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Beginner 2

Lessons 1-25

1-25

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## Introduction

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This is Innovative Language Learning.

Go to [InnovativeLanguage.com/audiobooks](https://www.innovativelanguage.com/audiobooks) to get the lesson notes for this course and sign up for your FREE lifetime account.

The course consists of lessons centered on a practical, real-life conversation.

In each lesson, first, we'll introduce the background of the conversation.

Then, you'll hear the conversation two times:

One time at natural native speed and one time with the English translation.

After the conversation, you'll learn carefully selected vocabulary and key grammar concepts.

Next, you'll hear the conversation 1 time at natural native speed at the end of the lesson.

Finally, practice what you have learned with the review track. Repeat the words and phrases you hear in the review track aloud to practice pronunciation and reinforce what you have learned.

Before starting the lessons, go to [InnovativeLanguage.com/audiobooks](https://www.innovativelanguage.com/audiobooks) to get the lesson notes for this course and sign up for your FREE lifetime account.



# Beginner Lesson S2

## Where ya' headed?

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\* Audio Conversation



## Formal Spanish

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CHOFER Si... ¿a dónde va?  
MARIA A la cuadra siete de la calle San Augustin en San Miguel.  
CHOFER A ver... la cuadra siete de la calle San Augustin... hmm... setenta colones?  
MARIA ¡Setenta colones! No se pase, maestro, nunca pago más que treinta.  
CHOFER Sí, pero el precio de combustible ha subido un montón. Mire, la llevo por sesenta colones.  
MARIA Cincuenta está bien. ¿Salimos... ?  
CHOFER Ya... ya... suba....

## Formal English

---

CHOFER Yeah... where are ya' headed?  
MARIA The seventh block of San Agustín Street in San Miguel.  
CHOFER Let me see... The seventh block of San Agustín Street in San Miguel... hmm... Seventy Colones?  
MARIA Seventy Colones! Don't go overboard, man, I never pay more than thirty.  
CHOFER Yeah, but the price of gas has gone way up. Look, I'll take you for sixty.  
MARIA Fifty is cool. Should we go...?  
CHOFER Alright... alright... get in...

## Informal Spanish

---

CHOFER Si... ¿a dónde vas?  
MARIA A la cuadra siete de la calle San Augustin en San Miguel.  
CHOFER A ver... la cuadra siete de la calle San Augustin... hmm... setenta colones?  
MARIA ¡Setenta colones! No te pases, maestro, nunca pago más que treinta.  
CHOFER Sí, pero el precio de combustible ha subido un montón. Mira, la llevo por sesenta colones.  
MARIA Cincuenta está bien. ¿Salimos... ?  
CHOFER Ya... ya... sube....

## Informal English

---

CHOFER Yeah... where are ya' headed?  
MARIA The seventh block of San Agustín Street in San Miguel.  
CHOFER Let me see... The seventh block of San Agustín Street in San Miguel... hmm... Seventy Colones?  
MARIA Seventy Colones! Don't go overboard, man, I never pay more than thirty.



CHOFER            Yeah, but the price of gas has gone way up. Look, I'll take ya' for sixty.  
 MARIA            Fifty's cool. Should we go...?  
 CHOFER            Alright... alright... get in...

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
maestro, -a	teacher, master, expert	noun	<i>Latin</i> , magister, -tri (teacher, master)
nunca	never, not... ever	adverb	<i>Latin</i> , nunquam (never)
subir	to go up, to climb, to bring up, to get into a vehicle	verb	<i>Latin</i> , subīre (to undego, to stand)
cuadra	block	fem. noun	<i>Latin</i> , quadra (four)
precio	price	masc. noun	<i>Latin</i> , pretium (value, reward)
combustible	gasoline, combustible	masc. noun & adjective	<i>Latin</i> , combustus (burned)

### Sample Sentences

Natalia es una maestra joyera. (Natalia is a master silversmith.)

El maestro de esta clase sabe mucho de la historia. (The teacher of this class knows a lot about history.)

Nunca he ido a ese bar. (I've never gone to that bar.)

En el invierno, nunca salgo sin abrigo. (En the winter, I never go out without a coat.)

¿Cuánto ha subido? (How much has it gone up?)

Subimos al segundo piso. (We went up to the second floor.)

¿Cuántas cuadras ya hemos caminado? (How blocks have we walked now?)

¿Cuál es el precio de esta camisa? (What's the price of this shirt?)

Últimamente el combustible es carísimo. (Lately the price of gas is so expensive.)

### Grammar Points

The Preterit Perfect is what we call a "compound tense", since we need to use two different words together in order to express it. First, we must conjugate the verb "haber" (to have) to agree with the the subject of the the verb that follows. That is to say, we conjugate "haber" (to have) to get the meaning "I have,



you have, he has, we have, they have, or you all have". Keep in mind that this is not the same as the verb "tener" (to have). We use "haber" in the sense of "having done something". For example, "I have gone to the market".

Here are the conjugations for the verb "haber" (to have):

yo he (I have)

tú has (you have)

él/ella/usted ha (he/she has)

nosotros hemos (we have)

vosotros habéis (you all have)

ellos/ellas han (they have)

ustedes han (you all have)

The second part of this compound tense is the Past Participle of the verb being carried out. In English, we often see -ED- or -EN- endings on most verbs in this tense, although there are some exceptions.

\*For regular -AR- verbs, the participle ending that replaces the -AR- infinitive ending is "A-D-O".

For instance: "cocinar" (to cook) = "cocinado" (cooked)

\*For regular -IR/ER- verbs, the participle ending that replaces the -IR/ER- infinitive endings is "I-D-O".

For example: "crecer" (to grow) = "crecido" (grown)

\*Review the Grammar Bank in the Learning Center for further explanations and an in depth look at irregular forms of the Past Participle.

## Cultural Insight

Keep something in mind...in many Latin American cities taxis aren't the same as in The US or Europe. Many will not have conventional meters. Prices are should be agreed upon before you enter the taxi. if you make an agreement with the Taxi driver, do not let them try to raise the price at the end of the ride. Be firm and make sure that you just hand him the agreed upon price. Most will accept the payment, after a little bit of arguing. Just to reiterate, make sure that there is an agreed upon price before you get into the taxi, otherwise, who knows what you are going to end up paying!



# Beginner Lesson S2

## What a shame!

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## Formal Spanish

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- DAVID ¿A cuánto están las sandalias?  
JULIA Están a doscientos colones, pero puedo dejárselas a ciento noventa.  
DAVID ¿De qué son? ¿De oro? No valen más que ciento cincuenta.  
JULIA Es que todo el detalle es hecho a mano. No son de fabrica.  
DAVID Si, pero no son tan finas como otras que he visto. ¿Qué tal ciento sesenta?  
JULIA Ay, no me sale. Mire, le voy a hacer un descuento especial para que se las lleve. Puedo dejárselas a ciento ochenta, pero nada menos.  
DAVID ¡Que lástima! Solo tengo ciento setenta.  
JULIA Bueno, está bien, ciento setenta. ¿Le doy una bolsa?

## Formal English

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- DAVID How much are the sandals?  
JULIA They're two hundred Colones, but I can give them to you for one hundred and ninety.  
DAVID What are they made of? Gold? They're not worth more than one hundred and fifty.  
JULIA The thing is that all the detail is handmade. They're not from a factory.  
DAVID Yeah, but they're not as nice as others that I've seen. How about one hundred and sixty?  
JULIA Ah, that won't work. Look, I'm going to give you a special discount, so that you take them with you. I can let them go for one hundred and eighty, but nothing less.  
DAVID What a shame! I only have one hundred and seventy.  
JULIA Alright, it's OK. One hundred and seventy. Can I give you a bag?

## Informal Spanish

---

- DAVID ¿A cuánto están las sandalias?  
JULIA Están a doscientos colones, pero puedo dejártelas a ciento noventa.  
DAVID ¿De qué son? ¿De oro? No valen más que ciento cincuenta.  
JULIA Es que todo el detalle es hecho a mano. No son de fabrica.  
DAVID Si, pero no son tan finas como otras que he visto. ¿Qué tal ciento sesenta?  
JULIA Ay, no me sale. Mira, te voy a hacer un descuento especial para que te las lleves. Puedo dejártelas a ciento ochenta, pero nada menos.  
DAVID ¡Que lástima! Solo tengo ciento setenta.  
JULIA Bueno, está bien, ciento setenta. ¿Te doy una bolsa?

## Informal English

---





- DAVID How much are the sandals?  
 JULIA They're two hundred Colones, but I can give them to you for one hundred and ninety.  
 DAVID What are they made of? Gold? They're not worth more than one hundred and fifty.  
 JULIA The thing is that all the detail is handmade. They're not from a factory.  
 DAVID Yeah, but they're not as nice as others that I've seen. How about one hundred and sixty?  
 JULIA Ah, that won't work. Look, I'm gonna' give you a special discount, so that ya' take them with you. I can let them go for one hundred and eighty, but nothing less.  
 DAVID What a shame! I only have one hundred and seventy.  
 JULIA Alright, it's OK. One hundred and seventy. Can I give ya' a bag?

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
detalle	detail, nice touch	masc. noun	<i>French</i> , détail (slice, piece)
hecho a mano	handmade	set phrase	<i>Latin</i> , factus (to become, to be made) + manus (hand)
fábrica	factory	fem. noun	<i>Latin</i> , fabrīca (workshop)
fino, -a	fine, nice	adjective	<i>Latin</i> , finis (boundary)
descuento	discount	masc. noun	<i>Latin</i> , dis (away, not) + compūtus (computation)
lástima	shame, pity	fem. noun	<i>Latin</i> , blasphemāre (to blaspheme)

### Sample Sentences

Mira ese detalle. (Look at that detail.)

Es un detalle muy importante. It is a very important detail.

Los productos hechos a mano son incomparables. (Handmade products are incomparable.)

En esta zona hay muchas fábricas. (There are a lot of factories in this area.)

Quiero que me lleves a un restaurante fino. (I want you to take me to a nice restaurant.)

Le puedo ofrecer un buen descuento. (I can offer you a good discount.)

Es una lástima que no me puedas acompañar. (It's a shame that you can't join me.)

### Grammar Points



Here we take a closer look at comparisons of equality. In English we use an adjective or an adverb and the word "as" to make such comparisons. For instance, "this lesson is *as interesting as* the last one". In Spanish, there is a simple formula that we use to construct the same kinds of comparisons of equality:

Tan + adjective or adverb + Como

We see this formation used in the lesson conversation:

"Si, pero no son tan finas como otras que he visto."

(Yeah, but they're not as nice as others that I've seen.)

Here we use the adjective "finas" which we remember means "fine" or "nice".

Observe the following sample sentences and notice how the structure of "tan + adjective/adverb + como" remains intact:

"Esta película no es *tan interesante como* la que vimos anoche."

(This movie isn't as interesting as the one we saw last night.)

"Manejas *tan lento como* mi abuela."

(You drive as slowly as my grandma does.)

"La comida aquí es *tan rica como* la comida que mi madre prepara."

(The food here is as delicious as the food that my mother prepares.)

"Habla *tan rápido como* un papagayo."

(He speaks as fast as a parrot.)

## Cultural Insight

Now, there are different ways to bargain. Some work better than others. If there is one rule that stands out, make an initial offer that is very high. The counteroffer will then obviously be very low. Your hope is to meet somewhere in the middle. Never offer the number that you would like to end up with in the beginning. Don't get flustered, don't get angry, just calmly go through the motions and get ready to accept a certain truth about bargaining/negotiating...In the end, both parties should feel like they lost! Another strategy to flower the sell with compliments. Tell them what a nice item it is and how much you would enjoy owning it. And finally, another option is to ask how much an item is, and then say that you wouldn't offend the vendor by offering a lower price, because it is such a nice item. The vendor is undoubtedly going to ask you how much you'd be willing to spend.



# Beginner Lesson S2

## But if I always buy from you!?

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## Formal Spanish

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JUAN ¿A cuánto está el kilo de tomate?  
VERDURERA Está a mil quinientos colónes.  
JUAN ¿¡Tanto!?! Oiga, casera, no puede ser. ¿¡Pero si a usted siempre le compro...!?  
VERDURERA Bueno, amiguito, para usted le cobro mil nada más.  
JUAN Ahora sí. Me parece mejor. Me da dos kilos de tomate.  
VERDURERA Dos kilos. Son dos mil colónes. Un toquecito...

## Formal English

---

JUAN How much is a kilo of tomatoes?  
VERDURERA It's one thousand five hundred Colones.  
JUAN That much!?! Hey now, ma'am, that's impossible. But if I always buy from you...!?  
VERDURERA Well, my friend, for you I'll only charge one thousand.  
JUAN Now that's what I'm talking about. Sounds better. Give me two kilos of tomatoes.  
VERDURERA Two kilos. That's two thousand Colones. Just a sec...

## Informal Spanish

---

JUAN ¿A cuánto está el kilo de tomate?  
VERDURERA Está a mil quinientos colónes.  
JUAN ¿¡Tanto!?! Oye, casera, no puede ser. ¿¡Pero si a tí siempre te compro...!?  
VERDURERA Bueno, amiguito, para tí te cobro mil nada más.  
JUAN Ahora sí. Me parece mejor. Me das dos kilos de tomate.  
VERDURERA Dos kilos. Son dos mil colónes. Un toquecito...

## Informal English

---

JUAN How much is a kilo of tomatoes?  
VERDURERA It's one thousand five hundred Colones.  
JUAN That much!?! Hey now, ma'am, that's impossible. But if I always buy from ya'...!?  
VERDURERA Well, buddy, for you I'll only charge one thousand.  
JUAN Now that's what I'm talking about. Sounds better. Give me two kilos of tomatoes.  
VERDURERA Two kilos. That's two thousand Colones. Just a sec...



## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
kilogramo (Kilo)	kilogram (Kilo)	masc. noun	<i>Greek</i> , chilio (one thousand) + grammáron (weight of two obols)
tanto, -a	so much, so many	adjective, adverb, masc. noun	<i>Latin</i> , tantus (as much, so much)
casero, -a	home-loving, home-made, favorite vendor	adjective, masc. & fem. noun	<i>Latin</i> , casa (shack)
parecer	to seem, to resemble	verb	<i>Latin</i> , parere (to appear)
tomate	tomato	masc. noun	<i>Nahuatl</i> , tomatl (tomatillo, small tomato)
cobrar	to charge	verb	<i>Latin</i> , recuperāre (to re-take)

### Sample Sentences

¿Cuántos kilos de naranjas deseas? (How many kilograms of oranges would you care for?)

Ella compró un kilogramo de arroz. (She bought a kilogram of rice.)

Me gusta tanto que ya no sé qué hacer. (I like it so much that I no longer know what to do.)

Me gusta tanto que quiero repetir. I like it so much that I want to have seconds.

¡Hola, casera! ¿Qué hay de nuevo? (Hey there, ma'am. What's new?)

La comida del restaurante no compara con la comida casera. (Food from restaurants doesn't compare with home-made food.)

A mi parecer, deberíamos implementar múltiples cambios. (The way I see, we ought to implement multiple changes.)

Parece que ya quieren salir. (It seems like they want to leave now.)

A mí me encanta la salsa de tomate. (I love tomato sauce.)

¿Cuánto cobran en la tienda de tu amigo? (How much do they charge in your friend's store?)

### Grammar Points

In this lesson, we look at how to replace indirect objects with indirect object pronouns.



An indirect object receives the indirect action of the verb.

For example:

"Envié la carta a Martín".

