



Survival Phrases - Spanish (Part 2)

Lessons 31-60

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In Survival Phrases - Spanish (Part 2) you will master Spanish and protocol for the following situations:

- ★ Taking a taxi without being taken advantage of
- ★ Getting around and asking directions and understanding the answer!
- ★ Learning Spanish using Spanish and make lots of friends
- ★ Making the most of a hotel stay, and exploring alternatives to the beaten path
- ★ Visiting the Post Office and mailing thing home
- ★ Phone cards and phone rentals, don't travel without this!
- ★ Critical phrases for vegetarians and allergy sufferers!
- ★ Talking to the doctor and explaining symptoms correctly
- ★ Getting the right medicine
- ★ Expressing yourself with adjectives and being understood
- ★ Home visits and proper protocol that will "wow" hosts
- ★ Getting help, this lesson may be the most useful phrase you ever learn

Be sure to read the lessons for additional tips and information that will make learning Spanish and Spanish culture even more interesting.

Best regards,

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Lesson 31: Can You Take my/our Picture?

¿Me puedes sacar una foto?

LESSON NOTES

Whether travelling alone or with many people, sometimes you will want all of you to appear in a photo. In these situations you will need to get help from someone around you. So, don't be shy, approach someone close to you, and ask for it...

¿Me puedes sacar una foto? - Can you take my picture? (Casual)

¿Me puede sacar una foto? - Can you take my picture? (Respectful)

¿Nos puedes sacar una foto? - Can you take our picture? (Casual)

¿Nos puede sacar una foto? - Can you take our picture? (Respectful)

Remember: when he or she is taking your picture, shout "¡Patata!".

PHRASES

Spanish	English
¿Me puedes sacar una foto?	Can you take my picture? (Casual)
¿Me puede sacar una foto?	Can you take my picture? (Respectful)
¿Nos puedes sacar una foto?	Can you take our picture? (Casual)
¿Nos puede sacar una foto?	Can you take our picture? (Respectful)
Es en este botón	It's this button
Aprieta hasta que suene un click	Press until a click sounds
Aprieta hasta que salte el flash	Press until the flash lights
¿Puedes sacar otra?	Can you take another one? (Casual)
¿Puede sacar otra?	Can you take another one? (Respectful)

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English
¡Patata!	Cheese!

QUICK TIP

If you want to make sure that the person who is taking your picture thoroughly understands how to do it, there are two sentences that will prove to be really useful:

“Es en este botón”, which means “It’s this button (that you have to push)”

“Aprieta hasta que...”, which means “Press until...”. You can continue on with:

“...suene un click”, which means “...a click sounds”

“...salte el flash”, which means “...the flash lights”

QUICK TIP 2

It’s not unusual (at least with digital cameras) to take more than one picture, to make sure that at least one is good. If you want to ask for another picture, ask: “¿Puedes sacar otra?”, which means “Can you take another one?”. As you can figure out, this is the casual version. The respectful one would be “¿Puede sacar otra?”.



Lesson 32: May I Take Your Picture?

¿Te puedo sacar una foto?

LESSON NOTES

In your trip to Spain, you may feel the need to take someone's picture, for whatever reason: a woman wearing a typical dress, a man carrying a funny umbrella, a cute child... for all these occasions you could easily take your camera and shoot at them, but this would be rude. You wouldn't like it if someone took your photo without your permission. Let's see how you can ask for permission:

¿Te puedo sacar una foto? - May I take your picture? (Casual)

¿Le puedo sacar una foto? - May I take your picture? (Respectful)

I can't guarantee you are going to get a "Sí" in response; most probably when you ask somebody, he or she will say "No".

It will be easier when you find mimes in the streets who pose for hours just for spare change. A nice example is the mimes at Las Ramblas, in Barcelona. You can just take their pictures, but they expect a donation. If you give them one, don't be surprised if they move to thank you.

Finally, you may want to take your picture with someone else, so you should ask for permission by:

¿Me puedo sacar una foto contigo? - May I take a picture with you? (Casual)

¿Me puedo sacar una foto con usted? - May I take a picture with you? (Respectful)

PHRASES

Spanish	English
¿Te puedo sacar una foto?	May I take your picture? (Casual)
¿Le puedo sacar una foto?	May I take your picture? (Respectful)
¿Me puedo sacar una foto contigo?	May I take a picture with you? (Casual)
¿Me puedo sacar una foto con usted?	May I take a picture with you? (Respectful)
Disculpe, ¿le importa si le saco una foto?	Excuse me, do you mind if I take your picture?
Disculpe, ¿le importa si me saco una foto con usted?	Excuse me, do you mind if I take a picture with you?
¿Nos puedes sacar una foto?	Can you take our picture? (Casual)

QUICK TIP

When you are sincerely respectful, you must sound so, so don't forget the basic etiquette:

“Perdona” (casual) or “Perdone” (respectful), means “Excuse me”. Use it when you want to get someone's attention.

“Por favor”, means “Please”.

“Gracias”, means “Thank you” or “Muchas gracias”, means “Thank you very much”.

QUICK TIP 2

My recommendation, if you find someone whose picture you can't miss, is to sound really respectful by:

“Disculpe, ¿le importa si le saco una foto?”, which means “Excuse me, do you mind if I take your picture?”

or, if you want to take a picture with him or her:

“Disculpe, ¿le importa si me saco una foto con usted?”, which means “Excuse me, do you mind if I take a picture with you?”



Lesson 33: How Do You Say This in Spanish? ¿Cómo se dice esto en Español?

LESSON NOTES

Now that you are visiting Spain, enjoy everyday, try everything... and ask everybody. You don't know when you will have the chance to come back, so try learning from people around; I'm sure you will hardly forget what you learn this way.

In Spanish "How do you say this in Spanish?" is "¿Cómo se dice esto en Español?". Notice that, instead of a literal translation, which would have been "¿Cómo dices esto en español?", we have chosen an impersonal translation.

A version for this phrase is to ask for a word in English. In this case you just need to substitute the word with "esto". For example: "How do you say apricot in Spanish?" would be translated as "¿Cómo se dice apricot en Español?". Obviously, you must be sure that the person you are asking understands at least a bit of English, so in this situation, there is a phrase we already covered that will be useful too: "Can you speak English?", which in Spanish is "¿Habla inglés?".

PHRASES

Spanish	English
¿Cómo se dice esto en Español?	How do you say this in Spanish?
¿Cómo se llama esto en Español?	How do you call this in Spanish?

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English
Frutería	Fruit shop
Manzana	Apple
Albaricoque	Apricot
Alberca	Pool
Alfombra	Rug
Almanaque	Calendar
Almohada	Pillow
Almoneda	Auction

QUICK TIP

If you just want to know the name of something, you can point at the object itself while asking “¿Cómo se llama esto en Español?”, which means “How do you call this in Spanish?”. You could expect to get just a name. For example, if you are in a fruit shop and see apples, if you point at them while asking the fruiterer “¿Cómo se llama esto en Español?” or simply “¿Cómo se llama esto?”, he will just ask “Manzana”.

QUICK TIP 2

The phrase I’ve chosen for today’s lesson is not accidental: “¿Cómo se dice apricot en Español?”, since “apricot” is “albaricoque”, and this word allows me to introduce a long chapter in Spain’s History that you haven’t probably heard about. A great number of words in Spanish, like “albaricoque”, derive from arabic; somewhere I read that Arabic is to Spanish like French is to English. And the reason for this connection is quite similar: England was under French (Norman) rule for some centuries, just like Spain, which was under Arab rule for more than seven centuries. So many years had to have left a mark in our language.

Almost all the words starting with “al-“ in Spanish are words derived from Arabic. “Al” is the equivalent to the article “the”, so all the words starting with “al” are really combinations article+word. For example:

Alberca: pool (literally, thepool)

Alfombra: rug, carpet (literally, therug)

Almanaque: calendar (literally, thecalendar)

Almohada: pillow (literally, thepillow)

Almoneda: auction, clearance sale (literally, theauction)

Just to close up; do you know what Alhambra means in Arabic? Al hamra (original arabic) means “the red”, and references the red colour in the walls of the Alhambra Palace.



Lesson 34: Can You Write It Down, Please?

¿Me lo puede escribir, por favor?

PHRASES

Spanish

¿Me lo puede escribir, por favor?

English

Can you write it down, please? (respectful form "usted")

¿Me lo puedes escribir, por favor?

Can you write it down, please? (casual form "tú")

¿Cómo se dice esto?

How do you pronounce this in Spanish?

¿Me puede escribir la dirección del hotel, por favor?

Can you write the address of the hotel down, please?

