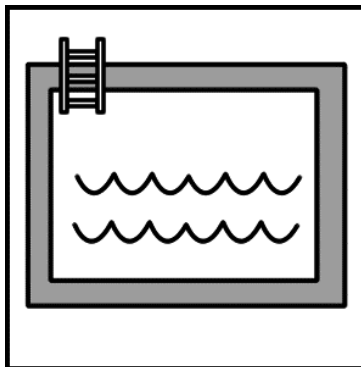
la oficina de turismo



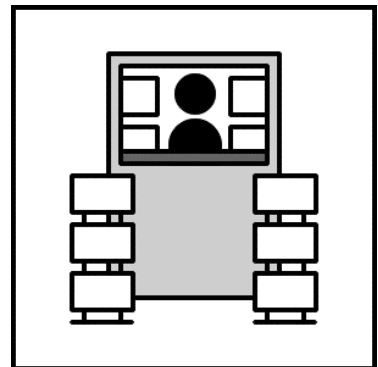
la oficina de correos



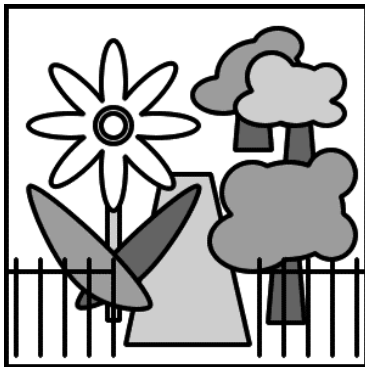
la iglesia



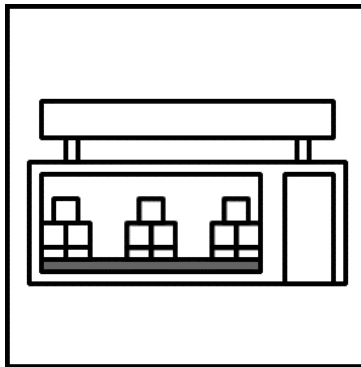
la piscina



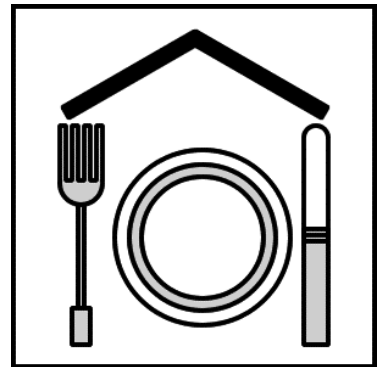
el quiosco



el parque



el supermercado



el restaurante

A step or two more: Spanish Stage 5

Place	Opens at	Closes at
Bank		
Palace		
Market		
Pharmacy		
Tourist Office		
Post Office		
Church		
News stand		
Park		
Supermarket		
Restaurant		
Swimming pool		

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Bank		
Palace		
Market		
Pharmacy		
Tourist Office		
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News stand		
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Restaurant		
Swimming pool		