(I sent the letter to Martin).

Here, "la carta" (the letter) receives the action of being sent (enviar) directly. So, we say that the letter is the direct object. 'Martín' would be the indirect object because he receives the action indirectly.

We often replace indirect objects with a pronoun to avoid redundancy. When this happens, we call it an indirect object pronoun. Note how we can take the same example we just used and exchange the indirect object with an indirect object pronoun:

"Le envié la carta".

(I sent the letter to him).

Look at the information below to see the indirect object pronouns for each type of subject:

### Singular ----\*---- Plural

me (to/for me) -----\*----- nos (to/for us)

te (to/for you, inform.) -----\*----- os (to/for you all, inform.)

le (to/for him) -----\*----- les (to/for them, masc.)

le (to/for her) -----\*----- les (to/for them, fem.)

le (to/for you, form.) -----\*----- les (to/for you all, form.)

So, we can say, "Me parece bien" (It seems good to me), in which case 'me' is the indirect object pronoun. We could also say, "¿Les parece bien?" (Does it seem good to you all?), and this would make 'les' the indirect object pronoun. Notice the substitution of the indirect object pronoun in place of the indirect object itself.

## Cultural Insight

In Latin America, the mega store has not taken complete hold as it has in the United States. Many times, small, locally owned shops are where the majority of people get the everyday things they need. This is where the casero, -a comes in. These are your favorite shopkeepers and a very important relationship. At these stores, they may give you a tab which you take care of when you can. It helps to develop this kind of loyalty with a shop keeper, they will take care of you when you need it.





## Beginner Lesson S2

### But, Sir, I have all of my papers in order

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## Formal Spanish

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- ANA Buenas tardes, director. Quisiera solicitar una visa de investigación. Estoy aquí en Costa Rica para realizar un estudio sobre la literatura costarricense.
- DIRECTOR ¿Tiene, usted, alguna afiliación con una institución?
- ANA No, lo estoy haciendo por mi cuenta.
- DIRECTOR Le cuento, señorita, que le convendría más cruzar la frontera o también podría casarse con un ciudadano costarricense.
- ANA Pero, señor, tengo todas mis papeles en orden.
- DIRECTOR Sí, lo veo. Pero como le digo, el camino más rápido es cruzar la frontera o casarse con un ciudadano costarricense. Depende de usted.

## Formal English

---

- ANA Good afternoon, Sir. I would like to request a research visa. I'm here in Costa Rica to carry out a study about Costa Rican literature.
- DIRECTOR Do you have some kind of affiliation with an institution?
- ANA No, I'm doing it on my own.
- DIRECTOR Let me tell you, Ms., that it would be more suitable for you to cross the border or you could also get married to a Costa Rican citizen.
- ANA But, Sir, I have all of my papers in order.
- DIRECTOR Yes, I see that. But, as I said, the fastest way is to cross the border or get married to a Costa Rican citizen. It's up to you.

## Informal Spanish

---

- ANA Buenas tardes, director. Quisiera solicitar una visa de investigación. Estoy aquí en Costa Rica para realizar un estudio sobre la literatura costarricense.
- DIRECTOR ¿Tienes alguna afiliación con una institución?
- ANA No, lo estoy haciendo por mi cuenta.
- DIRECTOR Te cuento, señorita, que te convendría más cruzar la frontera o también podrías casarte con un ciudadano costarricense.
- ANA Pero, señor, tengo todas mis papeles en orden.
- DIRECTOR Sí, lo veo. Pero como te digo, el camino más rápido es cruzar la frontera o casarse con un ciudadano costarricense. Depende de tí.

## Informal English

---





- ANA Good afternoon, Sir. I would like to request a research visa. I'm here in Costa Rica to carry out a study about Costa Rican literature.
- DIRECTOR Do ya' have some kind of affiliation with an institution?
- ANA No, I'm doing it on my own.
- DIRECTOR Let me tell you, Ms., that it would be more suitable for you to cross the border or you could also get married to a Costa Rican citizen.
- ANA But, Sir, I have all of my papers in order.
- DIRECTOR Yeah, I see that. But, as I said, the fastest way is to cross the border or get married to a Costa Rican citizen. It's up to you.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
realizar	to carry out, to fulfill	verb	<i>Latin, res (fact, cause)</i>
solicitar	to request, to solicit, to apply for	verb	<i>Latin, sollicitāre (to trouble, to bother)</i>
afiliación	affiliation	fem. noun	<i>Latin, affiliāre (to adopt as a son)</i>
ciudadano, -a	citizen	masc. & fem. noun	<i>Latin, civītas (a body of people constituting a politically organized community)</i>
frontera	border	fem. noun	<i>Latin, frons (front, forehead)</i>
depender	to depend on, to be up to	verb	<i>Latin, dependēre (to hang from)</i>

### Sample Sentences

Han realizado un gran proyecto en la selva. (They have carried out a huge project in the jungle.)

Los jefes realizan un proyecto nuevo. (The bosses carry out a new project.)

Quisiera solicitar una renovación. (I would like to request a renewal.)

No tengo ninguna afiliación con una institución. (I don't have an affiliation with an institution.)

Soy ciudadana costarricense. (I am a Costa Rican citizen.)

¿Está lejos de aquí la frontera? (Is the border far from here?)

Todo depende de lo que haces. (Everything depends on what you do.)



## Grammar Points

Direct objects receive the action directly from the verb. For example, "I see Eliana". Here, "Eliana" is the direct object. She is what I see. When we replace a direct object with a pronoun, we call it a direct object pronoun.

For example, "veo a Eliana" (I see Eliana), becomes "la veo" (I see her).

Because both people and things can be the direct object of a verb, we must use gender and number to indicate the object to which each direct object pronoun refers. The typical word order with direct object pronouns is [subject + direct object pronoun + verb], except when an infinitive or gerund is used, in which case the direct object pronoun is suffixed or attached to the end of the infinitive or gerund (i.e. "Iba a llamarte", "estoy llamándote").

Look at the information below to see all of the Direct Object Pronouns:

### For People

*Person: Singular / Plural*

First: me / nos

Second: te / os

Third: lo (masc.), la (fem. / los (masc.), las (fem.)

---

### For Things

*Gender: Singular / Plural*

Masculine: lo / los

Feminine: la / las

\*See the Grammar Bank in the Learning Center for even more information and sample sentences!

## Cultural Insight

Extending a visa in Costa Rica is not easy. Many foreigners leave Costa Rica every 90 days to renew their visa. This is technically illegal but as of yet, the government hasn't really cracked down on foreigners (lucky for me). It is advised to walk around with your passport or a copy of your passport along with a copy of the stamp that marks your date of entry. If caught, you most likely won't be deported but you will be given a ticket. It's a better idea just to go to Panama or Nicaragua. By bus, it is not a very long trip.





# Beginner Lesson S2

## But I need to go to Panama. What do I do?

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\* Audio Conversation



## Formal Spanish

---

ANA Buenas tardes. Quisiera comprar un boleto a Panamá.  
ANDRES El bus solo va hasta Sixola.  
ANA Pero necesito ir hasta Panamá. ¿Qué hago?  
ANDRES No se preocupe. Sixola está en la frontera de Costa Rica con Panamá.  
ANA ¿Cómo cruzo?  
ANDRES Caminando nomás. Es facilísimo. Ya va a ver.

## Formal English

---

ANA Good afternoon. I'd like to buy a ticket to Panama.  
ANDRES The bus only goes to Sixola.  
ANA But I need to go to Panama. What do I do?  
ANDRES Don't worry. Sixola is at the border of Costa Rica and Panama.  
ANA How do I cross?  
ANDRES Just walking. It's really easy. You'll see.

## Informal Spanish

---

ANA Buenas tardes. Quisiera comprar un boleto a Panamá.  
ANDRES El bus solo va hasta Sixola.  
ANA Pero necesito ir hasta Panamá. ¿Qué hago?  
ANDRES No te preocupes. Sixola está en la frontera de Costa Rica con Panamá.  
ANA ¿Cómo cruzo?  
ANDRES Caminando nomás. Es facilísimo. Ya vas a ver.

## Informal English

---

ANA Good afternoon. I'd like to buy a ticket to Panama.  
ANDRES The bus only goes to Sixola.  
ANA But I need to go to Panama. What do I do?  
ANDRES Don't you worry. Sixola is at the border of Costa Rica and Panama.  
ANA How do I cross?  
ANDRES Just walking. It's really easy. You'll see.



## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
hasta	until, up to	preposition	Arabic, hatta
boleto	ticket	masc. noun	Latin, bulla (seal, bubble)
preocuparse	to worry	reflexive verb	Latin, praeoccupāre (to capture in advance)
cruzar	to cross	verb	Latin, crux (cross)
nomás	just, only	adverb	Latin, non (none, not, no)
facilísimo, -a	really easy	superlative adjective	Latin, facilis (easy)

### Sample Sentences

Vamos a viajar desde Madrid hasta Barcelona. (*We're going to travel from Madrid all the way to Barcelona.*)

Pasé la tarde en un café con una amiga hasta las siete, y luego regresé a mi casa. (*I spent the afternoon in a café with a friend until seven, and then I returned to my home.*)

Acabo de comprar un boleto. Estuvo bien caro. (*I just bought a ticket. It was really expensive.*)

Me preocupé cuando no llamaste. (*I got worried when you didn't call.*)

¿Cruzamos la calle? (*Should we cross the street?*)

Llegamos a la fiesta caminando nomás. (*We got to the party just by walking.*)

Esta tarea es facilísima. (*This homework is really easy.*)

### Grammar Points

Here, we are going to look at two sets of prepositions when expressing distance or time from one place or moment to another.

We can choose between one of these two pairs of prepositions, either to lessen the emphasis, or to add to it:

"De... A..." (from... to...)

This form is used to *lessen the emphasis* on the distance or time.

Example:

"Caminé de mi casa a la escuela."

(I walked from my house to school.)

DESDE... HASTA... (from... to...)

This form is used to *add emphasis* to the distance or time.



Example:

"Voy a viajar desde Pittsburgh hasta Lima."

(I'm going to travel from Pittsburgh all the way to Lima.)

\*Note how with the prepositions "de...a..." we make a simple statement without emphasis. On the other hand, the prepositions "desde...hasta..." add emphasis. It is like saying from one point "all the way" until another.

\*We cannot mix and match the prepositions from these two sets. The preposition "de" is used exclusively with "a", and "desde" is only used with "hasta".

For instance, you can never say "de Costa Rica hasta Panamá".

It must be "de Costa Rica a Panamá", or "desde Costa Rica hasta Panamá".

## Cultural Insight

When you cross the border into Panama, Americans will have a pleasant surprise. The currency used in Panama are dollars. Since the United States took control of the canal, its involvement spread throughout the country. Many Panamanians and Costa Ricans say that the United States owned Panama as an unofficial colony. That goes against the official history but when one travels to Panama, the American influence is evident. Other than the use of American currency, neighborhoods in Panama City exist that are completely closed off and used to house many American Military and Government officials. Since the hand over of the canal to Panama on December 31, 1999, American influence in Panama has faltered but is by no means over. Panama City is said by some to be the most cosmopolitan city in Central America.



# Beginner Lesson S2

## Understand me: I want to promote your culture

6

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\* Audio Conversation





## Formal Spanish

---

OFICIAL	Pasaporte.
ANA	Aquí tiene.
OFICIAL	Veo que usted ha pasado un buen tiempo aquí en Costa Rica. ¿Qué es lo que hace?
ANA	Estoy realizando una investigación sobre la literatura costarricense. Soy escritora.
OFICIAL	Le voy a dar treinta días más.
ANA	Pero, oficial, he tratado de tramitar una visa de investigador, y el director de aduanas me sugirió que cruzara la frontera nomás. Me dijo que más facil es así. Entiendame quiero promover su cultura.
OFICIAL	Bueno, le doy noventa. Suerte. ¡El próximo!

## Formal English

---

OFICIAL	Passport.
ANA	Here you go.
OFICIAL	I see that you have spent quite a bit of time here in Costa Rica. What is it that you do?
ANA	I'm carrying out research about Costa Rican literature. I'm a writer.
OFICIAL	I am going to give you thirty more days.
ANA	But, officer, I have tried to process a Researcher's Visa, and the director of Customs suggested that I just cross the border. He told me that it's easier this way. Understand me I want to promote your culture.
OFICIAL	Fine. I'll give you ninety. Good luck. Next!

## Informal Spanish

---

OFICIAL	Pasaporte.
ANA	Aquí tienes.
OFICIAL	Veo que has pasado un buen tiempo aquí en Costa Rica. ¿Qué es lo que haces?
ANA	Estoy realizando una investigacion sobre la literatura costarricense. Soy escritora.
OFICIAL	Te voy a dar treinta días más.
ANA	Pero, oficial, he tratado de tramitar una visa de investigador, y el director de aduanas me sugirió que cruzara la frontera nomás. Me dijo que más facil es así. Entiendeme quiero promover su cultura.
OFICIAL	Bueno, te doy noventa. Suerte. ¡El próximo!

## Informal English

---



- OFICIAL            Passport.
- ANA                Here you go.
- OFICIAL            I see that you've spent quite a bit of time here in Costa Rica. What is it that ya' do?
- ANA                I'm carrying out research about Costa Rican literature. I'm a writer.
- OFICIAL            I am going to give you thirty more days.
- ANA                But, officer, I've tried to process a Researcher's Visa, and the director of Customs suggested that I just cross the border. He told me that it's easier this way. Understand me I want to promote your culture.
- OFICIAL            Fine. I'll give ya' ninety. Good luck. Next!

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
realizar	to carry out, to fulfill	verb	<i>Latin, res (fact, cause)</i>
suerte	luck, good luck, sort	fem. noun	<i>Latin, sors, -tis (an oracular response, prophesy)</i>
promover	to promote	verb	<i>Latin, promovere (to push forward)</i>
aduanas	Customs (border control)	plural fem. noun	<i>Arabic, dīwān (register, government department)</i>
investigación	investigation, research	fem. noun	<i>Latin, investigare (to track)</i>
tramitar	to process	verb	<i>Latin, trames (footpaths)</i>

### Sample Sentences

Estoy realizando un estudio sobre la economía mexicana. (*I'm carrying out a study of the Mexican economy.*)

Han realizado un gran proyecto en la selva. (*They have carried out a huge project in the jungle.*)

Los jefes realizan un proyecto nuevo. (*The bosses carry out a new project.*)

¡Suerte! ¡Ya nos vemos! (*Good luck! See you soon!*)

Hay personas que siempre tienen suerte. (*There are people who are always lucky.*)

Esta pastilla promueve la circulación. (*This pill promotes circulation.*)

El mate de coca promueve la digestión. (*Coca tea promotes digestion.*)

Pasar por aduanas es como pasar por la tierra de nadie. (*Going through Customs is like going through no-man's-land.*)

Leí la investigación pero todavía no estoy convencido. (*I read the research, but I'm not*





*convinced yet.)*

Deberías tramitar tu visa ahora, porque se demora un montón. *(You should process your visa now, because it takes a long time.)*

## Grammar Points

Here, we go over the conjugations in the Preterit Indicative Tense for the verbs "decir" (to say) and "sugerir" (to suggest). Recall that the Preterit Tense applies to completed actions in the past. Some common expressions are used with these two verbs to explain what someone said to you. For example:

"me dijo que..." (he told me that...)

"me sugirió que..." (he suggested to me that...)

\*Notice how the stems of the verbs change when we conjugate them in the Preterit Indicative as you observe the table below for a complete list of the conjugations.