VOCABULARY

Spanish

Ciudadana

English

Citizen (feminine singular)

Ciudadano

Citizen (masculine singular)

Ciudadanas

Citizens (feminine plural)

Ciudadanos

Citizens (masculine and generic plural)

Ciudadan@s

Citizens ("alternative" generic plural)

QUICK TIP

And now, a real situation when you can use today's phrases... I always do it when I'm leaving a hotel for the first time in a country whose language I don't know. I go to the desk and ask the receptionist to write the name and address of the hotel down, and to pronounce it. This way I'll always be able to go back to the hotel in a taxi, no matter how far I've gone. In a Spanish hotel, you could do this thus:

You: ¿Me puede escribir la dirección del hotel, por favor? (Can you write the address of the hotel down, please?)

Receptionist: Por supuesto, señor (Of course, sir.)

You: ¿Cómo se dice? (How do you pronounce it?)

QUICK TIP 2

You will probably see in your trip to Spain words with the termination “@” or “@s”. What does it mean? Well, it’s a casual attempt for forming generic gender words, avoiding the use of masculine gender words.

NOTE: generic gender words in Spanish are formed using the masculine gender version, but feminist groups and politicians are trying to change this by using both masculine and feminine versions simultaneously. For example:

“Ciudadana”, is the feminine singular version for “citizen”.

“Ciudadano”, is the masculine singular version for “citizen”.

“Ciudadanas”, is the feminine plural version for “citizens”.

“Ciudadanos” is the masculine plural version for “citizens”, and the established generic gender plural version. Nowadays however, politicians tend to say “ciudadanos y ciudadanas” to obtain the generic gender. This is grammatically awkward, but it’s becoming “politically correct”.

So back to “@”, in casual written media, you might see “ciudadan@s” for the “politically correct” generic plural version of words. Why do they use “@”? Well, you will see in Spanish that usually masculine and feminine versions for words just differ in final –a for feminine and final –o for masculine. The “@” character looks like an “o” and an “a” in the same character, so it’s the perfect solution for writing. But, how do you say “ciudadan@s”? Well, I don’t really know how... I always expand it to “ciudadanos y ciudadanas”.

However, notice that the use of “@” is reaching words that don’t differ in final –a and –o. For example, it’s becoming usual in unions pamphlets to see “trabajador@s” for “workers”, while the feminine version is “trabajadoras” and the masculine version is “trabajadores”.



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Lesson 35: How Do You Read This?

¿Cómo se lee esto?

LESSON NOTES

This is the last lesson of a series dedicated to learning from people around. It may be interesting to review previous phrases:

“¿Cómo se dice esto en Español?” means “How do you say this in Spanish?”

You will probably use this phrase when pointing at something to get the Spanish.

“¿Me lo puede escribir, por favor?” means “Can you write it down, please?”

You will probably use it when want to keep something written, like the address of your hotel, or the name of a meal you want to try.

“¿Cómo se dice esto?” means “Can you pronounce this, please?”

You will mainly use this phrase when you hesitate about how to say of one or several written words.

And now we can introduce today's phrases:

“¿Cómo se lee esto?” means “How do you read this?”

You will use it in a similar way to “¿Cómo se dice esto?”

“¿Cómo se pronuncia esto?” means “How do you pronounce this?”

Again, a phrase for getting the pronunciation of a text or written phrase.

“¿Qué significa esto?” means “What does it mean?”

You will use this phrase when you have got the words in a phrase, but not the meaning.

As you can see, phrases for reading or pronouncing are interchangeable, and I couldn't clearly tell you which is better or when to use one better than another. This is, in my view, because in Spanish we don't really talk about pronouncing Spanish. I would say that we pronounce or talk just the way we write (if you see an “a” it will always sound the same; if you see a “b”, it will always sound the same...). This is why you don't see the word “pronunciar”, (“to pronounce”) but instead, “decir”, (“to say”).

PHRASES

Spanish	English
¿Cómo se lee esto?	How do you read this?
¿Cómo se pronuncia esto?	How do you pronounce this?
¿Qué significa esto?	What does it mean?

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English
Pronunciar	To pronounce
Decir	To say
Muda	Dumb (feminine)

QUICK TIP

I've explained that pronunciation in Spanish is really straightforward; that every time you see a letter, you will always pronounce the same way. I also said that there was an exception. - Vowels with a tilde are pronounced just a bit louder...

OK, that was just trying to tell things very simple. There are other exceptions that might puzzle you. I'll give you just the most significant ones:

"H" is never pronounced; Spanish speakers have a saying, that "la h es muda", or "h is dumb". So, whenever you see an "h" you don't have to worry about how to pronounce it. For example, "almohada", which means "pillow" is pronounced in the same way as if there was no "h". However, and this is the exception, when you see an "h" after a "c", this forms the combination "ch" which is pronounced like "chapter" in English.

"G" is hard to get the hang of. Its pronunciation depends on the vowel that follows it. Maybe this will make it clearer:

G + vowel/sounds similar to English/Example

Ga/Garlic/Galleta (Cookie)

Ge/Hell (stronger h)/General (General)

Gi/Hill (stronger h)/Gitano (Gipsy)

Go/Goal/Goma (Rubber)

Gu/GoodGula (Gluttony)

But...

G + vowel/Sounds similar to English/Example

Gue/Get/Guepardo (Cheetah)

Gui/Guitar/Guitarra (Guitar)

And it gets worse if we add a dieresis:

G + vowel/Sounds similar to English/Example

Güe/Well/Paragüero (Umbrella stand)

Güi/With/Pingüino (Penguin)

QUICK TIP 2

Do you want to know what the meaning of words in Spanish is? Do you understand written Spanish? Then this is your best reference: www.rae.es. RAE stands for Real Academia Española de la Lengua (literally, Spanish Royal Academy of the Language). It's an institution whose aim is to study the Spanish language, clarify problems, fix mistakes, and regulate the language... As far as I know, there aren't similar institutions for the English language. The RAE until a few years ago, focused exclusively on Iberian Spanish (the Spanish that is spoken in Spain), has recently turned to South America too, and is trying to study and regulate a standard international Spanish. The most useful product from the RAE is the Spanish Language Dictionary, that you can search online at the URL mentioned.



Lesson 36: Hotel 1 (Check-in)

Tengo una reserva

LESSON NOTES

There were lot of phrases for today's mp3 lesson... Let's review all of them in a conversation that you could easily hold in your trip to Spain:

Receptionist: Buenos días señor y bienvenido (Good morning sir and welcome)

You: Buenos días (Good morning)

Receptionist: ¿Qué desea? (What do you want?)

You: Tengo una reserva (I have a reservation)

Receptionist: Su nombre, por favor (Your name, please)

You: (say your name)

Receptionist: Hmm, ¿puede deletrearlo? (Hmm, can you spell it?)

You: (spell your name)

Receptionist: Aquí está. Una habitación para dos personas (Here it is. A room for two persons)

You: Eso es (That's it)

Receptionist: Puede dejar aquí su equipaje; ahora se lo llevamos a su habitación (You can leave your baggage here; we'll carry it to your room)

PHRASES

Spanish	English
Tengo una reserva.	I have a reservation.
Quiero una habitación.	I want a room.
¿Para cuántas personas?	How many people?
¿Camas individuales o de matrimonio?	Twin beds or one queen size?
Cama supletoria	Additional bed
Pensión completa	Full board
Media pensión	Half board

Spanish	English
Sólo desayuno	Breakfast only
¿Habitación interior o exterior?	Interior or exterior room?

QUICK TIP

When checking-in at the hotel, if you haven't previously booked your room and indicated all your preferences, there are some other questions you may be asked to get the room. Let's see some of them:

“¿Para cuántas personas?”, means “How many people?”

“¿Camas individuales o de matrimonio?”, means “Twin beds or one queen size?”

“Cama supletoria”, means “Additional bed”

“Pensión completa, media pensión o sólo desayuno”, means “Full board, half board or breakfast only”

“¿Habitación interior o exterior?”, means “Interior or exterior room?”



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Lesson 37: Hotel 2 (do you have?)

¿Me pueden traer dos toallas?

LESSON NOTES

In the previous lesson we learned phrases really used when checking-in at the hotel. Today we'll learn four patterns to get things we may need during our stay.

If you need something for your room at the hotel, you can use these patterns.

For countable things:

“¿Me pueden traer number things?”, means “Can you bring number things?”

Examples:

“¿Me pueden traer dos toallas?”, means “Can you bring two towels?”

“¿Me pueden traer un cepillo de dientes?”, means “Can you bring one toothbrush?”

“¿Me pueden traer un desayuno?”, means “Can you bring one breakfast?”

For uncountable things:

“¿Me pueden traer thing?”, means “Can you bring thing?”

Examples:

“¿Me pueden traer champú?”, means “Can you bring shampoo?”

“¿Me pueden traer pasta de dientes?”, means “Can you bring toothpaste?”