DECIR (TO SAY)	SUGERIR (TO SUGGEST)
yo dije (I said)	yo sugerí (I suggested)
tú dijiste (you said)	tú sugeriste (you suggested)
él dijo (he said)	él sugirió (he suggested)
ella dijo (she said)	ella sugirió (she suggested)
usted dijo (you said *formal)	usted sugirió (you suggested *formal)
nosotros dijimos (we said)	nosotros sugerimos (we suggested)
vosotros dijisteis (you all said)	vosotros sugeristeis (you all suggested)
ellos dijeron (they said)	ellos sugirieron (they suggested)
ellas dijeron (they said *feminine)	ellas sugirieron (they suggested *feminine)
ustedes dijeron (you all said)	ustedes sugirieron (you all suggested)



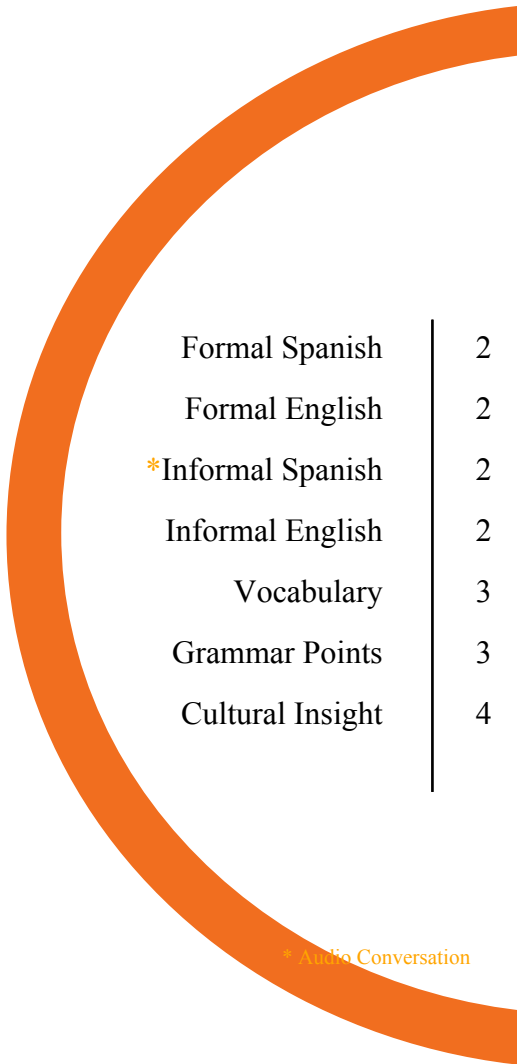
## Cultural Insight

When dealing with the bureaucracy of any country, staying calm and helping them in any way the ask is of the utmost importance. The majority of people who deal with customs are generally not in a good mood due to traveling and many other factors. In my experience, this leaves many agents on the defensive and once they see an individual becoming agitated, they will become agitated. When dealing with any official, please stay calm, smile, and have understanding when going through any procedure you are required to undergo. Remember, if not, this experience may become a lot longer and uncomfortable for you.



# Beginner Lesson S2

## I think there was a misunderstanding



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\* Audio Conversation



## Formal Spanish

---

FATIMA ¡Oiga, Daniel, le esperé por dos horas, pero usted nunca llegó!  
DANIEL ¿Qué? ¿En qué habíamos quedado?  
FATIMA Me dijo que a las dos me iba a recoger de mi casa.  
DANIEL ¿Que le iba a recoger? Yo tenía entendido que a las doce le iba a llamar.  
FATIMA Bacán...  
DANIEL No... no... me parece es que hubo una confusión.

## Formal English

---

FATIMA Listen, Daniel, I waited for you for two hours, but you never showed up!  
DANIEL What? What had we planned on?  
FATIMA You told me that at two you were going to pick me up from my house.  
DANIEL That I was going to pick you up? I had understood that at twelve I was going to call you.  
FATIMA Awesome...  
DANIEL No... no... I think there was a misunderstanding.

## Informal Spanish

---

FATIMA ¡Oye, Daniel, te esperé por dos horas, pero nunca llegaste!  
DANIEL ¿Qué? ¿En qué habíamos quedado?  
FATIMA Me dijiste que a las dos me ibas a recoger de mi casa.  
DANIEL ¿Que te iba a recoger? Yo tenía entendido que a las doce te iba a llamar.  
FATIMA Bacán...  
DANIEL No... no... me parece es que hubo una confusión.  
[Click here for entire dialogue.](#)

## Informal English

---

FATIMA Hey, Daniel, I waited for you for two hours, but ya' never showed up!  
DANIEL What? What had we planned on?  
FATIMA You told me that at two you were going to pick me up from my house.  
DANIEL That I was going to pick you up? I had understood that at twelve I was going to call you.  
FATIMA Awesome...  
DANIEL No... no... I think there was a misunderstanding.



## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
quedar	to arrange to meet, to plan on	verb	<i>Latin</i> , quietare (to calm, to rest)
recoger	to pick up	verb	<i>Medieval Latin</i> , recolligĕre (to gather up)
haber	to have, there to be	verb	<i>Latin</i> , habere (to have)
entendido	understood	past participle	<i>Latin</i> , intendĕre (to stretch forth)
bacán	awesome, cool (slang)	adjective	<i>unknown</i>
confusión	confusion, misunderstanding	fem. noun	<i>Latin</i> , confusĭo (disturbance, confusion)

### Sample Sentences

¿En qué habían quedado? (*What had you all planned on?*)

Quedamos a las once para salir juntos. (*We arranged to meet at eleven in order to leave together.*)

¿Me puedes recoger a las ocho? (*Can you pick me up at eight?*)

El chofer nos recogió a las ocho en punto. *The driver picked us up at eight on the dot.*

Hubo una gran fiesta. (*There was a huge party.*)

Hay vino en la mesa. (*There is wine on the table.*)

No te había entendido bien y por eso me confundí. (*I hadn't understood you clearly, and that's why I got confused.*)

¿Has visto el nuevo parque? Es bien bacán. (*Have you seen the new park? It's really cool.*)

Hubo una confusión y por eso no nos entendimos bien. (*There was a misunderstanding, and that's why we didn't understand each other well.*)

### Grammar Points

The Pluperfect Preterite tense expresses a past action anterior to another action in the past with an indeterminate interval between the two. Thus, we say "Yo había salido, cuando me llamaste" (I had left, when you called), where we know that the "leaving" occurred before the "calling", but we don't know how much time elapsed between the two actions.

To form the Pluperfect Preterite, we use the Imperfect Tense of the auxiliary verb "haber" and a participle. The only irregular forms occur when the participle is irregular. The forms of "haber" are the same no matter what kind of participle



is used. The regular participle in Spanish is formed by removing the infinitive ending and adding "-ado" for verbs of the first conjugation (-AR) and "-ido" for verbs of the second (-ER) and third (-IR) conjugations.

## FORMATION:

Example:

Infinitive - llamar (to call)

Participle - llamado (called)

yo había llamado (I had called)

tú habías llamado (you had called)

él había llamado (he had called)

ella había llamado (she had called)

usted había llamado (you had called) formal

nosotros habíamos llamado (we had called)

vosotros habíais llamado (you all had called)

ellos habían llamado (they had called)

ellas habían llamado (they had called \*feminine)

ustedes habían llamado (you all had called)

## Cultural Insight

When learning any new language it is important to understand that many, many mistakes will be made. When traveling around any Spanish speaking country, you will be surprised with the helpfulness of many native speakers when they see that you are trying to speak their language. Do not feel self conscious, trust us, it is evident that you aren't from there. Sit back, relax, and enjoy your mistakes. Mistakes made in the present lay the foundation for the correct way to speak in the future. If you find yourself with a cell phone, try text messaging. It is an informal way to practice your reading comprehension, and it gives you a visual cue for verb tenses. I have found it to be very useful. You will be surprised just how much Spanish you can learn in a very short time.





## Beginner Lesson S2

Then, why didn't you call me?

8

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## Formal Spanish

---

- DANIEL Escúcheme, Fatima, le entendí mal. Yo pensaba que no teníamos nada en concreto.
- FATIMA Es que usted me dejó un mensaje que decía 'ya nos vemos a las dos'. Entonces esperaba verle.
- DANIEL ¿Qué? Yo había entendido que a las doce y que le iba a llamar, no recojer.
- FATIMA O sea, usted quiere decir que hubo un malentendido.
- DANIEL Precisamente.
- FATIMA ¿Precisamente?
- DANIEL Sí. No me dejé entender. Lo siento.
- FATIMA Entonces, ¿por qué no me llamó?

## Formal English

---

- DANIEL Listen to me, Fatima, I misunderstood you. I thought that we did not have anything set in stone.
- FATIMA The thing is that you left a message that said 'see at at two'. So, I expected to see you.
- DANIEL What? I had understood that at twelve I was going to call you, not pick you up.
- FATIMA Then you mean to say there was a misunderstanding.
- DANIEL Precisely.
- FATIMA Precisely?
- DANIEL Yes. I did not make myself clear. I am sorry.
- FATIMA Then, why didn't you call me?

## Informal Spanish

---

- DANIEL Escúchame, Fatima, te entendí mal. Yo pensaba que no teníamos nada en concreto.
- FATIMA Es que me dejaste un mensaje que decía 'ya nos vemos a las dos'. Entonces esperaba verte.
- DANIEL ¿Qué? Yo había entendido que a las doce y que te iba a llamar, no recojer.

FATIMA O sea, quieres decir que hubo un malentendido.  
DANIEL Precisamente.  
FATIMA ¿Precisamente?  
DANIEL Sí. No me dejé entender. Lo siento.  
FATIMA Entonces, ¿por qué no me llamaste?

## Informal English

DANIEL Listen to me, Fatima, I misunderstood ya'. I thought that we didn't have anything set in stone.  
FATIMA The thing is that you left a message that said 'see at at two'. So, I expected to see ya'.  
DANIEL What? I had understood that at twelve I was going to call you, not pick you up.  
FATIMA Then you mean to say there was a misunderstanding.  
DANIEL Precisely.  
FATIMA Precisely?  
DANIEL Yeah. I didn't make myself clear. I'm sorry.  
FATIMA Then, why didn't you call me?

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
entender	to understand	verb	Latin, intendere (to extend, to direct towards something)
mensaje	message	masc. noun	French, messatge (message)
concreto	concrete	masc. noun	Latin, concretere (to grow together)
malentendido	misunderstanding	masc. noun	Latin, malus (bad) + intendere (to aim at)
precisamente	precisely	adverb	Latin, praec sus (brief)
dejarse entender	to make oneself clear	verbal phrase	Latin, lax re (to loosen) + intendere (to aim at)

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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Creo que te entendí mal. ¿Me lo puedes repetir?	<i>(I think I misunderstood you. Can you repeat it for me?)</i>
Entendemos el inglés. (We understand English.)	
¿A qué hora me enviaste el mensaje de texto?	<i>(What time did you send me the text message?)</i>
Diego recibe muchos mensajes de su padre. (Diego receives many messages from his father.)	
No tengo nada en concreto. ¿Qué quisieras hacer esta noche?	<i>(I don't have anything set in stone. What would you like to do tonight?)</i>
Parece que hubo un malentendido. Aclarémoslo.	<i>(It looks like there was a misunderstanding. Let's clear it up.)</i>
Es precisamente lo que quiero.	<i>(It's precisely what I want.)</i>
¿Me dejo entender?	<i>(Do I make myself clear?)</i>

## Grammar Points

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4

Today we are looking at "la formación de los adverbios" (the formation of adverbs). Adverbs serve to modify adjectives, verbs, and other adverbial phrases. Adverbs may be formed in Spanish by adding the ending "-mente" to the feminine form of practically any adjective. If the adjective has only one form rather than both masculine and feminine forms, the same rule applies. Simply add "-mente" to the end to construct the adverb.

### Observe the examples below:

#### MASCULINE/FEMININE ADJECTIVES:

Adjective: "rápido, -a" (rapid).

Adverb: "rápidamente" (rapidly, quickly).

Adjective: "lento, -a" (slow).

Adverb: "lentamente" (slowly).

Adjective: "obvio, -a" (obvious).

Adverb: "obviamente" (obviously).

Adjective: "sincero, -a" (sincere).

Adverb: "sinceramente" (sincerely).

**ADJECTIVES WITH ONLY ONE FORM:** Adjective: "feliz" (happy).

Adverb: "felizmente" (happily).

Adjective: "fácil" (easy).

Adverb: "fácilmente" (easily).

Adjective: "triste" (sad).

Adverb: "tristemente" (sadly).

Note that if the adjective has a written accent, the adverb retains it. For example, the adverb "fácilmente" (easily) has an accent on the -a-, just as there is an accent on the -a- of the adjective "fácil" (easy).

Now that we have covered the formation of adverbs, let's briefly look at adverbial phrases in Spanish. Adverbial phrases are very common, and often become necessary if the ending "-mente" with the adjective forms a compound that is disagreeable to the Spanish ear. When the adverb sounds strange, native speakers often form an adverbial phrase to replace it. This is done by using the word "con" (with) and the noun that is the root of the adverb being replaced.

For example, watch how the following sentence with an adverb can be changed to an adverbial phrase:

"Cumplió su trabajo *prudentemente*." (He prudently finished his work).

"Cumplió su trabajo *con prudencia*." (He finished his work with prudence).

\*Notice that the adverb "prudentemente" (prudently) is converted into the adverbial phrase "con prudencia" (with prudence) by making use of the noun at the root of the original adverb.

We can do this with other adverbs as well:

"Aprobé el examen *fácilmente*." (I passed the exam easily).

"Aprobé el examen *con facilidad*." (I passed the exam with ease).

## Cultural Insight

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On the topic of misunderstandings...When learning another language one will make mistakes during practice. This may result in many, many misunderstandings. In my experience, the best way to move through this sometimes awkward situation is to take it in stride. Slow down, don't get flustered, and try to speak slower. This will happen many times if you are purchasing a service and no one speaks English. Be careful though, this is where many people will get taken advantage of. It is always easier for one to pretend they do not understand you when they can make some money off of it. This is not where you should take the misunderstanding in stride.



## Beginner Lesson S2

You'd better! I'm waiting for you...

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## Formal Spanish

---

DANIEL No le llamé a las dos porque yo entendí a las doce, o sea, a la medianoche.

FATIMA Realmente he pasado un mal día, pensando que no le importo.

DANIEL Claro que usted me importa. ¿Qué dice si le recojo ahorita? Le invito a cenar.

FATIMA ¿Usted me recojerá de verdad?

DANIEL Síiiiií... sí. Le recojo de todas maneras. Insisto.

FATIMA Más le vale. Le espero.

## Formal English

---

DANIEL I did not call you at two, because I understood twelve, I mean, midnight.

FATIMA I have really had a bad day, thinking that you do not care about me.

DANIEL Of course I care about you. What do you say I pick you up right now? Dinner is on me.

FATIMA Are you really going to pick me up?

DANIEL Yesssssss.... yes. I'll pick you up no matter what. I insist.

FATIMA You had better. I am waiting for you.

## Informal Spanish

---

DANIEL No te llamé a las dos porque yo entendí a las doce, o sea, a la medianoche.

FATIMA Realmente he pasado un mal día, pensando que no te importo.

DANIEL Claro que me importas. ¿Qué dices si te recojo ahorita? Te invito a cenar.

FATIMA ¿Me recojerás de verdad?

DANIEL Síiiiií... sí. Te recojo de todas maneras. Insisto.

FATIMA Más te vale. Te espero.

## Informal English

---

DANIEL I didn't call you at two, because I understood twelve, I mean, midnight.

FATIMA I've really had a bad day, thinking that you don't care about me.

DANIEL Of course I care about you. What do you say I pick you up right now? Dinner is on me.

FATIMA Are you really going to pick me up?

DANIEL Yesssssss.... yes. I'll pick you up no matter what. I insist.

FATIMA You'd better. I'm waiting for you.



## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
verdad	truth, true	fem. noun	Latin, veritas (truth, right, true)
valer	to be worth, to cost	verb	Latin, valere (to be strong, to be powerful)
insistir	to insist	verb	Latin, insistere (to stand upon)
medianoche	midnight	fem. noun	Latin, medius (middle) + nox (night)
importar	to matter	verb	Latin, importare (to bring in, to cause)
manera	manner, way	fem. noun	Latin, manuaría (way of handling)

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

¿Me recojerás de verdad, o mejor que pida un servicio de taxi?	<i>(Are you really going to pick me up, or had I better request a service?)</i>
Para decir la verdad, la elocuencia no es necesaria.	<i>(In order to tell the truth, eloquence isn't necessary.)</i>
Más te vale que me escuches bien, porque no te lo repetiré.	<i>(You'd better listen to me closely, because I won't repeat it for you.)</i>
Valdrá la pena estudiar para mi examen.	<i>(It will be worth the effort to study for my exam.)</i>
Javier insiste en ayudarme por más que yo no quiera su ayuda.	<i>(Javier insists on helping me, no matter how much I don't want his help.)</i>
Si tú insistes, te acompañaré a la fiesta.	<i>(If you insist, I'll go with you to the party.)</i>
Empieza la fiesta a la medianoche.	<i>(The party starts at midnight.)</i>
Lo que más me importa es que lleguemos a tiempo.	<i>(What matters to me most is that we arrive on time.)</i>
Llegaremos a tiempo de todas maneras.	<i>(We'll arrive on time no matter what.)</i>

## Grammar Points

The Preterite Perfect Tense express an action in the past that is in some way linked to the Present or that is near the Present. With the Preterite Perfect, we know that this action took place before the moment of speech, but we don't know when it stopped. In some cases, the action (especially when it expresses an emotion, can even flow into the present). For this reason, the Preterite Perfect is very often used with temporal expressions, which help clarify when the action took place. To form the Preterite Perfect, we use the Present Tense of the auxiliary verb "haber" and a participle. The only



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irregular forms occur when the participle is irregular. The forms of "haber" are the same no matter what kind of participle is used. The regular participle in Spanish is formed by removing the infinitive ending and adding "-ado" for verbs of the first conjugation (-AR) and "-ido" for verbs of the second (-ER) and third (-IR) conjugations.

In the lesson conversation, we see the Preterite Perfect being used:

"Realmente *he pasado* un mal día." (I've really had a bad day.)

Notice that the use of the Preterite Perfect implies that the action of having a bad day started in the past but carries on into the present moment. We get the idea that that one has had a bad day and that day is still in progress. If we wanted to express that we had a bad day yesterday or farther in the past, we would use the Absolute Preterite Tense.

Refer to the Grammar Bank in the Learning Center to see all the constructions for the Preterite Perfect and Absolute Preterite. There is a wealth of information on the topic for you to explore.

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## Cultural Insight

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4

At some point or another, we all misunderstand something or someone. When we're studying Spanish as a second language, the probability of misunderstanding increases quick a bit. So, you've got to be prepared for this. Learning phrases like "¿me entiendes?" (do you understand me?) or "ya veo" (so I see) will enable you to keep closer contact with the person whom you're speaking to. They help you engage people in a new way (a new language). If you're fallen into a lengthy conversation with someone (\*this often happens over drinks), you may find that your partner has taken over the conversation, since you were not able to keep up. If you don't say anything, communication will be lost. But with a phrase like "a ver si te he entendido correctamente" (let me see if I've understood you right), you can jump back into the conversation and try to pick up where you "left off".

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## Beginner Lesson S2

I e-like verry much the Junited Estates...

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## Formal Spanish

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HECTOR Usted no es costarricense...  
PAUL No, soy de los estados unidos, de Philadelphia mejor dicho.  
HECTOR I e-like verry much the Junited Estates...  
PAUL Jaja... ¿Qué le parece si hablamos en castellano, está bien?  
HECTOR ¡Claro! Tiene que practicar. Yo soy Hector Ramirez de la Peña. ¿Con quién tengo el gusto?  
PAUL Paul Feldman. Encantado, Hector.

## Formal English

---

HECTOR You're not Costa Rican...  
PAUL No, I'm from the United States, Philadelphia that is.  
HECTOR I e-like verry much the Junited Estates...  
PAUL I'm glad, Sir. But I prefer to speak Spanish, is that OK?  
HECTOR Of course. You have to practice. I am Hector Ramirez de la Peña. With whom do I have the pleasure?  
PAUL Paul Feldman. Nice to meet you, Hector.

## Informal Spanish

---

HECTOR Tú no eres costarricense...  
PAUL No, soy de los estados unidos, de Philadelphia mejor dicho.  
HECTOR I e-like verry much the Junited Estates...  
PAUL Jaja... ¿Qué te parece si hablamos en castellano, está bien?  
HECTOR ¡Claro! Tienes que practicar. Yo soy Hector Ramirez de la Peña. ¿Con quién tengo el gusto?  
PAUL Paul Feldman. Encantado, Hector.

## Informal English

---

HECTOR Ya' aren't Costa Rican...  
PAUL No, I'm from the United States, Philadelphia that is.  
HECTOR I e-like verry much the Junited Estates...  
PAUL I'm glad. I prefer to speak Spanish, is that OK?  
HECTOR Of course. Ya' have to practice. I'm Hector Ramirez de la Peña. With whom do I have the pleasure?  
PAUL Paul Feldman. Nice to meet ya', Hector.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
alegrarse	to make glad, to delight	pronominal verb	<i>Latin</i> , alecris (a joyful dance)
mejor	better, best	adjective, adverb	<i>Latin</i> , melior (better)
preferir	to prefer, to rather	verb	<i>Latin</i> , praeferre (to bear before, to prefer)
quien	who, that, whom	pronoun	<i>Latin</i> , qu?m (which)
practicar	to practice	verb	<i>Greek</i> , praktik? (practice)
encantado, -a	enchanted, delighted	adjective, interjection, past participle	<i>Latin</i> , incantatus (enchanted)

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Me alegra que estes conmigo.	<i>I am glad that you are with me.</i>
Es una ciudad pequeña, o mejor dicho, es un gran pueblo.	<i>It's is small city, or better yet, it's a large town.</i>
Los futbolistas argentinos son los mejores. (The Argentine soccer players are the best.)	
Yo prefiriría ver solo una exhibición.	<i>(I would rather see just one exhibition.)</i>
Ellos prefieren viajar en avión.	<i>(They prefer to travel by plane.)</i>
Quien paga elige.	<i>(He who pays gets to choose.)</i>
¿Quién fue?	<i>(Who was it?)</i>
Tengo que practicar.	<i>(I have to practice.)</i>
Estoy encantado de ir a la playa.	<i>(I'm delighted to go to the beach.)</i>

## Grammar Points

Here, we look over relative and interrogative pronouns. A pronoun is a word that takes the place of a noun. We say that a pronoun is a "Relative Pronoun" when it carries out a function in the sentence that it belongs to. In English, we use the relative pronouns "who" and "whom". In Spanish, "quien" or "quienes" are utilized to the same effect. Relative pronouns are inserted into sentences, which can be thought of as greater units. But these relative pronouns also have an and explicit or implicit "antecedent".

An antecedent is just the "nominal expression", that is, the "noun phrase, to which some pronouns make reference. This may seem more difficult than it really is. You do this all the time in your native language without having to think about the mechanics of it.



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These are expressions like, "mi primo, quien es escritor, tiene una vida solitaria" (my cousin, who's a writer, has a solitary life). Another example would be, "la mujer, con quien me encontré en la calle, es mi profesora" (the woman, whom I ran into on the street, is my teacher).

\*Keep in mind that when a pronoun is required after a preposition and refers to a person, "quien" must be used; never "que" or "cual", both of which are relative pronouns that never refer to people.

Also, remember that "quién" is accented when it's used as an interrogative expression, such as "¿con quién tengo el gusto?" (with whom do I have the pleasure?). Whereas relative pronouns refer to an antecedent, a noun that's previously mentioned; subject pronouns do not accompany a noun, they don't make a direct reference to any antecedent.

Formation:

\*As a relative pronoun, "quien" only shows number, not gender.

## MASCULINE & FEMININE SINGULAR

quien

## MASCULINE & FEMININE PLURAL

quienes

Here are a few sample sentences to reinforce what we have learned:

"El chico con quien saliste el fin de semana pasada es el hermano de mi amigo."  
(The guy who you went out with last week is my friend's brother.)

"¿Con quién tengo el gusto?"  
(With whom do I have the pleasure.)

"Vamos a salir con los hermanos Pérez, con quienes hemos compartido muchas mesas."  
(We're going to go out with the Perez brothers, whom we've shared many a table with.)

"Dime con quien andas y te dire quien eres."  
(Tell me who you hang out with and I'll tell you who you are.)

\*Notice that there are no accents on either "quien" in the singular or "quienes" in the plural. Don't confuse the usage of relative pronouns with that of interrogative pronouns, pronouns which carry an

accent and are used to ask questions, such as "¿quién llamo?" (who called?) or "¿con quiénes saliste?" (with whom did you leave?).

It's recommendable to study other pronouns while you're on this topic, like "que" and "cual", both of which are used just as much as "quien". Pronouns are useful because they help us make reference to people, place or things which are either implicit or explicit. In this way, they let us build more complex structures, which in turn give us the ability to be more precise.

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## Cultural Insight

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5

The labels Hispanic and Latino are used to collectively refer to the residents of Latin America. When in an international terminal in Latin America, one can easily see how the reality of Latin America is far more diverse than these two words. If one travels to Perú, Guatemala, Mexico, Puerto Rico, The Dominican Republic, or Argentina, the differences of the people are very noticeable. The stereotypical unorganized and hectic Latin American terminal is not the reality in my experience. But be prepared to be approached by a mob of taxi drivers, people willing to help you with your bags, and a mass of welcoming families. It can be overwhelming. Keep your cool and pretend like you've been there plenty of times. But no matter what you do, you cannot avoid the taxis.

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## Beginner Lesson S2

I'll give you a special discount

11

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## Formal Spanish

---

HECTOR	¡Suerte! ¡Que le vaya bien!
PAUL	Gracias. De igual manera.
TAXISTA 1	¿Taxi, señor? ¿Necesita servicio de movilidad? Lo llevo, señor. ¿A dónde va? Le doy un buen precio.
PAUL	Ehhh... No, gracias. Por favor, déjeme pasar.
TAXISTA 2	¿Movilidad, señor? ¿A dónde lo llevo?
PAUL	A la plaza de armas, al Hotel el Patio. ¿Cuánto está?
TAXISTA 2	No se preocupe. Le daré un descuento especial.

## Formal English

---

HECTOR	Good luck! Hope it goes well for you!
PAUL	Thanks. Same to you.
TAXI 1	Taxi, Sir? Do you need transportation service? Where am I taking you, Sir? Where are you going? I'll give you a good deal.
PAUL	Uhh..., no thanks. Please, let me through.
TAXI 2	Transportation, Sir. Where am I taking you?
PAUL	To the Plaza de Armas, to the hostel El Pation. How much is it?
TAXI 2	Don't you worry. I'll give you a special discount.

## Informal Spanish

---

HECTOR	¡Suerte! ¡Que te vaya bien!
PAUL	Gracias. De igual manera.
TAXISTA 1	¿Taxi, señor? ¿Necesitas servicio de movilidad? Lo llevo, señor. ¿A dónde vas? Te doy un buen precio.
PAUL	Ehhh... No, gracias. Por favor, déjame pasar.
TAXISTA 2	¿Movilidad, señor? ¿A dónde lo llevo?
PAUL	A la plaza de armas, al Hotel el Patio. ¿Cuánto está?
TAXISTA 2	No te preocupes. Te daré un descuento especial.

## Informal English

---

HECTOR	Good luck! Hope it goes well for ya'!
PAUL	Thanks. Same to you.
TAXI 1	Taxi, Sir? Do ya' need transportation service? Where am I taking ya', Sir? Where are ya' going? I'll give ya' a good deal.
PAUL	Uhh..., no thanks. Please, let me through.
TAXI 2	Transportation, Sir. Where am I taking ya'?

PAUL  
TAXI 2

To the Plaza de Armas, to the hostel El Pacion. How much is it?  
Don't you worry. I'll give ya' a special discount.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
igual	just the same, equal, likewise	adjective, masc. noun, adverb	<i>Latin</i> , æquus (level)
servicio	service	masc. noun	<i>Latin</i> , servitium (slavery, servitude)
movilidad	transportation	fem. noun	<i>Latin</i> , mov?re (to move)
descuento	discount	masc. noun	<i>Latin</i> , dis (away, not) + comp?tus (computation)
especial	special	adjective	<i>Latin</i> , speci?lis (individual)
plaza	plaza, square	fem. noun	<i>Latin</i> , platt?a (broad way, street)

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Me da igual.	<i>(It's just the same to me.)</i>
Esa compañía ofrece muchos servicios.	<i>(That company offers many services.)</i>
¿Cómo consigo servicio de movilidad?	<i>(How can I get transportation service?)</i>
Le daré un descuento especial.	<i>(I'll give you a special discount.)</i>
Le puedo ofrecer un buen descuento.	<i>(I can offer you a good discount.)</i>
Le daré un descuento especial.	<i>(I'll give you a special discount.)</i>
Vamos a la plaza en el centro.	<i>(Let's go to the plaza downtown.)</i>
Justo anteayer te vi en la plaza.	<i>(Just the day before yesterday I saw you in the plaza.)</i>
Hay un montón de gente en la plaza.	<i>(There are a ton of people in the plaza.)</i>

## Grammar Points

This grammar point focuses on the usage of the Indicative Mood of the Future Tense. We see this tense in today's conversation:

"Te daré un descuento especial" (I'll give you a special discount).

The Future Tense signifies a future action independent of any other action. It refers to an event that

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will happen after the moment of speech: 'I will call'; 'they will be late'; 'you will be OK', etc.

To form the Future Tense of the Indicative Mood, the entire infinitive form is used, and to this we simply add the future endings. The same holds true for most verbs. However, there are some verbs that don't follow the paradigms in the Future Tense and are accordingly called "irregular".

They are: caber (to fit), poner (to put), decir (to say, to tell), haber (to have), salir (to go out, to leave), hacer (to make, to do), poder (to be able, can), tener (to have), querer (to want), valer (to be worth), saber (to know), venir (to come).

Let's take a moment to examine one of the verbs that we had in today's lesson. Look over the conjugations below to see how we form the verb "dar" (to give) in the Future Tense:

yo daré (I will give)

tú darás (you will give)

él dará (he will give)

ella dará (she will give)

usted dará (you will give \*formal)

nosotros daremos (we will give)

vosotros daréis (you all will give)

ellos darán (they will give)

ellas darán (they will give \*feminine)

ustedes darán (you all will give)

\*Check out the Grammar Bank in the Learning Center for more information on the Future Tense!