“¿Me pueden traer agua?”, means “Can you bring water?”

Then, if you need more of something you can use the following patterns:

For countable things:

“¿Me pueden traer number things más?”, means “Can you bring number more things?”

Examples:

“¿Me pueden traer dos toallas más?”, means “Can you bring two more towels?”

“¿Me pueden traer un cepillo de dientes más?”, means “Can you bring one more toothbrush?”

“¿Me pueden traer un desayuno más?”, means “Can you bring one more breakfast?”

For uncountable things:

“¿Me pueden traer más thing?”, means “Can you bring more thing?”

Examples:

“¿Me pueden traer más champú?”, means “Can you bring more shampoo?”

“¿Me pueden traer más pasta de dientes?”, means “Can you bring more toothpaste?”

“¿Me pueden traer más agua?”, means “Can you bring more water?”

PHRASES

Spanish	English
¿Me pueden traer dos toallas?	Can you bring two towels?
¿Me pueden traer dos toallas más?	Can you bring two more towels?
¿Me pueden traer champú?	Can you bring shampoo?
¿Me pueden traer más champú?	Can you bring more shampoo?
¿Podría dejar el equipaje hasta las cinco?	Could I leave the baggage until five?

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English
Cepillo de dientes	Toothbrush
Desayuno	Breakfast
Pasta de dientes	Toothpaste
Agua	Water

QUICK TIP

In Spain, time for checking-out is usually at 12:00, but if your flight or train leaves some time later, you might want to enquire about leaving your baggage at the hotel. If you need to ask, use this phrase:

“¿Podría dejar el equipaje hasta las time?, which means “Could I leave the baggage until time?”

For example, if you leave your room and want to walk around the city until 17:00, you could ask:

“¿Podría dejar el equipaje hasta las cinco?”

You will probably get a ticket with a number that you will have to show when retrieving the baggage.



Lesson 38: Post Office I

¿Dónde puedo conseguir papel, sobres y sellos?

LESSON NOTES

Our phrases today are intended to find your way to sending a letter, postcard or package. Let's check how you can get it:

First you will need paper, envelope and postal stamps. How would you ask for them? Using a phrase we already learned:

“¿Dónde puedo conseguir papel, sobres y sellos?”, means “Where can I get paper, envelopes and postal stamps?”

If you don't get envelope or stamps, don't worry; in Quick Tip we give you a couple of phrases for asking about places where you will surely find them. Now, if you have arranged everything, you can send your letter by leaving it at a mailbox. Mailboxes in Spain are yellow. If you don't see one near you, you can ask by:

“¿Hay un buzón cerca?”, which means “Is there a mailbox near here?”

Well, if you don't have everything you need, or you don't know by sure what you have to do for sending whatever, the best choice is going to a post office, showing what you want to send and saying:

“Quiero enviar esto a destination”, which means “I'd like to send this to destination”. People from the office will inform you what else you may need, and will help you send it.

PHRASES

Spanish	English
¿Dónde puedo conseguir papel, sobres y sellos?	Where can I get paper, envelopes and postal stamps?
¿Hay un buzón cerca?	Is there a mailbox near here?
Quiero enviar esto a destination	I'd like to send this to destination.
¿Hay una oficina de Correos cerca?	Is there a post office near here?
¿Hay un estanco cerca?	Is there a tobacconist's near here?

VOCABULARY

Spanish

Sello

English

Postal stamp

QUICK TIP

When you need to buy postal stamps, you will have to find a post office, which you can find by looking for a yellow building or the sign “CORREOS”. But, as we saw in a previous lesson, there are other establishments that, additionally to selling tobacco, also sell other items, like postal stamps. These establishments are “Estancos”, that we might call a tobacconist’s. You can recognize one by the sign “TABACOS” outside.

If you want to ask whether there is a post office near you, you should ask “¿Hay una oficina de Correos cerca?”. If you want to ask about an “Estanco”, you should ask “¿Hay un estanco cerca?”.

QUICK TIP 2

You may be surprised to see in today’s lesson “Nueva York” instead of “New York”. Well, as it happens in English, famous cities and countries or the ones that have historically maintained more relations with other countries, are translated in some way to other languages. This is the explanation for “Nueva York” and for other English or American locations. Other examples of cities and countries that you will see in a Spanish version are: Inglaterra (England), Londres (London), Escocia (Scotland), Estados Unidos (United States), Montañas Rocosas (Rocky Mountains), Irlanda (Ireland), Nueva Zelanda (New Zealand)...



Lesson 39: Post Office II. Packages

¿Hay una oficina de Correos cerca?

LESSON NOTES

Sending a package is not as straightforward as sending a letter, so you should go to a post office and get advice from Correos (post office) staff. Remember that you can find a post office by asking "¿Hay una oficina de Correos cerca?", which means "Is there a post office near here?".

Once there, the easiest way to get things done is going to someone who works there and saying: "Quiero enviar esto a destination", which means "I'd like to send this to destination". People from the office will inform you what else you may need, and will help you send it.

Then you will have to fill a form with information about you, the destination address, and the contents of the package. If someone asks "¿Qué contiene el paquete?", they are asking "What does the package contain?".

When sending packages in Spain, as it happens in other countries, there are some rules for things you can and can't send, so make sure that things you want to send are allowed, or you may get your package returned. You can learn about this and other issues the Correos website: www.correos.es and more specifically for sending packages <http://www.correos.es/ENG/02P-EnviarPaq/02P-EnviarPaq.asp>

PHRASES

Spanish	English
¿Hay una oficina de Correos cerca?	Is there a post office near here?
Quiero enviar esto a destination	I'd like to send this to destination
¿Qué contiene el paquete?	What does the package contain?

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English
Contenido	Content
Peso	Weigh
Dimensiones	Dimensions

QUICK TIP

The fare you will have to pay for sending a package greatly depends on its weight and dimensions of it. In Spain we use the metric system (Sistema Métrico Decimal in Spanish) so, when weighing and measuring the package you want to send, it will be a good idea to have certain knowledge of it. Unit of dimensions is metro, while weigh unit is kilo.



Lesson 40: Foreign Exchange

¿Aceptan tarjeta de crédito?

LESSON NOTES

When you come to Spain, you will have to spend some money on gifts, tickets, restaurants, drinks... For all these expenses, there are so many possibilities, so you will always be able to find something that you like.

To find out if you can use a credit card, ask: “¿Aceptan tarjeta de crédito?”, which means “Do you accept credit card?”.

To exchange currency or withdraw money in banks, use: “¿Hay un banco cerca?”, which means “Is there a bank near here?”.

To withdraw money from an ATM: “¿Hay un cajero cerca?”, which means “Is there an ATM near here?”.

Exchange currency in any establishment: “¿Dónde puedo cambiar divisas?”, which means “Where can I exchange currency?”.

Most of the times you will only get notes (“billetes” in Spanish), but sometimes you will have the chance to ask for coins (“monedas” in Spanish), if you think you may need them.

PHRASES

Spanish	English
¿Aceptan tarjeta de crédito?	Do you accept credit card?
¿Hay un banco cerca?	Is there a bank near here?
¿Hay un cajero cerca?	Is there an ATM near here?
¿Dónde puedo cambiar divisas?	Where can I exchange currency?

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English
Billete pequeño	Small note
Billetes pequeños	Small notes
Moneda	Coin

QUICK TIP

Keep this in mind: it's not easy to get change in establishments for notes bigger than 50€. So, when exchanging in Euro currency, if the staff doesn't speak English, it will be useful to know how to ask for small notes in Spanish. In Spanish "In small notes, please" is "En billetes pequeños, por favor".

While in English you say "small notes", in Spanish the equivalent expression is "billetes pequeños". Notice that "notes" in English is a plural noun, whose singular form is "note". Either form, the adjective used is the same: "small". In Spanish for singular noun "billete" you use the singular form of the adjective "pequeño", while for plural "billetes" you make the adjective agree with the noun by using the plural form "pequeños".

QUICK TIP 2

There seems to be some countries whose coins look similar to bigger euro coins (1 and 2 Euros), having a lower real value. For this reason now and then you can find in your pocket one of these coins that you have taken as real euros, but they won't be accepted in establishments or machines. Be careful when someone gives you 1 or 2 Euro coins, and check to see that what you have is a real one...



Lesson 41: Buying a Telephone card/public phone

Estanco

LESSON NOTES

If you want to keep in touch with friends and family back home, you may want to phone them. Of course you can call from the hotel, but surely there are cheaper alternatives. Why not rent a cell phone? Well, let's wait for the next lesson where we talk about renting cell phones... What about buying a telephone card you can use in any telephone in Spain? There are several establishments where you can buy one, but, as we have already talked about them, I will recommend to buy in "Estancos" (do you remember? It's the tobacconist's we've already talked about that sells not only tobacco but multitrip bus tickets, postal stamps and telephone cards).