## Cultural Insight

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In many large Latin American cities, there are a lot of different kinds of taxi services, ranging from professional chauffeurs to gypsy cabs. Everyone has a different approach to taking a cab. Some people just get in. Others take a good look at the cabbie and if he's not an old man, who would seem less likely to be a thief. Another strategy is to sit behind the driver once you get in, since you will be able to see exactly what he sees. On the other hand, it would be a mistake to think that every taxi you take in a Latin American city could be dangerous. There are many reputable companies, and many of the people who work informally by driving a gypsy cab are also just trying to make a little extra money.



## Beginner Lesson S2

The ride of your life!

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## Formal Spanish

---

PAUL	¿A dónde me lleva, señor!?
TAXISTA	Es un atajo que conozco. No se preocupe.
PAUL	No me gusta la ruta. Estamos entrando a un barrio bravo. Quiero bajarme aquí mismo. ¡Pare el auto! ¡Me bajo!
TAXISTA	Usted me debe la tarifa. Son tres ciento soles.
PAUL	No te deajo nada. ¡Sal de mi vista antes de que llame a la policía!

## Formal English

---

PAUL	Where are you taking me, Sir!?
DRIVER	It's a shortcut I know. Don't worry.
PAUL	I don't like this route. We're going into a dangerous neighborhood. I want to get out this minute. Stop the car! I'm getting out!
DRIVER	You owe me the fare. It's three hundred Soles.
PAUL	I'm not leaving you anything. Get out of my sight before I call the police!

## Informal Spanish

---

PAUL	¿A dónde me llevas, señor!?
TAXISTA	Es un atajo que conozco. No te preocupes.
PAUL	No me gusta la ruta. Estamos entrando a un barrio bravo. Quiero bajarme aquí mismo. ¡Para el auto! ¡Me bajo!
TAXISTA	Me debes la tarifa. Son tres ciento soles.
PAUL	No te deajo nada. ¡Sal de mi vista antes de que llame a la policía!

## Informal English

---

PAUL	Where are ya' taking me, Sir!?
DRIVER	It's a shortcut I know. Don't worry.
PAUL	I don't like this route. We're going into a dangerous neighborhood. I want to get out this minute. Stop the car! I'm getting out!
DRIVER	Ya' owe me the fare. It's three hundred Soles.
PAUL	I'm not leaving ya' anything. Get out of my sight before I call the police!

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
barrio	neighborhood	masc. noun	Arabic, barr? (of an open

			area)
atajo	shortcut	masc. noun	<i>Latin, talia?re (to cut through)</i>
ruta	route	fem. noun	<i>Latin, rupta (broken road)</i>
vista	sight, view	fem. noun	<i>Latin, vista (distant view)</i>
antes de que	before	adverbial conjunction	<i>Latin, ante (before) + de (of) + quid (something)</i>
auto	car	masc. noun	<i>Latin, actus (act)</i>

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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Es mejor no pasar por los barrios bravos.	<i>(It's better not to go through the rough neighborhoods.)</i>
Conozco un atajo por ahí.	<i>(I know a shortcut over there.)</i>
Esta ruta es más larga, pero el paisaje es más bonito.	<i>(This route is longer, but the landscape is nicer.)</i>
¡Sal de mi vista! Ya no quiero verte más.	<i>(Get out of my sight! I don't want to see you ever again.)</i>
Llárame antes de que te vayas.	<i>(Call me before you leave.)</i>
¿Por qué no me has devuelto el auto?	<i>(Why haven't you given me back my car?)</i>
Una computadora es como un auto: siempre requiere mantenimiento.	<i>(A computer is like a car: it always requires maintenance.)</i>

## Grammar Points

Today we cover Adverbial Conjunctions. What is an adverb? Let's think about it. It's a word that doesn't change forms. Its function is to compliment the meaning of the verb, of an adjective or of another adverb in a certain sequence. Now, what about a conjunction? What is this? A conjunction is a word that doesn't change forms and that triggers different types of subordinated clauses or that joins words or sequences that are syntactically equivalent.

So then, an Adverbial Conjunction indicates a pending, hypothetical action or state. In Spanish, these subordinated clauses after an adverbial conjunction are typically formed in the Subjunctive Mood.

*For example:*

"llámame antes de que te vayas." (call me before you go).



"Iré contigo a condición de que me invites un café." (I'll go with you on the condition that you buy me a coffee.)

"A menos que me recojas no podré ir." (Unless you pick me up, I won't be able to go.)

"Con tal de que me devuelves el auto a las cinco en punto, te lo presto." (I'll lend you my car as long as you bring it back at five on the dot.)

"En el caso de que te olvides quien eres, mírate en el espejo." (In case you forget who you are, look at yourself in the mirror.)

*Of course, we cannot provide an exhaustive list of adverbial conjunctions, but the list below should be useful as you begin to recognize these phrases in relation to the tense of the clause which they subordinate.*

## Common Adverbial Conjunctions:

a condición de que / on the condition that

a menos que / unless

a no ser que / unless

antes de que / before

con tal de que / provided that

en caso de que / in case

para que / so that

sin que / without

Let's take a closer look at how these adverbial conjunctions triggers a subordinate clause with a verb in the Subjunctive Mood. For example, in today's conversation we see this phrase: "Sal de mi vista antes de que llame a la policía" (Get out of my sight, before I call the police!).

Here, the main clause is "sal de mi vista" and the verb in this clause is "sal", which is the informal singular command of the verb "salir" (to get out, to leave): "sal de mi vista" (get out of my sight). Then comes the adverbial conjunction which indicates to us that a subordinate clause is on its way: "*antes de que llame a la policía*" (*before I call the police*). So, in this subordinate clause, the verb is "llame", which has been conjugated to the present tense of the subjunctive mood.



\*It's important to recognize that even though we're using the "present" tense, since it's in the subjunctive mood, the action "would take" place in the future, hypothetical as it may be.

## Cultural Insight

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Taking a unregistered cab is a dangerous risk. Without any regulation you really are taking your safety in your own hands. Not all unregistered cabs are dishonest, but there is a risk of being robbed or worse, especially if you are a tourist. It is recommended that you always take a licensed taxi. These are all registered with a central office, either private or governmental. If there is any incident, you are protected more than if you are simply with someone who just picked you up. Remember, it is strongly recommended to avoid these taxi's at all costs. It is illegal and highly dangerous. Heed our warnings!



## Beginner Lesson S2

It looks like you've been robbed

13

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## Formal Spanish

---

- RECEPCIONISTA Aquí tengo su reserva. Es, usted, el señor Paul Feldman, ¿cierto?  
PAUL Sí, soy yo. Aquí tiene mi pasaporte.  
RECEPCIONISTA Perfecto. ¿Desearía pagar ahora o al salir?  
PAUL Prefiero pagar ahora... A ver... ¿¡Qué!? ¿¡Dónde está mi billetera!?  
RECEPCIONISTA Hay un hueco en el bolsillo trasero de su pantalón. Parece que le han robado, señor.  
PAUL ¡Estoy frito! ¿Señor, disculpe si lo molesto, pero podría usar la computadora para mandar un correo? Como usted sabe, es muy urgente.  
RECEPCIONISTA Por supuesto. Hay una computadora en el lobby, pasando los muebles, a la derecha.

## Formal English

---

- RECEPTIONIST I have your reservation here. Sir, you are Mr. Paul Feldman, right?  
PAUL Yes I am. Here's my passport.  
RECEPTIONIST Perfect. Would you care to pay now or when you leave?  
PAUL I prefer to pay now... Let's see... What!? Where is my wallet!?  
RECEPTIONIST There's a hole in the back pocket of your pants. It looks like you've been robbed, Sir.  
PAUL I'm done! Sir, excuse me if I inconvenience you, but could I use the computer to send an email? As you know, it's very urgent.  
RECEPTIONIST Of course. There's a computer in the lobby, just on the other side of the furniture on the right.

## Informal Spanish

---

- RECEPCIONISTA Aquí tengo tu reserva. Eres el señor Paul Feldman, ¿cierto?  
PAUL Sí, soy yo. Aquí tienes mi pasaporte.  
RECEPCIONISTA Perfecto. ¿Desearías pagar ahora o al salir?  
PAUL Prefiero pagar ahora... A ver... ¿¡Qué!? ¿¡Dónde está mi billetera!?  
RECEPCIONISTA Hay un hueco en el bolsillo trasero de tu pantalón. Parece que te han robado, señor.  
PAUL ¡Estoy frito! ¿Señor, disculpa si lo molesto, pero podría usar la

computadora para mandar un correo? Como sabes, es muy urgente.  
RECEPCIONISTA Por supuesto. Hay una computadora en el lobby, pasando los muebles, a la derecha.

## Informal English

RECEPTIONIST I have your reservation here. Sir, you are Mr. Paul Feldman, right?  
PAUL Yeah I am. Here's my passport.  
RECEPTIONIST Perfect. Would ya' care to pay now or when ya' leave?  
PAUL I prefer to pay now... Let's see... What!? Where's my wallet!?  
RECEPTIONIST There's a hole in the back pocket of your pants. It looks like you've been robbed, Sir.  
PAUL I'm done! Sir, excuse me if I inconvenience you, but could I use the computer to send an email? As ya' know, it's very urgent.  
RECEPTIONIST Of course. There's a computer in the lobby, just on the other side of the furniture on the right.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
desear	to desire, to wish, to care for	verb	<i>Latin, desid?um</i> (erotic desire)
hueco	hole	masc. noun	<i>Latin, occ?re</i> (to break off)
ahora	now, just now, right away	adverb, conjunction	<i>Latin, hac hora</i> (at this time)
bolsillo	pocket	masc. noun	<i>Latin, bursa</i> (purse)
trasero, -a	back, behind	adjective, masc. noun	<i>Latin, trans</i> (across, on opposite side)
mueble	piece of furniture	masc. noun	<i>Latin, mob?lis</i> (moveable)

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*¿Qué deseaba, usted?*

(What would you care for?)

*Deseo todo lo mejor para tí*

(I wish all the best for you.)

*Hay un hueco en tu camisa. ¿Qué pasó?*

(There's a hole in your shirt. What happened?)

*Ahora salimos.*

(We leave right away.)

*¿Qué tienes en el bolsillo?*

(What have you got in your pocket?)

*Salgamos por la puerta trasera de la casa.*

(Let's leave through the back door of the house.)

*No quiero llenar el apartamento con muebles.*

(I don't want to fill the apartment up with furniture.)

## Grammar Points

---

The Conditional Tense is formed with the endings '-ía, -ías and -ía' in the singular and with '-íamos, -íais and -ían' in the plural for all regular -AR, -ER and -IR verbs.

The Conditional is used to 1) express a future time in the past; 2) to indicate a conjecture or possibility; 3) to show the softening of a statement; and 4) to show something hypothetical.

The Conditional Tense is generally translated with the infinitive of the verb following either the modal verb "would" or "could". Thus, "yo pensaría" means "I would think" or "I could think".

We also use the verb "poder" in conditional phrases. This is done in today's lesson conversation:

¿Podría usar la computadora? (Could I use the computer?). Another example of the Conditional Tense in today's lesson is the phrase "¿Desearía pagar ahora o al salir?" (Would you care to pay now or when you leave?). This is a very polite and non-confrontational way to speak. You will not hear this used in informal conversation, but in certain formal settings it is quite common.

*Observe a few more examples of the Conditional Tense:*

"Los niños dormirían toda la tarde." (The children would sleep all afternoon.)

"Yo invertiría dinero en eso." (I would invest money in that.)

"Así parecería." (So it would seem.)

\*Notice that for all regular -AR, -ER and -IR verbs, the Conditional endings are the same as we mentioned at the beginning of the Grammar Point. This makes them a lot easier to memorize. What's more, if we think back to the Future Tense, we remember that we also used the complete form of the infinitive, and then we added on the future endings to form the Future Tense. The Conditional Tense requires the complete infinitive of the verb and then the Conditional endings (following the same pattern as the Future), because the Conditional tense is a future tense, although distinct from the Absolute Future Tense. This will become clearer as time goes on and you learn more tenses. For now,



try your best to remember the formation of the Conditional. The context in which it's used will make itself more apparent as you continue to learn.

## Cultural Insight

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Pickpocketing is prevalent in many tourist destinations. It is never a good idea to keep your wallet in your back pocket. Thieves are skillful and generally work in teams. One person will attempt to distract you while someone else will make the play for your wallet or bag. More skillful thieves will cut your pocket without you feeling anything. A money belt, while cliché, is a very good idea. Keep all valuables safely tucked away. Also, it is a very very good idea to keep some money in your shoe. If you do find yourself the victim of theft, you will at least have some money to fall back on. Another good idea is to keep a copy of your passport on you at all times. In the very unfortunate event that your passport is stolen, a photo copy will make it easier for you to retrieve a replacement from your embassy.



## Beginner Lesson S2

You're going to get me pregnant!

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## Formal Spanish

---

ALEJANDRO Buenas noches, señora.  
GABRIELA ¿¡Qué!? ¿señora? Usted me hace sentir vieja. Me va a embarazar.  
ALEJANDRO ¿Embarazar? ¡Jeje...tanto no había pensado! ¿Qué tal si primero guardo su abrigo?  
GABRIELA ¡Qué vergüenza! Quise decir que me iba a avergonzar, no embarazar.  
ALEJANDRO No se preocupe, esto siempre sucede con los anglohablantes.

## Formal English

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ALEJANDRO Good evening, Madam.  
GABRIELA What!? Madam? You make me feel old. You are going to get me pregnant.  
ALEJANDRO Get you pregnant? Hehe... I had not thought of so much! How about if I first take your coat?  
GABRIELA How embarrassing! I meant to say that you were going to embarrass me, not get me pregnant.  
ALEJANDRO Don't worry, this always happens with English-speakers.

## Informal Spanish

---

ALEJANDRO Buenas noches, señora.  
GABRIELA ¿¡Qué!? ¿señora? Me haces sentir vieja. Me vas a embarazar.  
ALEJANDRO ¿Embarazar? ¡Jeje...tanto no había pensado! ¿Qué tal si primero guardo su abrigo?  
GABRIELA ¡Qué vergüenza! Quise decir que me iba a avergonzar, no embarazar.  
ALEJANDRO No se preocupe, esto siempre sucede con los anglohablantes.

## Informal English

---

ALEJANDRO Good evening, Madam.  
GABRIELA What!? Madam? Ya' make me feel old. You're going to get me pregnant.  
ALEJANDRO Get ya' pregnant? Hehe... I hadn't thought of so much! How about if I



first take your coat?  
**GABRIELA** How embarrassing! I meant to say that you were going to embarrass me, not get me pregnant.  
**ALEJANDRO** Don't worry, this always happens with English-speakers.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
viejo, -a	old	adjective	<i>Latin, vet?lus (old)</i>
embarazar	to impregnate	verb	<i>Latin, em (in) + baraça (noose)</i>
avergonzar	to embarrass	verb	<i>Latin, verecund?a (shame)</i>
querer decir	to mean	periphrastic verb phrase	<i>Latin, quaer?re (to seek) + dic?re (to say)</i>
suceder	to happen, to occur, to follow	verb	<i>Latin, succedere (to follow)</i>
anglohablante	English-speaker	masc. noun & fem. noun	<i>Latin, anglus (Englishman) + fabul?ri (to talk)</i>

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>Nuestro carro es viejo.</i>	(Our car is old.)
<i>Siempre me pongo esta casaca vieja.</i>	(I always wear this old jacket.)
<i>Si quieres tener un bebé, deberías embarazarte pronto.</i>	(If you want to have a baby, you should get pregnant soon.)
<i>Me avergonzé después de decir esta tontería.</i>	(I got embarrassed after I said that stupid thing.)
<i>No quise decir eso.</i>	(I didn't mean to say that.)
<i>Eso quiere decir que ya podemos salir.</i>	(That means that we can leave now.)
<i>Esperamos que estas cosas no sucedan a menudo.</i>	(We hope that these things don't happen frequently.)
<i>Los anglohablantes suelen confundir ciertas palabras castellanas.</i>	(English-speakers tend to confuse certain Spanish words.)