Let's ask about a "estanco" first: "¿Hay un estanco cerca?" means "Is there a tobacconist's near here?".

Once you find a tobacconist, you will ask for telephone cards by saying: "¿Tienen tarjetas telefónicas?", which means "Do you have telephone cards?". The clerk will ask about the value of the card you want: "¿De cuánto?", whose meaning is "Which value?". Now you can ask about which values they sell by: "¿De cuánto tienen?", which means "Which values do you sell?". The clerk will tell you the values or show you some samples.

Once you've got your card, you only need to find a pay phone for making your call. You can use the known pattern:

"¿Hay un establishment cerca?" which means "Is there an establishment near here?"

So, for a pay phone you should ask:

"¿Hay un teléfono público cerca?" which means "Is there a pay phone near here?"

PHRASES

Spanish	English
¿Hay un estanco cerca?	Is there a tobacconist's near here?
¿Tienen tarjetas telefónicas?	Do you have telephone cards?
¿De cuánto?	Which value?
¿De cuánto tienen?	What values do you sell?
¿Hay un teléfono público cerca?	Is there a pay phone near here?
¿Tenéis WiFi?	Does this establishment have WIFI?

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English
Estanco	Tobacconist's

QUICK TIP

OK, but you know there are other alternatives, not only cheaper... but free! You can travel with your laptop or PDA with Wifi and Skype. So you only need to know whether the hotel where you are staying has Wifi or not. We already studied this phrase, do you remember? “¿Tenéis Wifi?”, means “Do you have Wifi?” or “Does this establishment have Wifi?”.



Lesson 42: Renting/using cell phone

Querría alquilar un teléfono móvil

LESSON NOTES

You are driving a car in Spain and think it's a good idea to rent a cell phone just in case you need to call for assistance or to the hotel asking for directions. I agree with you, a cell phone may not be the cheapest option, but you will be safer this way. But, why do you need to rent a cell phone if you already own one? Well, in Europe the cellular system is GSM; so, if your cell phone is a different system, you won't be able to use your cellular in Spain.

There are several places where you can rent your cell phone in Spain: from websites, to telephone operators to retail shops. Once you go to the establishment, ask "Querría alquilar un teléfono móvil", which means "I would like to rent a cell phone". The clerk will show you all their models. Your choice should take into account rates, accessories, convenience and other factors.

PHRASES

Spanish	English
Querría alquilar un teléfono móvil	I would like to rent a cell phone
¿Cuánto cuestan las llamadas a Inglaterra?	How much are calls to England?
¿Cuánto cuestan las llamadas a fijos?	How much are calls to land lines?
¿Cuánto cuestan las llamadas a móviles de otros operadores?	How much are calls to other operators cell phones?
¿Tiene manos libres?	Does it have hands free kit?
¿Tiene cargador para el coche?	Does it have charger for the car?
¿Tiene cable para el PC?	Does it have cable for PC?
¿Tiene funda?	Does it have cover?

QUICK TIP

One of your major concerns when renting a cellphone is how much you will pay for your calls. Let's see a pattern you can use for asking about several details:

"¿Cuánto cuestan las llamadas a...?", means "How much are calls to...?"

And now, let's see some examples:

"¿Cuánto cuestan las llamadas a Inglaterra?", means "How much are calls to England?"

“¿Cuánto cuestan las llamadas a fijos?”, means “How much are calls to land lines?”

“¿Cuánto cuestan las llamadas a móviles de otros operadores?”, means “How much are calls to other operators cell phones?”

QUICK TIP 2

Another point that can drive your decision is accessories available for the model of the cell phone. Here you have a pattern for asking about them:

“¿Tiene accessory?”, which means “Does it have accessory?”

Let's see some examples:

“¿Tiene manos libres?”, which means “Does it have hands free kit?”

“¿Tiene cargador para el coche?”, which means “Does it have charger for the car?”

“¿Tiene cable para el PC?”, which means “Does it have cable for PC?”

“¿Tiene funda?”, which means “Does it have cover?”



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Lesson 43: Admission - one please Taquilla

LESSON NOTES

Yes, I like Spain, and maybe cause I'm from Spain I'm not objective, but there are definitely plenty of treasures to visit. Spain has many museums, National Parks, landscapes, constructions, cultural events, and for most of them you will need to purchase tickets.

Let's look at a conversation you may hold in a remarkable place like the Mérida Roman theater (http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teatro_Romano_de_M%C3%A9rida) when getting tickets:

You: Por favor, ¿dónde se compran las entradas? (Please, where can I purchase tickets?)

Person: En la taquilla; está allí. (At the ticket office; it's over there)

You: Dos entradas, por favor. (Two tickets, please)

Clerk: Aquí tiene. Son diez euros. (Here you have. It's ten euro)

You: ¿Por dónde se entra? (Where do I go in?)

Clerk: La entrada está a la derecha. (The entrance is on the right)

You: Gracias. (Thank you)

Attendant: Su entrada, por favor. (Your ticket, please)

You: Aquí tiene. (Here you have)

Attendant: Gracias. Por favor, consérvela hasta el final de su visita. (Thank you. Please, keep it until your visit ends)

Notice that in Spanish we use the same word "entrada" for "admission ticket" and for "entrance". Once in the museum or exhibit, the word "salida" will indicate the "exit".

PHRASES

Spanish	English
Conserve su entrada hasta el final de su visita	Keep your ticket until your visit ends

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English
Taquilla	Ticket office
Entrada	Ticket; entrance
Salida	Exit

QUICK TIP

Why are we talking about a Roman theater? Well, as you surely know, Spain was conquered by Romans and was ruled by them for several centuries, and for this reason most languages along the Iberian Peninsula (Spanish – Castilian, Spanish – Catalan, Spanish – Galician, Spanish – Valencian and Portuguese) derive from Latin. But the Romans gave us more than just the roots of our language; they built so many constructions that we can see today remains almost anywhere: theaters, temples, villas, paved roads, circuses... and one of the most famous is “El teatro romano de Mérida” (Mérida Roman Theater), where an international classical theater festival takes place every summer. If you want to get additional information, visit the website: <http://www.festivaldemerida.es/>. If you are planning to visit Spain in summer, perhaps you won't have time to attend a play, but you should book at least one day for travelling to Mérida and walking all the Roman remains.

Another Roman site that I recommend is “el acueducto de Segovia” (Segovia aqueduct): Segovia is just 75 Km. from Madrid, and you can easily arrange a one day visit to Segovia from Madrid. You'll get surprised at how well a two thousand years construction can keep.



Lesson 44: English Info Guide

¿Tiene una guía en inglés?

LESSON NOTES

When I visit a tourist attraction like a castle, I enjoy picturing how life was by the time that construction was built: I imagine people walking the corridors or rooms, how they dressed, what they ate, how the landscape would have looked like... In order to know about this, I can get information before going to the site, but I can also get this information from guides I get there. Most of the times you will be able to get these guides at the entrance, or at the ticket office, before entering the attraction.

So, if you enjoy as much as I do when learning all you can about the attraction you are visiting, you might need today's phrase:

“¿Tiene una guía en inglés?”, which means “Do you have an English information guide?”

Of course, if you want to practice your reading comprehension in Spanish, you can get the Spanish version; if this is the case you should ask:

“¿Tiene una guía?”, which means “Do you have an information guide?”

If you want a Japanese language guide try:

“¿Tiene una guía en japonés?”, which means “Do you have a Japanese information guide?”

Don't you believe there can be Japanese info guides? It's not so unlikely: like other countries, Spain is visited every year by a huge number of Japanese people.

PHRASES

Spanish	English
¿Tiene una guía en inglés?	Do you have an English information guide?
¿Tiene una guía?	Do you have an information guide?
¿Quiere una audio guía?	Do you want an audio guide?
¿Tiene una audio guía en inglés?	Do you have an English audio guide?
Para inglés gire hasta el número 2	For English, turn until number 2
Déjela al salir en el lugar indicado	Leave it in the designated point

QUICK TIP

Modern times have come to the info guides too, and now you can get at tourist places not only a printed info guide, but an audio guide too. When you enter the attraction you can be asked:

“¿Quiere una audio guía?”, which means “Do you want an audio guide?”

If you are not offered one, but you know there are, you can ask for it using nearly the same phrase for today:

“¿Tiene una audio guía en inglés?”, which means “Do you have an English audio guide?”

Very likely you will have to turn a wheel for the corresponding number for the language you prefer. The clerk will probably instruct you by:

“Para inglés gire hasta el número 2”, which means “For English, turn until number 2”

Sometimes you will have to pay a for using it, others not, but you will always have to leave the guide at the end of your tour. The clerk that gives you the guide will probably indicate it by:

“Déjela al salir en el lugar indicado”, which means “Leave it in the designated point”.



Lesson 45: How Do You Eat This?

¿Cómo se come esto?

LESSON NOTES

When you feel unsure about how to eat some of the delicious dishes you may be served in Spain, today's phrase will be very useful: "¿Cómo se come esto?", which means "How do you eat this?". There will be, however, few occasions when you may hesitate about this, cause we use in Spain spoon, fork and knife, so, if you are used to these tools, you will have no problems.

While most of the times you will be answered which piece of cutlery you will have to use, sometimes you can get as an answer "Con las manos", which means "With your hands"... so don't be shy... follow the advice and enjoy your meal.

In other cases you can be instructed about the order in which you should eat things, so you can hear "Primero esto, y luego esto", which means "This first, and then this".

Finally you can get instructions about how to mix some ingredients at your table by: "Echa esto sobre esto", which means "Drop this on this", or "Añádele esto a tu gusto", which means "Add this to taste".

PHRASES

Spanish	English
¿Cómo se come esto?	How do you eat this?
Con las manos	With your hands
Primero esto, y luego esto	This first, and then this
Añadir al gusto	To add to taste

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English
Cuchara	Spoon
Tenedor	Fork
Cuchillo	Knife
Cucharilla	Coffe spoon, tea spoon

QUICK TIP

Let's learn how to say in Spanish the different cutlery pieces:

Spoon: Cuchara

Fork: Tenedor

Knife: Cuchillo

Coffe spoon, tea spoon: Cucharilla

What if you have dropped one of these pieces and need to ask for another? Well, here we have a pattern that we can use in such occasions:

“¿Me puede traer otra (otro) item?”, which means “Can you bring another item?”

Why “otra (otro)”? You should use one or another, depending on the gender of the piece you are asking for. “Otra” is the feminine version for “another” while “otro” is the masculine version. Let's rewrite the pattern for each case:

¿Me puede traer otra cuchara?

¿Me puede traer otro tenedor?

¿Me puede traer otro cuchillo?

¿Me puede traer otra cucharilla?



Lesson 46: I'm a Vegetarian.

Soy vegetariano.

LESSON NOTES

Today we'll cover some phrases that will help you thoroughly enjoy all your meals in Spain, warning your waiter what you don't eat, or which meals you are allergic or intolerant to.

When you want to say that you suffer from any kind of food intolerance, you will use this pattern:

"Soy condition", which means "I am a condition"

Let's see in which situations you can use this pattern:

"Soy vegetariano", "I'm a vegetarian" (of course being a vegetarian is not being ill!)

"Soy celíaco", "I'm a celiac"

"Soy alérgico al huevo", "I'm allergic to eggs"

"Soy diabético", "I'm a diabetic"

"Soy intolerante a la lactosa", "I'm lactose intolerant"

PHRASES

Spanish	English
Soy vegetariano.	I'm a vegetarian.
Soy celíaco.	I'm a celiac.
No como carne.	I don't eat meat.
No bebo alcohol.	I don't drink alcohol.

QUICK TIP

Sometimes you'll just want to warn that you don't drink or eat some food, for whatever reason, not just illness. In this case, you will use one of these patterns:

"No como food", which means "I don't eat food"

"No bebo drink", which means "I don't drink drink"

or a generic pattern:

“No tomo food/drink”, which means “I don’t have food/drink”

Let’s review some of the most common foods people don’t eat or drink, and how you could say you don’t eat it or drink it:

Carne (meat): “No como carne” or “No tomo carne”

Queso (cheese): “No como queso” or “No tomo queso”

Huevos (eggs): “No como huevos” or “No tomo huevos”

Leche (milk): “No bebo leche” or “No tomo leche”

Alcohol (alcohol): “No bebo alcohol” or “No tomo alcohol”

QUICK TIP 2

If you are really a vegetarian... I’m sincerely sorry for you, cause you will miss some of the best foods you will have the chance to try in Spain: “embutido”. This word refers to any kind of sausage, salami, or prosciutto that is usually some kind of pork... and there is a huge list of different “embutidos” all around Spain. Additionally there are “embutido” specialties in every region. It’s said that in Spain we use the entire pig.

I’ll give you some of these “embutidos” that you should try:

Jamón: similar ham or prosciutto, but even better due to its curing technique. There are some varieties. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ham#Spain>

Chorizo: It’s a kind of sausage with a red color due to paprika. You can try it raw (cured), fried or grilled.

Salchichón: Kind of sausage.

Morcilla: A sausage made with blood (yes) and rice or onion. If you overcome your prejudices and try it, you won’t regret it. Fried or grilled.

Lomo: A kind of cured meat.



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Lesson 47: Help! ¡Ayuda! ¡Socorro!

LESSON NOTES

We review today's phrases because, if you come to need them, they'll be really useful, but we sincerely hope that you don't have to use them in your trip to Spain. Today we'll learn how to ask for help. Of course, if you are really in need you won't have to remember anything at all, just shout whatever you can, and someone will surely come to you. But if you remember today's phrases, you can help make yourself all the more clearer.

"Help!" in Spanish is "¡Ayuda!" or "¡Socorro!".

In case you need someone to call any emergency service, you can use this pattern:

"¡Que alguien llame a service!", which means "Someone phone service!"

or just:

"¡Service!"

In case you need the police, you should shout then:

"¡Que alguien llame a la policía!", or just "¡Policía!"

If you need an ambulance:

"¡Que alguien llame a una ambulancia!", or just "¡Una ambulancia!"

PHRASES

Spanish	English
¡Que alguien llame a la policía!	Someone phone the police!
¡Que alguien llame a una ambulancia!	Someone phone an ambulance!
¡Que alguien llame a los bomberos!	Someone call firemen!
Más vale prevenir que curar	An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

VOCABULARY

Spanish

¡Ayuda! ¡Socorro!

¡Fuego!

Salida de emergencia

English

Help!

Fire!

Emergency exit

QUICK TIP

If it's a fire that you want to warn about, you should shout "¡Fuego!", which literally means "Fire!".

You can call for firemen using the pattern we've just learned "¡Que alguien llame a los bomberos!".

There is this saying in Spain: "Más vale prevenir que curar", which could be translated as "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". For this reason, when checking-in at your hotels, take your time to find "Salidas de emergencia" (emergency exits), and to read all the information about your security, so you exactly know what you'd have to do in case of emergency.



Lesson 48: Medical Assistance

¿Dónde hay un médico?

LESSON NOTES

Let's start with phrases for slight medical assistance. Suppose you feel just a bit ill, and want to visit a doctor; you just need to ask where you can find one: "¿Dónde hay un médico?", means "Where can I find a doctor?" For explaining your symptoms to the doctor... you will have to wait for the next lesson. So once the doctor has informed of your prescription ("una receta") or if you already knew which medicine you need, you will then look for a pharmacy: "¿Hay una farmacia cerca?", means "Is there a pharmacy near here?" What if you feel so bad that you need urgent treatment? You should call an ambulance. You can ask someone to call one by: "Por favor, llame a una ambulancia", which means "Please, call an ambulance"

PHRASES

Spanish	English
¿Dónde hay un médico?	Where can I find a doctor?
¿Hay una farmacia cerca?	Is there a pharmacy near here?
Por favor, llame a una ambulancia	Please, call an ambulance.
A una farmacia, por favor	To a pharmacy, please
A un hospital, por favor	To a hospital, please
Es urgente	It's an emergency
Dese prisa, por favor	Hurry up, please

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English
Receta	Prescription

QUICK TIP

If you are in such a hurry that you can't walk to the pharmacy, or can't wait for an ambulance that takes you to a hospital, you can take a taxi to get there. We learned in a previous lesson how to get to our destination in a taxi, so, let's customize those phrases: "A una farmacia, por favor", means "To a pharmacy, please" "A un hospital, por favor", means "To a hospital, please" You can hurry the taxi driver by: "Es urgente", which means "It's an emergency" "Dese prisa, por favor", which means "Hurry up, please"

QUICK TIP 2

Remember that you can call 112 all over Europe from any telephone; this is an emergency service which receives your call and, depending on your necessity, can manage everything so you get the adequate help. They can even track your call to determine where you are.