## Grammar Points

Today, we study how to express future actions using "la perífrasis" (a unit made up of one verb in a personal form and another in an impersonal form). This way of speaking often takes the place of the Absolute Future.

Here, we conjugate the personal verb "ir" (to go) and then we add the preposition "a" and the infinitive of the future action to be carried out.

Unlike the Absolute Future Tense, which expresses a definitive statement that we will do something, we are expressing "el futuro de intención" (the future of intention), which shows our intention to carry out an action with less absolute certainty.

In order to build this structure we need to know the conjugation of the verb "ir" (to go) in both the imperfect past tense and the present tense.

## FORMATION:

### "ir (personal verb) + a + infinitive (impersonal verb)"

#### PRESENT TENSE:

yo voy a... (I'm going to...)

tú vas a... (You are going to...)

él va a... (He is going to...)

ella va a... (She is going to...)

usted va a... (You are going to...)

nosotros vamos a... (We are going to...)

vosotros vais a... (You all are going to...)

ellos/ellas van a... (They are going to...)

ustedes van a... (You all are going to...)

#### IMPERFECT PAST TENSE:

yo iba a... (I was going to...)

tú ibas a... (You were going to...)

él iba a... (He was going to...)

ella iba a... (She was going to...)

usted iba a... (You were going to...)

nosotros íbamos a... (We were going to...)

vosotros ibais a... (You all were going to...)

ellos/ellas iban a... (They were going to...)

ustedes iban a... (You all were going to...)

### **Look over the following sample sentences to see how we use this construction:**

"Voy a caminar en el parque" (I'm going to walk in the park).

"Vas a hacer tu tarea" (You are going to do your homework).

\*Contrast this to the following use of the Absolute Future:

"Iré a caminar en el parque" (I will go to walk in the park).

"Harás tu tarea" (You will do your homework).

Now observe the difference between Present Tense and Imperfect Past Tense conjugation of the verb

"ir (to go):

"Yo voy a trabajar" (I am going to work).

"Yo iba a trabajar" (I was going to work).

"Tú vas a venir" (You are going to come).

"Tú ibas a venir" (You were going to come).

"Ella va a dormir" (She is going to sleep).

"Ella iba a dormir" (She was going to sleep).

"Nosotros vamos a jugar" (We are going to play).

"Nosotros íbamos a jugar" (We were going to play).

"Vosotros vais a comer algo" (You all are going to eat something).

"Vosotros ibais a comer algo" (You all were going to eat something).

"Ellos van a correr" (They are going to run).

"Ellos iban a correr" (They were going to run).

## Cultural Insight

---

5

Learning comes with blunders. The key is to know how to laugh it off. Generally, people are very patient when one is learning a language (think when someone is trying to learn English. You are generally patient, aren't you?) One blunder that I have made recently goes both ways. Ordering food and beverages are generally fertile ground for blunders and this one address the latter. I wanted to order a pitcher of beer for my friends and I. I asked for "Un pichel" which is the correct spelling but the mistake occurred in the pronunciation. Think of the name Michelle. I pronounced the "ch" like the name when it is harder, like the English "CH". On the other hand, the mistake goes both ways. A friend who is a native Spanish speaker pronounces the name Michelle with a hard "CH" when it is soft. Mistakes go both ways and it is generally the small things that are mistaken and they are generally overlooked as natural. Once again, laugh these off and take the lessons as they come.



## Beginner Lesson S2

Steering your food after lunch

15

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## Formal Spanish

---

ALEJANDRO      ¡Qué rico estuvo el almuerzo! Gracias, Gabriela.  
GABRIELA      No, no hay de qué. ¿Le sirvo una infusión de menta?  
ALEJANDRO      ¿Una infusión de menta? ¿Para qué toma eso?  
GABRIELA      Es bueno para dirigir la comida después del almuerzo.  
ALEJANDRO      ¿¡Dirigir, o digerir...jejeje...!?  
GABRIELA      ¡Oíga, cálese la boca! ¿Se da cuenta que para nosotros los extranjeros estas palabras suenan muy parecidas?

## Formal English

---

ALEJANDRO      Lunch was so delicious! Thank you, Gabriela.  
GABRIELA      No, there is nothing to it. Can I serve you some mint tea?  
ALEJANDRO      Mint tea? What do you drink that for?  
GABRIELA      It is good to steer your meal after lunch.  
ALEJANDRO      To steer! or, to digest... hehehe...!?  
GABRIELA      Hey, shut your mouth! Do you realize that for us foreigners these words sound very similar?

## Informal Spanish

---

ALEJANDRO      ¡Qué rico estuvo el almuerzo! Gracias, Gabi.  
GABRIELA      No, no hay de qué. ¿Te sirvo una infusión de menta?  
ALEJANDRO      ¿Una infusión de menta? ¿Para qué tomas eso?  
GABRIELA      Es bueno para dirigir la comida después del almuerzo.  
ALEJANDRO      ¿¡Dirigir, o digerir...jejeje...!?  
GABRIELA      ¡Oye, cállate la boca! ¿Te das cuenta que para nosotros los extranjeros estas palabras suenan muy parecidas?

## Informal English

---

ALEJANDRO      Lunch was so delicious! Thanks, Gabby.  
GABRIELA      No, there's nothing to it. Can I serve ya' some mint tea?

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ALEJANDRO Mint tea? What do ya' drink that for?  
GABRIELA It's good to steer your meal after lunch.  
ALEJANDRO To steer! or, to digest... hehehe...!?  
GABRIELA Hey, shut your mouth! Do ya' realize that for us foreigners these words sound very similar?

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
infusión	tea, infusion	fem. noun	Latin, infundere (to pour in)
menta	mint	fem. noun	Greek, minth? (mint)
dirigir	to direct, to steer, to address	verb	Latin, dirigere (to guide)
digerir	to digest	verb	Latin, digerere (to sort out, to disperse)
darse cuenta	to realize	verbal phrase	Latin, dare (to give) + contare (to count)
parecido, -a	similar, likeness	adjective, masc. noun	Latin, parere (to appear)

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*La infusión de apio promueve la digestión.*

*La menta es una hierba refrescante.*

*El piloto dirigió el avión hacia la pista de aterrizaje.*

*Es difícil digerir tanta carne. Quiero comer verduras.*

*Espero que te des cuenta de lo que hiciste.*

*Ustedes son muy parecidos... hasta parecen hermanos.*

(Celery tea promotes digestion.)

(Mint is a refreshing herb.)

(The pilot steered the plane towards the landing strip.)

(It's hard to digest so much meat. I want to eat vegetables.)

(I hope that you realize what you did.)

(You guys are really similar... you even seem like brothers.)

## Grammar Points

### Demonstrative adjectives

An adjective modifies the meaning of a noun. For example, "the glass table". Here, "glass" tells us characteristics of the "table" in a descriptive way.

Notice how demonstrative adjectives "demonstrate" the location of the thing being referred to in relation to the speaker and the person being spoken to. Let's not forget that the verb "mostrar", which means "to show" is at the heart of the word "demostrativo" (demonstrative).

What makes a demonstrative adjective different from a regular adjective is that it indicates precisely which person, place or thing is being referred to. For example, instead of describing the table's glassiness, we can refer to it with reference to the person being spoken to. We can say, "this table", which is near us both, "that table", which is only near you, but not me, or "that table over there", which is far from both of us.

Make sure you don't confuse demonstrative "adjectives" with demonstrative "pronouns". For example, "no puedo aceptar ESO" (I can't accept THAT). Here, the word "eso" is actually taking the place of what I can't accept.

So, if it were "un regalo" (a gift), "no puedo aceptar eso" would be the pronominal form of "no puedo aceptar el regalo". To further your understanding of demonstratives, continue onto the study of demonstrative pronouns.

## **REFERRING TO SOMETHING NEAR THE SPEAKER & THE PERSON BEING SPOKEN TO**

Masculine Singular: *este* (this)

Feminine Singular: *esta* (this)

Masculine Plural: *estos* (these)

Feminine Plural: *estas* (these)

### **FOR EXAMPLE:**

"Hace dos años que vivo en *este* departamento."

(I've lived in this apartment for two years.)

"En *este* momento, no me siento bien."

(At this moment, I don't feel well.)

## **REFERRING TO SOMETHING NEAR THE PERSON BEING SPOKEN TO**

Masculine Singular: *ese* (that)

Feminine Singular: *esa* (that)

Masculine Plural: esos (those)

Feminine Plural: esas (those)

FOR EXAMPLE:

"*Ese* tipo nunca va a cambiar la idea."

(That guy is never going to change his mind.)

"¿De quién es *esa* mochila?"

(Whose backpack is that?)

**REFERRING TO SOMETHING DISTANT FROM THE SPEAKER & THE PERSON BEING SPOKEN TO**

Masculine Singular: aquel (that)

Feminine Singular: aquella (that)

Masculine Plural: aquellos (those)

Feminine Plural: aquellas (those)

FOR EXAMPLE:

"En *aquella* época, las cosas eran diferentes."

(Back then, things were different.)

"Me encontraré contigo en *aquel* café donde te vi la semana pasada."

(I'll meet you in that cafe where I saw you last week.)

\*Visit the Learning Center for exercises and more information in the Grammar Bank!

## Cultural Insight

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In regards to blunders, once again, the most important advice that we can offer is to take the mistakes in stride. In my experience, Latin Americans are very funny people and may make a joke but they are usually not malicious. Many people are willing to help you with your questions (especially if you offer to help them with their English.). Just like English, many words have synonyms and the only way to differentiate them is use them in real world situations. Remember, people are happy that you are attempting to learn their language and they will help you with a simple, "¿Cómo se dice?" This simple phrase that means, "How do you say?" will elicit assistance 95% of the time.





## Beginner Lesson S2

Let's Breed!

16

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## Formal Spanish

---

GABRIELA Tenemos que cruzar, ¿no?  
ALEJANDRO Sí... a ver... debe ser la hora del tráfico.  
GABRIELA Así parece... Ahora sí, ¡crucémonos!  
ALEJANDRO ¡Jejeje! Creo que usted quiere decir ¡crucemos!  
GABRIELA ¿Qué quiere decir ¡crucémonos!  
ALEJANDRO Es como decir ¡reproduzcámonos! Jeje...

## Formal English

---

GABRIELA We have got to cross, right?  
ALEJANDRO Yes... let's see... it must be rush hour.  
GABRIELA It seems so. OK now, let's breed!  
ALEJANDRO Hehehe! I think you mean to say 'let's cross'.  
GABRIELA What does 'crucémonos' mean?  
ALEJANDRO It is like saying 'let's reproduce' Hehe...

## Informal Spanish

---

GABRIELA Tenemos que cruzar, ¿no?  
ALEJANDRO Sí... a ver... debe ser la hora del tráfico.  
GABRIELA Así parece... Ahora sí, ¡crucémonos!  
ALEJANDRO ¡Jejeje! Creo que quieres decir ¡crucemos!  
GABRIELA ¿Qué quiere decir ¡crucémonos!  
ALEJANDRO Es como decir ¡reproduzcámonos! Jeje...

## Informal English

---

GABRIELA We've got to cross, right?  
ALEJANDRO Yep... let's see... it must be rush hour.  
GABRIELA It seems so. OK now, let's breed!  
ALEJANDRO Hehehe! I think ya' mean to say 'let's cross'.  
GABRIELA What does 'crucémonos' mean?



ALEJANDRO It's like saying 'let's reproduce' Hehe...

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
cruzar	to cross	verb	Latin, crux (cross)
tráfico	traffic	masc. noun	Italian, trafficare (to carry on trade)
tener que	to have to	verb phrase	Latin, tenēre (to hold) + quid (something)
parecer	to seem, to resemble	verb	Latin, paescere (to appear)
reproducir	to reproduce, to repeat, to recur	verb	Latin, re (again) + producere (to lead forward)
como	how, as, like, about (approximation)	adverb, conjunction, preposition	Latin, quomodo (how, in what way, just as)

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>¿Cruzamos la calle?</i>	(Should we cross the street?)
<i>¡Este tráfico me da tanta cólera!</i>	(This traffic makes me so angry!)
<i>Lo que a ella le fastidia es la bulla del tráfico.</i>	(What annoys her is the noise of the traffic.)
<i>Tengo que hacer mi tarea.</i>	(I have to do my homework.)
<i>El cielo parece infinito.</i>	(The sky seems infinite.)
<i>Así parecería.</i>	(So it would seem.)
<i>A mi parecer, deberíamos implementar múltiples cambios.</i>	(The way I see, we ought to implement multiple changes.)
<i>Parece que ya quieren salir.</i>	(It seems like they want to leave now.)
<i>Las moscas nacen, crecen, se reproducen y mueren en muy poco tiempo.</i>	(Flies are born, grow up, reproduce and die in a very short time.)
<i>Tu hermana es como tú.</i>	(Your sister is just like you.)

## Grammar Points

One class of irregular verbs in the Present Subjunctive is made up of those that have an irregular first person singular form in the Present Indicative. In the Present Subjunctive, all of their forms are based off of that irregularity. Of these irregular forms, we can divide them into two groups:

- 1) Those whose first person singular form of the Present Indicative has a -G in the ending.
- 2) Those whose first person singular form of the Present Indicative has a -ZCO in the ending.