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Lesson 49: Explaining Symptoms (pharmacy)

Tengo náuseas

LESSON NOTES

In previous lesson I told you that we would be learning how to explain symptoms; well, time has come. There are two main patterns for explaining symptoms:

"Tengo symptom", which means "I have symptom"

Náuseas (nausea): Tengo náuseas

Mareos (dizziness): Tengo mareos

Ardor de estómago (heartburn): Tengo ardor de estómago

Hormigueo (itching sensation, pins and needles): Tengo hormigueo

"Me duele part", which means "My part aches"

La cabeza (head): Me duele la cabeza

El pecho (chest): Me duele el pecho

El estómago (stomach): Me duele el estómago

La espalda (back): Me duele la espalda

El cuello (neck): Me duele el cuello

Notice that, when saying which part is aching, in Spanish you need to precede the part with the corresponding article "la" for feminine or "el" for masculine. This form is used for body parts which are in the singular (for example, one stomach)

If you need to specify which of a pair of body parts you are referring to, you should add "izquierdo" if it's a left masculine part, "izquierda" if it's a left feminine part, or "derecha/derecho" respectively for feminine/masculine parts on your right. Let's see a couple of examples:

El ojo derecho (right eye): Me duele el ojo derecho

La pierna izquierda (left leg): Me duele la pierna izquierda

PHRASES

Spanish	English
Tengo náuseas.	I am nauseous.
Me duele la espalda.	My back aches.
Tengo diarrea.	I have diarrhea.
Me voy por las patas.	I have diarrhea. (funny/casual)

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English
Izquierda	Left (feminine)
Izquierdo	Left (masculine)
Derecha	Right (feminine)
Derecho	Right (masculine)

QUICK TIP

We've seen in today's lesson how to say "I have diarrhea", which is "Tengo diarrea". This is a very formal phrase. I'd like to give you another phrase, which make you sound very humorous. If you are confident and in a very casual environment, try "Me voy por las patas", which "I'm going down my legs"; all those who hear you will laugh cause it's a very funny, casual and native way to say it.

In English you use the same word "leg" for referring to human legs and to animal legs, while in Spanish we have "piernas" for the first and "patas" for the second.



Lesson 50: Explaining Symptoms II

¿Tienen algo para esto?

LESSON NOTES

If you know what kind of medicine you need, might want to go to a pharmacy and ask for it. We learned in today's lesson the names for the most common medicines you may need. If you don't find the one you are looking for, leave us a post at survivalphrases.com!

In Spain pharmacies are the only establishments authorized by government for selling medicine, and only sell products related to health. Only qualified professionals are permitted to work in a pharmacy, so they are professionals with very deep knowledge about medicine. For this reason, if you are able to explain your symptoms to someone in a pharmacy, they might be able to recommend something to you, and save you a visit to the doctor. You can identify pharmacies by the green cross in the outside. Some of them are even open 24 hours.

However, don't forget that some medicines are prescription only, so unless you are sure which medicine you need, you should first go to a doctor.

PHRASES

Spanish	English
¿Tienen algo para esto?	Do you have anything for it? (Formal)
¿Tienen algo para el ardor de estómago?	Do you have anything for heartburn? (Formal)
¿Tenéis algo para el dolor de cuello?	Do you have anything for neck ache? (Casual)

QUICK TIP

Despite all the medicine you may know, you will hardly know the names for every medicine in Spain. So, how could you get the right medicine for your symptoms? Well, you can explain in the pharmacy your symptom (we learned how to in previous lesson) and then ask if they have appropriate medicine with the phrase "¿Tienen algo para esto?". Let's see an example with two symptoms we already learned:

"Tengo ardor de estómago. ¿Tienen algo para esto?", means "I have heartburn. Do you have anything for it?"

"Me duele el cuello. ¿Tienen algo para esto?", which means "My neck aches. Do you have anything for it?"

But you can build a more elaborated phrase up with this pattern:

“¿Tienen algo para symptom?”, which means “Do you have anything for symptom?”

Let's rebuild both previous examples:

“¿Tienen algo para el ardor de estómago?”, which means “Do you have anything for heartburn?”

“¿Tienen algo para el dolor de cuello?”, which means “Do you have anything for neck ache?”

QUICK TIP 2

As you have probably noticed, the conjugated form “Tienen” is the respectful form “ustedes” (plural), which is suitable for formal situations, like when in the pharmacy. However, if you are in a friend's and want to use this phrase, you should use the casual version “vosotros” (plural), which is:

“¿Tenéis algo para el ardor de estómago?”, which means “Do you have anything for heartburn?”

“¿Tenéis algo para el dolor de cuello?”, which means “Do you have anything for neck ache?”



Lesson 51: Explaining Allergies

Soy alérgico a (something)

LESSON NOTES

Although allergies could be seen as a special case for symptoms, we believe that it deserves a separate lesson, since the fact that you are traveling to a different country may cause any allergy, especially to some kind of food. Let's review the two patterns you can use for warning others about your allergy:

"Soy alérgico a something", means "I'm allergic to something"

"Tengo alergia a something", means "I have an allergy to something"

If, when explaining your symptoms to a doctor, you need to give more details, here are some useful phrases:

"Tengo picores", means "I have an itching sensation"

"Tengo asma", means "I have asthma"

"Me han salido granos en la piel", means "I have spots in my skin"

"Tengo picor de ojos", means "My eyes are itching".

PHRASES

Spanish	English
Soy alérgico a (something)	I'm allergic to (something)
Tengo alergia a (something)	I have allergy to (something)
Tengo picores	I have an itching sensation
Tengo asma	I have asthma
Me han salido granos en la piel	I have spots in my skin
Tengo picor de ojos	My eyes are itching
¿Tienen un antihistamínico?	Do you have antihistamine?
¿Tienen Ventolin?	Do you have Ventolin?
¿Tienen algo para el asma?	Do you have anything for asthma?

QUICK TIP

Though we already learned how to ask for medicine at the pharmacy, it could be very useful to know how to ask for medicine relevant to allergies. So, using previous patterns already covered:

“¿Tienen un antihistamínico?”, means “Do you have antihistamine?”

“¿Tienen Ventolin?”, means “Do you have Ventolin?”

QUICK TIP 2

Asthma is probably one of the worst symptoms for any allergy, and so you might need a phrase for asking at the pharmacy for something for it:

“¿Tienen algo para el asma?”, means “Do you have anything for asthma?”



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Lesson 52: Self Introduction

Me llamo David

LESSON NOTES

Whatever the reason for travelling to Spain, you won't probably leave Spain without meeting people (the more the better!), so it's a must to learn how to introduce yourself and to respond to people introducing themselves. Maybe the best way to remember how to do this is by reviewing a conversation. There are two levels of politeness, so I'll give you two conversations as examples. Let's look over the more polite version first:

A: Creo que no nos han presentado (I think we haven't been introduced to each other)

B: No, creo que no (No, I don't think so)

A: Me llamo A; encantado de conocerle (My name is A; pleased to meet you)

B: Yo soy B; encantado (I am B; enchante.)

A: ¿Cómo está? (How are you?)

B: Bien, gracias, ¿y usted? (Fine, thank you, and you?)

A: Bien (I'm fine)

Well, there will be lots of variations depending on the concrete situation, but these are the basic expressions in a formal situation. Notice that by using "encantado" (which is the masculine version for "pleased") we are assuming that A and B are men. Notice too that this is a formal conversation because we are using the respectful forms "usted" as in "conocerle" and "está".

Let's look over the more casual version now:

A: Hola, me llamo A. ¿Cómo te llamas? (Hello, my name is A. What's your name?)

B: Me llamo B (My name is B)

A: Encantada (Pleased.)

B: ¿Cómo te va? (How are you doing?)

A: Bien, ¿y a ti? (Fine, what about you?)

B: Bien también (Fine too)

Again, there may be many different versions, but this one gives you a common one you can use in your trip to Spain. Notice in this case that we are assuming that A is a woman by “encantada”, which is the feminine version for “pleased”.

PHRASES

Spanish	English
Me llamo David	My name is David
¿Cómo te llamas?	What's your name? (casual “tú” version)
Yo soy Pedro	I am Peter
Encantado de conocerle	Pleased to meet you (formal masculine version)
El gusto es mío	My pleasure
¿Cómo está?	How are you? (formal)
¿Cómo te va?	How are you doing? (casual “tú” version)
Bien, gracias	Fine, thank you
David, te presento a Pedro	David, I'm introducing Peter to you (casual “tú” version)
David, éste es Pedro	David, this is Peter

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English
Encantada	Pleased (feminine)

QUICK TIP

A variation for these first-encounters phrases is when someone is introducing you and another person. Let's see both versions of previous conversations for this situation:

C: A, me gustaría presentarle a B (A, I would like to introduce B to you)

A: Por supuesto (Of course)

C: B, éste es A (B, this is A)

B: Encantado de conocerle (Pleased to meet you)

A: El gusto es mío (My pleasure)

Now, let's see the casual version:

C: A, te voy a presentar a B (A, I'm going to introduce B to you)

A: ¡Claro! (Sure!)

C: B, te presento a A (B, I introduce you A)

B: Encantado. ¿Qué tal estás? (Pleased. How are you?)

A: Bien, encantado de conocerte (Fine, pleased to meet you)



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Lesson 53: What Time Is It?