\*Today, we're focusing on this second group. Observe the following verb formations:

**Infinitive: reproducir (to reproduce)** \*(As seen in today's lesson conversation.)

First Person Singular Present Indicative: reproduzco

*Singular --- \* --- Plural*

yo reproduzca (that I may reproduce) --- \* --- nosotros reproduzcamos (that we may reproduce)  
tú reproduzcas (that you may know reproduce) --- \* --- vosotros reproduzcáis (that you all may reproduce) *inf.*

él reproduzca (that he may reproduce) --- \* --- ellos reproduzcan (that they may reproduce) *masc.*  
ella reproduzca (that she may reproduce) --- \* --- ellas reproduzcan (that they may reproduce) *fem.*  
usted reproduzca (that you may reproduce) *form.* --- \* --- ustedes reproduzcan (that you all may reproduce) *form.*

"Espero que este hecho no se reproduzca." (I hope that this may not happen again)  
[i.e.... that this doesn't happen again]

**Infinitive: conocer (to know, to get to know)**

First Person Singular Present Indicative: conozco

*Singular --- \* --- Plural*

yo conozca (that I may know) --- \* --- nosotros conozcamos (that we may know)  
tú conozcas (that you may know) --- \* --- vosotros conozcáis (that you all may know) *inf.*  
él conozca (that he may know) --- \* --- ellos conozcan (that they may know) *masc.*  
ella conozca (that she may know) --- \* --- ellas conozcan (that they may know) *fem.*  
usted conozca (that you may know) *form.* --- \* --- ustedes conozcan (that you all may know) *form.*



"No me imagino que los conozcas." (I don't imagine that you may know them.)  
[i.e. ...*that you know them.*]

## **Infinitive: nacer (to be born)**

First Person Singular Present Indicative: nazco

*Singular --- \* --- Plural*

yo nazca (that I may be born) --- \* --- nosotros nazcamos (that we may be born)  
tú nazcas (that you may be born) --- \* --- vosotros nazcáis (that you all may be born) *inf.*  
él nazca (that he may be born) --- \* --- ellos nazcan (that they may be born) *masc.*  
ella nazca (that she may be born) --- \* --- ellas nazcan (that they may be born) *fem.*  
usted nazca (that you may be born) *form.* --- \* --- ustedes nazcan (that you all may be born) *form.*

"Es improbable que se nazca el bebé esta tarde." (It's improbable that the baby may be born this afternoon.)  
[i.e. ...*that the baby will be born this afternoon.*]

## **Infinitive: obedecer (to obey)**

First Person Singular Present Indicative: obedezco

*Singular --- \* --- Plural*

yo obedezca (that I may obey) --- \* --- nosotros obedezcamos (that we may obey)  
tú obedezcas (that you may obey) --- \* --- vosotros obedezcáis (that you all may obey) *inf.*  
él obedezca (that he may obey) --- \* --- ellos obedezcan (that they may obey) *masc.*  
ella obedezca (that she may obey) --- \* --- ellas obedezcan (that they may obey) *fem.*  
usted obedezca (that you may obey) *form.* --- \* --- ustedes obedezcan (that you all may obey) *form.*

"Dudo que te obedezca." (I doubt that he may obey you.)  
[i.e. ...*that he'll obey you.*]

## **Infinitive: pertenecer (to pertain, to belong)**

First Person Singular Present Indicative: pertenezco

*Singular --- \* --- Plural*

yo pertenezca (that I may belong) --- \* --- nosotros pertenezcamos (that we may belong)  
tú pertenezcas (that you may belong) --- \* --- vosotros pertenezcáis (that you all may belong) *inf.*  
él pertenezca (that he may belong) --- \* --- ellos pertenezcan (that they may belong) *masc.*



ella pertenezca (that she may belong) --- \* --- ellas pertenezcan (that they may belong) *fem.*  
usted pertenezca (that you may belong) *form.* --- \* --- ustedes pertenezcan (that you all may belong)  
*form.*

"No parece que me pertenezcan las llaves." (It doesn't seem that the keys may belong to me.)  
[i.e. ...*that the keys belong to me*

\*As you can see from the examples, the Present Tense of the Subjunctive Mood is translated a number of ways into English. Sometimes it looks like the Present Indicative, sometimes like the Future Indicative, and sometimes it really uses the modal verb "may". *We include "may" in the initial translations to highlight the subjunctive usage, but as you can see, it's often omitted from English as it's used today.* If you're having a hard time understanding what this *mood* is, simply think of the funeral phrase "may he rest in peace", which in Spanish is rendered "descanse en paz", a form which takes the Present Subjunctive. Remember, in Spanish, this form **is not** antiquated in the least; rather, it's used all the time and therefore should be learned by anyone wishing to speak modern Spanish.

## Cultural Insight

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Blunders vary and it doesn't only depend on subject matter. For example, I have a friend that was in Mexico and said, "ahora vamos a coger..." during a procedure. What she meant to say was, "Now we take..." without knowing that in Mexico the verb "coger" can also mean "to <expletive>". Understandably, this was an embarrassing situation, especially considering that the blunder was made in a professional situation. Now, the other people present didn't laugh but after the procedure a woman was kind enough to tell her just what she had said. She was embarrassed but learned something very valuable that day.



## Beginner Lesson S2

I'm totally aroused to meet her

17

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## Formal Spanish

---

- ALEJANDRO Gabi, ya estamos por llegar a la casa de mi tía... ¿Todo bien?  
GABRIELA Sí, creo que va a ser muy divertido. Estoy super excitada por conocerla.  
¿Y usted?
- ALEJANDRO Jeje... No tenía tantas expectativas, o sea, la amo, pero... jeje...  
GABRIELA ¿¡Qué dije!? ¿excitada? ¡Quise decir emocionada! Usted tiene la mente cochina. Sabe a lo que voy. No joda.  
ALEJANDRO ¿Pero acaso qué he dicho? Jeje...

## Formal English

---

- ALEJANDRO Gabby, we are about to arrive at my aunt's house. Everything OK?  
GABRIELA Yes, I think that it is going to be a lot of fun. I am totally aroused to meet her. And you?
- ALEJANDRO Hehe... My hopes were not that high, I mean, I love her, but, hehe...  
GABRIELA What did I say? Aroused? I meant to say excited! You have got a dirty mind. You know what I mean. Quit giving me a hard time.  
ALEJANDRO But what did I say? Hehe...

## Informal Spanish

---

- ALEJANDRO Gabi, ya estamos por llegar a la casa de mi tía... ¿Todo bien?  
GABRIELA Sí, creo que va a ser muy divertido. Estoy super excitada por conocerla.  
¿Y tú?
- ALEJANDRO Jeje... No tenía tantas expectativas, o sea, la amo, pero... jeje...  
GABRIELA ¿¡Qué dije!? ¿excitada? ¡Quise decir emocionada! Tienes la mente cochina. Sabes a lo que voy. No jodas.  
ALEJANDRO ¿Pero acaso qué he dicho? Jeje...

## Informal English

---

- ALEJANDRO Gabby, we're about to arrive at my aunt's house. Everything OK?  
GABRIELA Yeah, I think that it's going to be a lot of fun. I'm totally aroused to meet





her. And you?  
 ALEJANDRO Hehe... My hopes weren't that high, I mean, I love her, but, hehe...  
 GABRIELA What did I say? Aroused? I meant to say excited! You've got a dirty mind. You know what I mean. Quit giving me a hard time.  
 ALEJANDRO But what did I say? Hehe...

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
estar por	to be about to do something	verbal phrase	Latin, stare (to stand) + pro (for, forward)
emocionado, -a	excited, touched, moved	adjective, past participle	Latin, emotio (displacement, removal)
excitado, -a	aroused	adjective	Latin, excitāre (to arouse zeal)
expectativa	expectation, hope	fem. noun	Latin, exspectātum (to wait for)
cochino, -a	dirty	adjective	Latin, setūla (coarse hair, small bristle)
mente	mind, thoughts	fem. noun	Latin, mens (mind)

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Estoy por terminar, espérame un momentico.* (I'm about to finish, wait for me just a sec.)  
*Me pongo emocionado cuando pienso en las vacaciones del verano.* (I become excited when I think about summer vacation.)  
*Estamos emocionados por lo que nos dices.* (We're excited about what you tell us.)  
*Martín y Claudia estuvieron tan excitados durante la cena de su aniversario que salieron sin que terminaran la comida.* (Martin and Claudia were so aroused during their anniversary dinner that they left without finishing the meal.)  
*Tengo muchas expectativas para esta colaboración.* (I have high hopes for this collaboration.)  
*Mis expectativas para el próximo año escolar son muy altas.* (My expectations for next school year are very high.)  
*¿Y por qué te vas a poner esa camisa si está cochina?* (And why are you going to wear that shirt, if it's dirty?)

*Eres un cochino.*

(You're dirty.)

*¿Qué se te viene a la mente?*

(What comes to mind?)

## Grammar Points

---

*A periphrastic construction is simply one which contains one verb in a personal form and another in an impersonal form. Each periphrastic construction has a specific meaning, and these meaning change from context to context.*

Today, for example, we're looking at "estar por" and then a verb in the infinitive, which is used to express the imminence of the action of the verb in the infinitive form. In the conversation, we see the following phrase:

*"Ya estamos por llegar." (We're about to arrive.)*

\*This nuance is very useful as you continue to develop your ability to express actions in Spanish.

### OBSERVE THE FORMATION:

[**VERB**] + [**PREPOSITION**] + [**VERB**]

[**PERSONAL FORM OF "estar"**] + [**POR**] + [**INFINITIVE FORM OF ANY VERB**]

i.e. [estamos] + [por] + [llegar]

Look over these sample sentences to see the construction in different contexts:

"Estamos por llegar."

(We are about to arrive)

"Estoy por salir, ¿te llamo más tarde?"

(I'm about to go out, can I call you later?)

"Estábamos por comer cuando llegó mi tío."

(We were about to eat, when my uncle arrived.)

"Cuando el agua esté por hervir, le echas los huevos."



(When the water is about to boil, add the eggs.)

"Estoy por acostarme, hablamos sobre eso mañana."

(I'm about to go to bed, let's talk about that tomorrow.)

**\*The meaning of this construction usually gets translated to English in the form of "to be ABOUT to do something".** In Spanish, this same idea can also be expressed with the phrase "a punto de" (to be on the brink, to be about to, to be on the point of).

Notice that the verb "estar" (to be) can be conjugated to any number of tenses and in either the indicative or the subjunctive mood, while still being used in this periphrastic construction. What's important to remember is that no matter the tense and mood, the action of the verb in the infinitive is always going to receive a certain amount of imminence.

There are many periphrastic constructions in Spanish. For example, we often use "poder ser" to refer to something that is possible; "tener que...+ infinitive" expresses obligation with respect to the action of the verb in the infinitive; "debe ser" expresses a supposition; "querer decir" is translated as "to signify, to mean"; "ir a + infinitive" expresses a future action somewhat less distinct than the absolute future. This list is not exhaustive, and you can build your knowledge on this topic by checking out other lessons that cover periphrastic constructions.

## Cultural Insight

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Well, the nuances of some verbs are lost when people are learning new language. In the Romantic realm, these can be particularly tricky. A common one is the use of the verb "gustar" to like. Now, someone can ask you, "*¿Te gusta Raquel?*" You may have just met her and she may be cool, so of course you say, "Sí". The thing is, in Spanish, the use of the verb gustar in relation to a person means that you are interested in them in a romantic way. To avoid this possibly embarrassing situation, if you are not interested in that way the optimal answer would be "*Me cae bien,*" which means that you like them as a friend. Avoid this blunder!



## Beginner Lesson S2

If I were to win the lottery...

18

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## Formal Spanish

---

VENDEDORA      ¡Sorteo, sorteo...! Señora , ¡lleve su número de la suerte!  
MARIANA        Hola, me da el número veinte y dos, por favor. ¿Qué tal el premio?  
VENDEDORA      Está muy bueno, señora, el que gane se hace millonario.  
MARIANA        ¡Ojala ganara!  
VENDEDORA      Y ¿qué haría, usted, con tanto dinero?  
MARIANA        ¡Ay, dios! Si yo ganara, pagara todas mis deudas, viajara y me hiciera un arreglito.. los años pasan, ¿sabe?  
VENDEDORA      ¡Jajaja...! ¡Cómo lo sé! Que tenga mucha suerte. ¡Sorteo, sorteo...! ¡lleve su número de la suerte!

## Formal English

---

VENDOR           Lottery, lottery...! Ma'am, get your lucky number!  
MARIANA        Hi there, give me number twenty-two, please. What's the prize like?  
VENDOR           It is very good, Ma'am, whoever wins will become a millionaire.  
MARIANA        I hope I win!  
VENDOR           And what would you do with so much money, Ma'am?  
MARIANA        Oh, God! If I were to win, I would pay off all my debts, travel, and do a little nip and tuck.. the years go by, you know?  
VENDOR           Hahaha...! Oh how I know! Good luck! Lottery, lottery... get your lucky number!

## Informal Spanish

---

VENDEDORA      ¡Sorteo, sorteo...! Señora , ¡lleva tu número de la suerte!  
MARIANA        Hola, me das el número veinte y dos, por favor. ¿Qué tal el premio?  
VENDEDORA      Está muy bueno, señora, el que gane se hace millonario.  
MARIANA        ¡Ojala ganara!  
VENDEDORA      Y ¿qué harías con tanto dinero?  
MARIANA        ¡Ay, dios! Si yo ganara, pagara todas mis deudas, viajara y me hiciera un arreglito.. los años pasan, ¿sabes?  
VENDEDORA      ¡Jajaja...! ¡Cómo lo sé! Que tengas mucha suerte. ¡Sorteo, sorteo...! ¡lleva tu número de la suerte!



## Informal English

VENDOR Lottery, lottery...! Ma'am, get your lucky number!  
 MARIANA Hey there, give me number twenty-two, please. What's the prize like?  
 VENDOR It's very good, Ma'am, whoever wins will become a millionaire.  
 MARIANA I hope I win!  
 VENDOR And what would ya' do with so much money, Ma'am?  
 MARIANA Oh, God! If I were to win, I'd pay off all my debts, travel, and do a little nip and tuck.. the years go by, ya' know?  
 VENDOR Hahaha...! Oh how I know! Good luck! Lottery, lottery... get your lucky number!

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
sorteo	lottery, raffle	masc. noun	Latin, sors (fate)
premio	award, prize	masc. noun	Latin, praemium (winnings, profit, reward)
millonario, -a	millionaire	masc. & fem. noun, adj.	Italian, milione (million)
deuda	debt	fem. noun	Latin, debĭtum (debt, debit)
dios, -a	god, goddess	masc. & fem. noun	Latin, deus (god)
año	year	masc. noun	Latin, annus (year)

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Si yo ganara el sorteo, no sé qué haría.* (If I won the lottery, I don't know what I would do.)  
*¿Por qué siempre a tí te tocan los premios?* (Why do you always win the prizes?)  
*Esa escritora ganó varios premios durante el año pasado.* (That writer won many awards over the last year.)  
*No quiero hacerme millonario, porque los impuestos serían muy altos.* (I don't want to be a millionaire, because the taxes would be really high.)  
*¿Quién pagará mis deudas?* (Who will pay my debts?)  
*Estamos muy bien, gracias a Dios.* (We're all well, thank God.)

*Trabajé mucho el año pasado.*

(I worked a lot last year.)

## Grammar Points

---

The Imperfect Subjunctive can be used in relation to both past actions and hypothetical future actions that frequently appear in conditional statements. In grammatical terms, we use the Subjunctive Mood when there is an independent clause and a dependent clause in the same statement. We use the Imperfect Subjunctive Mood when the verb in the independent clause is in a present or past tense and the dependent clause refers to an action or state posterior to the action of the main clause and prior to the moment of speech.

We also use it when the verb in the independent clause is in the conditional mood and the dependent clause refers to a hypothetical future action/situation. When these conditions apply, use the Imperfect Subjunctive in the dependent clause.

### **HYPOTHETICAL ACTION.....CONDITIONAL ACTIONS**

When you're expressing a hypothetical action and a conditional action in a single statement, remember that there are some options. If the verb expressing the hypothetical action is in the imperfect tense of the subjunctive mood, then the verb expressing the condition action can be in either that same tense and mood, or... it can be in the conditional.

"Si **ganara** el sorteo, **viajara** por todo el mundo."

--- or ---

"Si **ganara** el sorteo, **viajaría** por todo el mundo."

(If I were to win the lottery, I would travel all around the world.)

"Si yo **tuviera** más tiempo, **terminara** la película."

--- or ---

"Si yo **tuviera** más tiempo, **terminaría** la película."

(If I had more time, I would finish the movie.)

"Si **hubiera** comida, **comiéramos**."

--- or ---

"Si **hubiera** comida, **comeríamos**."

(If there were food, we would eat.)

While you're studying this topic, you'll also want to remember that there are two sets of personal endings for this tense and mood, and the decision to use one set or the other really doesn't effect the

meaning of the verbal expression. When do I use one over the other, you may be asking. Well, the truth is that this decision is largely regional. For example, there's no real difference in meaning between the following two expressions: "si yo ganara el sorteo..." and "si yo ganase el sorteo..." (if I were to win the lottery...).