La una y cinco

LESSON NOTES

It's time to face one of those hard lessons that, will prove to be really useful: it's time to learn about time...

We already learned counting from zero to twenty three (enough for hours), and now we'll learn from twenty four to thirty, which will be all we need for saying the time:

24, veinticuatro

25, veinticinco

26, veintiséis

27, veintisiete

28, veintiocho

29, veintinueve

30, treinta

Finally, if we want to know how to the time in Spanish, we just need to learn two patterns:

"las hour y minutes", means "minutes past hour"

"las hour menos minutes", means "minutes to hour"

OK, let's learn around the clock:

"La una y cinco", means "Five past one" (notice that we use "la" and not "los" when referring to 'one o'clock'.)

"Las dos y diez", means "Ten past two"

"Las tres y cuarto", means "A quarter past three"

"Las cuatro y veinte", means "Twenty past four"

"Las cinco y veinticinco", means "Twenty five past five"

“Las seis y media”, means “Half past six”

“Las siete menos veinticinco”, means “Twenty five to seven”

“Las ocho menos veinte”, means “Twenty to eight”

“Las nueve menos cuarto”, means “A quarter to nine”

“Las diez menos diez”, means “Ten to ten”

“Las once menos cinco”, means “Five to eleven”

“Las doce en punto”, means “Twelve o'clock”

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English
La una y cinco	Five past one
Las tres y cuarto	A quarter past three
Las seis y media	Half past six
Las nueve menos cuarto	A quarter to nine
Las doce en punto	Twelve o'clock
Va a dar la una	It's about to be one
Son las tres y cuarto pasadas	It's few minutes after a quarter past three
Va a dar la una menos diez	It's few minutes before ten to one

QUICK TIP

There are two more phrases you can hear when asking the time:

“van a dar las...”. This means “It's about to be...” or “It's few minutes before...”. Example: “Van a dar las tres” means “It's few minutes before three”.

Notice that “van” and “las” are plural words, which means that you will use this pattern for hours from two on. For 'one o'clock' you will use “Va a dar la una”, which means “It's about to be one”.

“las... pasadas”. This means “It's few minutes after...”. Example: “Las ocho pasadas” means “It's few minutes after eight”.

Notice that “las” and “pasadas” are plural words, which means that you will use this pattern for hours from two on. For one you will use “La una pasada”, which means “It's few minutes after one”.

QUICK TIP 2

You can use the two patterns in Quick Tip not just for hours o'clock, but for any other time. For example:

“Van a dar las dos y media” means “It's few minutes before half past two”.

“Son las tres y cuarto pasadas” means “It’s few minutes after a quarter past three”

“Va a dar la una menos diez” means “It’s few minutes before ten to one”

“Son las once y veincinco pasadas” means “It’s few minutes after twenty five past eleven”



Lesson 54: What Time Does it Close/Open?

¿A qué hora abre?

LESSON NOTES

Again, some Survival Phrases for being able to enjoy all those places and establishments that you will find in Spain. Specifically, some phrases for knowing when you can enjoy them.

One phrase you will definitely use in your trip is “¿A qué hora abre?”, which means “What time does it open?”. And another useful one: “¿A qué hora cierra?”, which means “What time does it close?”.

Remember that if you want to know what the time is, you have to ask “¿Qué hora es?”, which means “What time is it?”.

PHRASES

Spanish	English
¿A qué hora abre?	What time does it open?
¿A qué hora cierra?	What time does it close?
¿Qué hora es?	What time is it?
¿Está abierto?	Is it open?
Está abierto	It is open.
Está cerrado	It is closed.

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English
OPEN	ABIERTO
CERRADO	CLOSED
Horario de apertura	Opening hours
Mañana	Morning
Tarde	Afternoon
Verano	Summer
Invierno	Winter

QUICK TIP

The easiest way of telling if a shop is open or closed is by reading the sign hanging on the door. In Spanish "OPEN" is "ABIERTO", and "CLOSED" is "CERRADO". On these signs you might also be able to see "Horario de apertura", which means "Opening hours".

Other words you might come across are "Mañana", which means "Morning" and "Tarde", which means "Afternoon". In some cases there are different opening schedules depending on the season, so you will probably see "Horario de verano", which means "Summer opening hours" or "Horario de invierno", which means "Winter opening hours".

QUICK TIP 2

If you see people inside a establishment where you want to enter, and you are not sure whether it's open, you can ask "¿Está abierto?", which means "Is it opened?". You can be replied by "Está abierto", which means "It's opened" or "Está cerrado", which means "It's closed".



Lesson 55: I Like It. I Don't Like It Me gusta esto

LESSON NOTES

In your trip to Spain, there'll be lots of times when you will have to show whether you like something or not (foods, gifts, rooms, dresses...). We learned today the two basic phrases for that:

“Me gusta esto”, which means “I like this”

“No me gusta esto”, which means “I don't like this”

Beyond these basic phrases, let's review some more that will give different nuances to your like/dislike phrases:

Me vuelve loco: I'm mad about it

Me encanta: I love it

Me gusta de verdad: I really like it

Me gusta: I like it

No me disgusta: I don't dislike it (I like it, but not so much)

No me gusta mucho: I like it, but not so much

No me gusta: I don't like it

No me gusta nada: I don't like it at all

Me horroriza: It's awful

PHRASES

Spanish	English
Me gusta esto	I like this
No me gusta esto	I don't like this
Me vuelve loco	I'm mad about it
Me encanta	I love it

Spanish	English
Me gusta de verdad	I really like it
Me gusta	I like it
No me disgusta	I don't dislike it (I like it but not so much)
No me gusta mucho	I like it but not so much

QUICK TIP

I have to admit that expressions for transmitting like or dislike are quite complex in Spanish, and even trying to explain them gets really hard. While these expressions in English are very straightforward:

Subject (who) + like/don't like + Object (what)

Example: I like sugar

Example: She doesn't like noisy neighbours

In Spanish they are much more complicated:

Complement (who) + gustar/no gustar + Subject (what)

Example: Me gusta el azúcar

Example: No le gustan los vecinos ruidosos

But it can get even worse, cause the complement (who likes or dislike something) is usually duplicated:

Example: A mí me gusta el azúcar (literally: To me me like sugar)

Example: A ella no le gustan los vecinos ruidosos (literally: To her don't her like the neighbours noisy)

Notice that the verb (gustar/no gustar) agrees with what is liked, but not with who likes it.



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Lesson 56: Useful and High Frequency Adjectives

Delicioso

LESSON NOTES

Today's lesson is mainly a vocabulary lesson, so let's review all words we have learned today, and some more. As you already know, adjectives in Spanish have masculine/feminine versions, and singular/plural, so here are all four versions. The first Spanish word is the masculine singular, the second is the feminine singular, the third is the masculine plural, and the last is the feminine plural.

Delicious: Delicioso/Deliciosa/Deliciosos/Deliciosas

Hot (spicy): Picante/Picante/Picantes/Picantes

Hot (temperature): Caliente/Caliente/Calientes/Calientes

Cold: Frío/Frío/Fríos/Frías

Beautiful: Guapo/Guapa/Guapos/Guapas

Expensive: Caro/Cara/Caros/Caras

Cheap: Barato/Barata/Baratos/Baratas

Tall: Alto/Alta/Altos/Altas

Short: Bajo/Baja/Bajos/Bajas

Good: Bueno/Buena/Buenos/Buenas

Bad: Malo/Mala/Malos/Malas

Difficult: Difícil/Difícil/Difíciles/Difíciles

Easy: Fácil/Fácil/Fáciles/Fáciles

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English
Delicioso	Delicious
Picante	Hot (spicy)

Spanish	English
Caliente	Hot (temperature)
Frío	Cold
Guapo	Beautiful
Caro	Expensive
barato	Cheap
Alto	Tall
Bajo	Short
Bueno	Good
Malo	Bad
Difícil	Difficult
Fácil	Easy
Soy aburrido	I'm boring
Estoy aburrido	I'm bored
Soy guapo	I'm handsome" (I am and I've always been)
Estoy guapo	I'm not usually handsome, but now I feel I am

QUICK TIP

Spanish is one of those languages that have two different verbs for the English verb "to be". "To be" can be translated as "ser" or as "estar", and knowing when you have to use one or another is one of those hard things that may take years to learn. Well, here you have my tip: "ser" is used when referring to features which are intrinsically yours, and are unchangeable, while "estar" is used when referring to features with an external cause or which may vary. For example:

"Soy aburrido", means "I'm boring"

"Estoy aburrido", means "I'm bored"

"Soy alto", means "I'm tall"

"Estoy alto", means "I'm in a high position"

"Soy frío", means "I'm reserved, unemotional"

"Estoy frío", means "I'm cold" (I have been made cold because it's cold outside)

QUICK TIP 2

There is another nuance about "ser" and "estar": "ser" is used when talking about a feature that is permanent, while "estar" is used when talking about a feature which is not usual. Examples:

"Soy guapo", means "I'm handsome" (I am and I've always been)

"Estoy guapo", means "I'm not usually handsome, but now I feel I am"

"Soy blanco", means "My skin is white, very clear"

"Estoy blanco", means "I'm ill and have turned pale"

“Soy gracioso”, means “I’m funny”

“Estoy gracioso”, means “I’m not usually very funny, but now I feel I am”



Lesson 57: Passing Something

Por favor, pásame eso

LESSON NOTES

Though today's lesson is mainly a vocabulary lesson, I would like to go back to today's phrase:

"Por favor, pásame eso", which means "Please, pass that (to me)"

I want you to carefully look at the verb: "pásame". Do you find anything special? Well, we have glued the complement "me" at the end of the verb. It's really the imperative tense form "Pasa (tú)", "(You) pass", plus the indirect complement "me", "to me", resulting: "pásame", "pass to me".

This is a very common construction in imperative tense which can even add the direct complement in this way:

"Pásamelo", means "Pass to me it", and it's a three-words-in-one: "pasa me lo".

Other examples with other verbs and complements:

"Tráenosla" (= Trae nos la), means "Bring to us it (feminine)"

"Súbelo" (= Sube lo), means "Take it up"

"Ciérralas" (= Cierra las), means "Close them (feminine)"

"Dáselo" (= Da se lo), means "Give to him/her/them it"

Wow, you may say, so how can I know in the previous example whether I have to give it to him, her or them? Well, since the indirect complement "se" may be applied in all those cases, you will have to know for the context, or for a duplicated indirect complement which is very usual:

"Dáselo a él", literally "Givetohimit to him"

"Dáselo a ella", literally "Givetoherit to her"

"Dáselo a ellos", literally "Givetothemit to them"

PHRASES

Spanish	English
Por favor, pásame eso	Please pass that to me

Spanish	English
Dáselo a ellos	Give it to them
¿Me puedes pasar eso?	Can you pass that (casual "tu" form)
¿Me puede pasar eso?	Can you pass that (respectful "usted" version)

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English
Pásamelo	Pass to me it
Tráenosla	Bring to us it (feminine)

QUICK TIP

When asking someone to pass something, it may sound a bit more usual just to ask about it: "Can you pass that?", which in Spanish is "¿Me puedes pasar eso?". Notice that this is the casual "tú" version; if you need to use a more respectful phrase, remember that you need to use the formal "usted" form which would be in this case "¿Me puede pasar eso?".



Lesson 58: Renting a car or scooter

Me gustaría alquilar un coche

LESSON NOTES

If you feel comfortable in Spain and with your Spanish, it may be a good idea to rent a car at least for some of the time; this way you will have the chance to get to know Spain at your pace. Or you may prefer a bike or scooter when visiting a big city like Madrid or Barcelona. In both cases today's phrases will come in very handy.

The pattern for expressing your wish to rent any vehicle is:

Me gustaría alquilar un... which means I would like to rent a... (for masculine vehicles)

Me gustaría alquilar una... which means I would like to rent a... (for feminine vehicles)

For using one or another pattern you should know that coche (car) is masculine, while bicicleta (bicycle), scooter and motocicleta (scooter) are feminine.

PHRASES

Spanish	English
Me gustaría alquilar un coche	I would like to rent a car
Me gustaría alquilar una bicicleta	I would like to rent a bicycle
¿Me puede enseñar la documentación del vehículo?	Can you show the vehicle documentation?

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English
Coche	Car
Scooter, motocicleta	Scooter
Bicicleta	Bicycle
Carnet de conducir, Permiso de conducir	Driving license, driving licence

QUICK TIP

Of course, before renting a car or a scooter, you should make sure that your driving license will be valid in Spain. You will have to ask the rental company before renting the vehicle, and will have to have it with you whenever operating the vehicle; if a police officer can ask you to produce your license at any time.

In Spanish, driving license is “Carnet de conducir” or “Permiso de conducir”. If a police officer asks for your driving license and other documentation of your vehicle, he or she will probably say “¿Me puede enseñar la documentación del vehículo?”, which means “Can you show the vehicle documentation?”.

QUICK TIP 2

I’m sure there is plenty of web sites that will calculate your way from one point to another in Spain, but I want to give you the one I always visit when I want to know the best route for my next getaway; it’s La Guía Campsa:

<http://www.guiacampsa.com>

The English version is at:

http://www.guiacampsa.com/gcampsa/es_en//home/home.aspx



Lesson 59: Home Visit

¿Se puede?

LESSON NOTES

As we have seen today, there are two possibilities when visiting or entering in someone's house or room. Let's review both possibilities with a conversation.

You knock.

Your partner: ¿Quién es? (Who's calling?)

You: Soy Peter (It's me, Peter)

Your partner (opening the door): ¡Peter! Pasa (Peter! Come in)

You: Gracias (Thank you)

You have to knock at the door, which is not locked.

(Knock, knock)

You: ¿Se puede? (Can I enter?)

Your partner: Adelante (Come in)

You: Buenos días (Good morning)

PHRASES

Spanish	English
¿Quién es?	Who's calling?
Soy Peter	It's me, Peter
¿Se puede?	Can I enter?
Bien hallado	lit. Well found

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English
Pasa	Come in

Spanish	English
Adelante	Come in
Bienvenido (sing. masc.)	Welcome
Bienvenida (sing. fem.)	Welcome
Bienvenidos (pl. masc.)	Welcome
Bienvenidas (pl. fem.)	Welcome

QUICK TIP

It's a customary (not very modern and extensively used, but not unfrequent either) to reply to "Bienvenido / bienvenida / bienvenidos / bienvenidas" with "Bien hallado / bien hallada / bien hallados / bien halladas", which literally means "Well found".

As you can see, we have given four alternatives for every phrase, and you may have recognized that they are the four possibilities for gender and number: singular masculine / singular feminine / plural masculine / plural feminine. You will use the version which corresponds to your special situation. Imagine you are a woman who is visiting two friends (two men), the conversation would be:

Your friends: Bienvenida

You: Bien hallados

Imagine now you are two friends (men) who are visiting three friends (women); the conversation would be:

Your friends (women): Bienvenidos

You (and your friend): Bien halladas



Lesson 60: Congratulations!

¡Felicidades! ¡Enhorabuena!

LESSON NOTES

A nice subject for today: congratulations and ways to say others how happy we feel for their good news. In Spanish, just like in English, we have some phrases that can be used for any occasion, like:

“¡Felicidades!”, which literally means “Happinesses!”, but is translated as “Congratulations!”.

“¡Enhorabuena!”, which literally means “In good hour!”, but which also might be translated as “Congratulations!”.

These can be used whenever something good has happened to someone around you. However, there are some specific phrases for certain occasions, like:

“¡Feliz cumpleaños!”, “Happy birthday!”

“¡Feliz Navidad!”, “Merry Christmas!”

“¡Feliz Año Nuevo!”, “Happy New Year!”

“¡Feliz entrada y salida!”, this is used a little before New Year’s Eve if you are not going to see that person again before New Year, and literally means “Happy in and out (of year)”

“¡Felices fiestas!”, I would say it’s the “politically correct” greeting for all celebrations in December-January. The closest translation would be “Happy holidays!”.

PHRASES

Spanish	English
¡Feliz cumpleaños!	Happy birthday!
¡Feliz Navidad!	Merry Christmas!
¡Feliz Año Nuevo!	Happy New Year!
¡Feliz entrada y salida!	Happy New Year!
¡Felices fiestas!	Happy holiday!
¡Me alegro mucho!	I’m very glad!
Mis felicitaciones	My congratulations.
Mis mejores deseos	My best wishes.

VOCABULARY

Spanish

¡Felicidades! ¡Enhorabuena!

English

Congratulations!

QUICK TIP

When you want to show someone that you are glad for something good that has happened to him or her, you can use this phrase: “¡Me alegro mucho!”, which means “I’m very glad (about it)!”. It’s a common phrase when something good has happened to someone (she’s pregnant; they have had a baby; he has got his degree...) and you want to express your happiness about it. It can be used in almost the same situations as “¡Felicidades!”, but “¡Me alegro!” shows your personal feelings more.

QUICK TIP 2

In my final tip in these lessons I want to say “Mis felicitaciones”, which means “(I give you) my congratulations”, for all the work you have done along these lessons and for your perseverance; for your decision to learning Spanish (at least all these Survival Phrases), and for having reached this final lesson.

Now you can be sure that you have the tools for dealing with almost all situations in your trip to Spain, but if you discover some situations that you can’t deal with... be sure to leave us a post!

“Mis mejores deseos”, “My best wishes”



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