## Cultural Insight

---

There are 3 lotteries in Costa Rica: loteria, chances, and tiempo. They all have different characteristics. Loteria pays out more and draws out on Sundays. Chances draws on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Tiempo draws only on Tuesdays. The game play is different as well. Tiempo is the drawing of one specific number. Loteria and Chances both have a number and a series. Your chances are better with Loteria and Chances because you can get a portion of the prize if you hit both series and the number. That way you can get a bunch of Colones. That is only if you are a resident or citizen of Costa Rica.







## Beginner Lesson S2

Good God in Heaven and all the angels!!!

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## Formal Spanish

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PRESENTADOR	Damas y Caballeros, ¡llegó el gran día del sorteo!
MARIANA	¡Al fin llegó el día!
PRESENTADOR	El número ganador de seiscientos millones de colones es...
MARIANA	Veintidós... ¡vamos veintidós!
PRESENTADOR	El número Veintidós! ¡Felicidades al nuevo millonario!
MARIANA	¡¡Santo Dios del cielo y todos los ángeles!! ¿Dijo veintidós de verdad...? ¿mi veintidós?
PRESENTADOR	Repito... el número veintidós.
MARIANA	¡Ah, no puede ser! ¡Gané, gané, gané!

## Formal English

---

ANNOUNCER	Ladies and gentlemen, the big day of the lottery has arrived!
MARIANA	The day has finally come!
ANNOUNCER	The winning number for the six-hundred million Colones is...
MARIANA	Twenty two ...come on twenty two!
ANNOUNCER	Number twenty two ! Congratulations to the new millionaire!
MARIANA	Good God in Heaven and all the angels!!! Did he say twenty-two? My twenty-two?
ANNOUNCER	I repeat... number twenty-two.
MARIANA	Ah, this can't be! I won, I won, I won!

## Informal Spanish

---

PRESENTADOR	Todo el mundo, ¡llegó el gran día del sorteo!
MARIANA	¡Al fin llegó el día!
PRESENTADOR	El número ganador de seiscientos millones de colones es...
MARIANA	Veintidós... ¡vamos veintidós!
PRESENTADOR	El número Veintidós! ¡Felicidades al nuevo millonario!
MARIANA	¡¡Santo Dios del cielo y todos los ángeles!! ¿Dijo veintidós de verdad...? ¿mi veintidós?
PRESENTADOR	Repito... el número veintidós.
MARIANA	¡Ah, no puede ser! ¡Gané, gané, gané!



## Informal English

ANNOUNCER	Everybody, the big day of the lottery has arrived!
MARIANA	The day has finally come!
ANNOUNCER	The winning number for the six-hundred million Colones is...
MARIANA	Twenty two ...come on twenty two!
ANNOUNCER	Number twenty two ! Congratulations to the new millionaire!
MARIANA	Good God in Heaven and all the angels!!! Did he say twenty-two? My twenty-two?
ANNOUNCER	I repeat... number twenty-two.
MARIANA	Ah, this can't be! I won, I won, I won!

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
ganador, -a	winner	masc. & fem. noun	Germanic, waidanjan (reaping, harvest)
felicidad	happiness, congratulations (pl.)	fem. noun	Latin, felicitas (happiness)
santo, -a	holy, saint	masc. & fem. noun, adjective	Latin, sanctus (holy)
repetir	to repeat	verb	Latin, repetere (to return to, to repeat)
ángel	angel	masc. noun	Latin, angēlus (angel, messenger)
ganar	to win, to earn, to gain	verb	Germanic, waidanjan (reaping, harvest)

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>¿Quién fue el ganador del sorteo?</i>	(Who was the winner of the lottery?)
<i>El vicio es un error de cálculo en la búsqueda de la felicidad.</i>	(Vice is a miscalculation in the search for happiness.)
<i>Eres un santo por todo lo que has hecho por mí.</i>	(You're a saint for doing everything that you have for me.)

*¿Puedes repetirlo, por favor?*

(Can you repeat that please?)

*No me vayas a decir que eres un ángel.*

(Don't go telling me that you're an angel.)

*Las colonias ganaron su libertad de España.*

(The colonies won their freedom from Spain.)

## Grammar Points

---

The Preterite Tense expresses an action prior to the Present or to another action. For example, "I *saw* him two days ago," or "I *spoke* with her, while you were working." To form the Preterite Tense for regular verbs, we first must remove the -AR, -ER or -IR ending to get the root of the verb, and then we add one of the correct Preterite endings. The Preterite endings for all regular -ER and -IR verbs are identical.

Let's take a look at the formation of the Preterite Tense Endings for regular -AR-, -ER-, and -IR- verbs. We will use one verb from each of these three classes to illustrate the formations: "ganar" (to win), "aprender" (to learn), and "decidir" (to decide).

### ***Regular Preterite Formation -AR- {ganar (to win)}***

#### ***Singular ----- \* ----- Plural***

yo gané (I won) ----- \* ----- nosotros ganamos (we won)\*

tú ganaste (you won) ----- \* ----- vosotros ganasteis (you all won)

él ganó (he won) ----- \* ----- ellos ganaron (they won)

#### **SAMPLE SENTENCES**

"¿Cuánto ganaste ayer?"

(How much did you earn yesterday?)

"Me ganaron."

(They beat me.)

### ***Regular Preterite Formation -ER- {aprender (to learn)}***

#### ***Singular ----- \* ----- Plural***

yo aprendí (I learned) ----- \* ----- nosotros aprendimos (we learned)

tú aprendiste (you learned) ----- \* ----- vosotros aprendisteis (you all learned)  
él aprendió (he learned) ----- \* ----- ellos aprendieron (they learned)

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

"Aprendisteis a tomar el metro hace tiempo."  
(You all learned to take the subway a while back.)

"Y tu hijito, ¿de quién aprendió esas vulgaridades?"  
(And you little boy, where did learn those expletives?)

## ***Regular Preterite Formation -IR- {decidir (to decide)}***

### ***Singular ----- \* ----- Plural***

yo decidí (I decided) ----- \* ----- nosotros decidimos (we decided)\*  
tú decidiste (you decided) ----- \* ----- vosotros decidisteis (you all decided)  
él decidió (he decided) ----- \* ----- ellos decidieron (they decided)

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

"Decidieron ir a la playa a pesar de las inclemencias del tiempo."  
(They decided to go to the beach despite the inclement weather.)

"¿Cuándo decidiste mudarte a Costa Rica?"  
(When did you decide to move to Costa Rica?)

\*For regular -AR- and -IR- verbs, the Present Indicative and Preterite Indicative forms are identical (i.e. *terminamos* el trabajo ayer, 'we *finished* the job yesterday', or *terminamos* el trabajo a las seis de la tarde, 'we *finish* the job at six in the evening').

As you can see in these examples, the sense in which we are to take the verbal form depends on the context in which it's used. On the other hand, -ER- verbs do not follow this rule.

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## Cultural Insight

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Costa Rica is actually a gambling center of the world. Due to its proximity to the United States and lax



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gambling laws, Costa Rica is one of the capitals on online sport books. While gambling, online or otherwise, is illegal in the United States, it is not illegal in Costa Rica and there aren't many ways to stop American citizens from placing bets online. Sport books and casinos are also major employers for Costa Ricans who speak English. The wage is better than many other jobs. There is definitely an organized crime influence in the gambling of Costa Rica but it is muted and not very evident. There are also many casinos in and around San José and other tourist destinations. If you are a gambler, Costa Rica is a country you would love.



## Beginner Lesson S2

My money on my mind...

20

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## Formal Spanish

---

MARIANA No sé que hacer con tanto dinero.  
CLAUDIA Pues, ¡para eso están los amigos!  
MARIANA Por lo mismo todos quieren una parte, ya no sé si me quieren por lo que soy o por lo que tengo.  
CLAUDIA Eso pasa, la gente es muy materialista, pero usted no debería estar triste, lo tiene todo.  
MARIANA No todo, estoy muy sola, ¡qué ironía! Rica y sola...

## Formal English

---

MARIANA I do not know what to do with so much money.  
CLAUDIA Well, that is what friends are for!  
MARIANA For that very reason, everyone wants a part, I do not know if they like me for what I am or for what I have.  
CLAUDIA That happens, people are really materialistic, but you should not be sad, you have everything.  
MARIANA Not everything, I am really lonely, what irony! Rich and lonely...

## Informal Spanish

---

MARIANA No sé que hacer con tanto dinero.  
CLAUDIA Pues, ¡para eso están los amigos!  
MARIANA Por lo mismo todos quieren una parte, ya no sé si me quieren por lo que soy o por lo que tengo.  
CLAUDIA Eso pasa, la gente es muy materialista, pero no deberías estar triste, lo tienes todo.  
MARIANA No todo, estoy muy sola, ¡qué ironía! Rica y sola...

## Informal English

---

MARIANA I don't know what to do with so much money.  
CLAUDIA Hey, that's what friends are for!





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- MARIANA For that very reason, everyone wants a part, I don't know if they like me for what I am or for what I have.
- CLAUDIA That happens, people are really materialistic, but you shouldn't be sad, you have everything.
- MARIANA Not everything, I'm really lonely, what irony! Rich and lonely...

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
materialista	materialistic, materialist	adjective, masc. & fem. noun	Latin, materiālis (material)
gente	people	fem. noun	Latin, gentis (people)
ironía	irony	fem. noun	Latin, ironía (irony)
solo, -a	lonely	adjective	Latin, solus (alone, only)
rico, -a	tasty, delicious, rich	adjective	Gothic, reiks (ruler)
triste	sad, gloomy	adjective	Latin, tristis (sad, sorrowful, gloomy)

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

- 3
- La gente de hoy es materialista, no sabe apreciar las cosas sencillas de la vida.* (People today are very materialistic, they don't know how to value the simple things in life.)
- La gente es muy amable aquí.* (The people are very friendly here.)
- Ese escritor siempre usa la ironía para transmitir su crítica social.* (That writer always uses irony to get his social critique across.)
- Ella está muy sola últimamente porque le dejó su novio.* (She's been really lonely lately because he boyfriend left her.)
- Si yo fuera rico, viajaría todo el año.* (If I were rich, I would travel all year long.)
- El pollo está muy rico.* (The chicken is very tasty.)
- Me gustan las canciones tristes, pero más me gustan las alegres.* (I like sad songs, but I like joyful ones more.)

## Grammar Points

Prepositions are invariable words that introduce nouns, noun phrases, or subordinate clauses, making

them depend on a verb that is previously given. In Spanish, there are many prepositions and even more prepositional phrases; however, the most common prepositions are "por, para, de, a, con".

In this grammar point, we'll focus on the preposition "por" and take a look at the 7 principle ways that the preposition "por" can be used.

Since all prepositions are "invariable" (i.e. they never change forms), we're focusing on the usage here instead of the formation.

The 7 Usages of the Preposition "por" are:

1) *Cause*: Expresses the cause of an action:

"**Por** lo mismo todos quieren una parte, ya no sé si me quieren **por** lo que soy o **por** lo que tengo.

(**For** that very reason, everyone wants a part, I don't know if they like me **for** what I am or **for** what I have.)

2) *Time and Place*: It vaguely expresses local and temporal relationships.

"Entrar **por** la puerta"

(To enter **through** the door).

3) *Agent of the Passive*: Introduces the agent of a passive action.

"Él ha sido arrestado **por** la policía"

(He has been arrested **by** the police).

4) *Medium*: Expresses the medium through which an action is carried out.

"Hablar **por** teléfono"

(To talk **by** phone).

5) *Mode*: Forms adverbial and conjunctive phrases.

"**Por** fín"

(**At** last).

6) *Substitution/Equivalence*: expresses that an action is carried out by a subject on behalf of someone else:

"Trabaja **por** tu padre hoy día"

(Work **in place of** your father today).

7) *Used in formulas of judgement/exclamation*:

"¡**Por** el amor de Dios!"

(**For** the love of God!).

\*Here is a similar example in which "por" is used to express cause of an action:

"Trabajo por mi familia." (I work for/on behalf my family.)

\*Keep in mind that this literally means "I'm working to support my family". Contrast the preposition "por" with the preposition "para" in this context:

"Trabajo para mi familia" (I work for/am employed by my family.)

"Para" has a different meaning: it is as if I were employed by my family rather than working to support them.

\*Consult the Grammar Bank in the Learning Center for more information on "por" and other prepositions.

## Cultural Insight

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5 Latin America generally has a smaller middle class than the United States. In many countries of the region, wealth is not distributed as widely as many would like. Poverty is wide spread and many people live in horrible conditions. Shanty towns dot the landscape, and many cities, such as Lima, Peru are growing not because of investment by the government but because of people simply occupying the land and building very crude homes. The extent of government aid present in the United States is not present in many of these countries and the poor suffer from many preventable diseases and conditions. This reality gave rise to the leftist governments of Venezuela, Bolivia, and Perhaps the most famous, Cuba. Marxist ideology found many supporters in Latin America for the inequality of the distribution of wealth is so widespread and so evident. It is the natural descendant of the Colonial age.



## Beginner Lesson S2

I saw the light!

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## Formal Spanish

---

MARIANA            ¡Ya no estoy triste! Vi la luz!  
CLAUDIA            ¿Qué pasó?  
MARIANA            Fui a la iglesia el otro día, me sentía muy mal, y me di cuenta que nadie  
                         ocupa tanto dinero.  
CLAUDIA            ¿Entonces? , ¿Qué pasó con los 600 millones?  
MARIANA            Los di enteros a la iglesia, para los niños pobres.  
CLAUDIA            Creo que es lo mejor si usted se siente bien.  
MARIANA            ¡No puedo estar más feliz, gracias a Dios!

## Formal English

---

MARIANA            I'm not sad anymore, I saw the light!  
CLAUDIA            What happened?  
MARIANA            I went to church the other day, I felt so bad and I realized nobody needs  
                         so much money.  
CLAUDIA            So? What happened to the 600 million?  
MARIANA            I gave it all to the church for the poor children.  
CLAUDIA            I think it is the best thing if you feel good about it.  
MARIANA            I could not be happier, thanks to God.

## Informal Spanish

---

MARIANA            ¡Ya no estoy triste! Vi la luz!  
CLAUDIA            ¿Qué pasó?  
MARIANA            Fui a la iglesia el otro día, me sentía muy mal, y me di cuenta que nadie  
                         ocupa tanto dinero.  
CLAUDIA            ¿Entonces? , ¿Qué pasó con los 600 millones?  
MARIANA            Los di enteros a la iglesia, para los niños pobres.  
CLAUDIA            Creo que es lo mejor si te sientes bien.  
MARIANA            ¡No puedo estar más feliz, gracias a Dios!

## Informal English



MARIANA I'm not sad anymore, I saw the light!  
 CLAUDIA What happened?  
 MARIANA I went to church the other day, I felt so bad and I realized nobody needs so much money.  
 CLAUDIA So? What happened to the 600 million?  
 MARIANA I gave it all to the church for the poor children.  
 CLAUDIA I think it's the best thing if you feel good about it.  
 MARIANA I couldn't be happier, thanks to God.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
iglesia	church	fem. noun	Latin, ecclesiā (church)
darse cuenta	to realize	verbal phrase	Latin, dare (to give) + contare (to count)
sentirse	to feel	reflexive verb	Latin, sentīre (to sense)
entero, -a	entire, whole	adjective	Latin, intēger (whole, complete)
ocupar	to occupy, to take up	verb	Latin, occupāre (to seize, to occupy)
luz	light	fem. noun	Latin, lux (light)

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*La campana de la iglesia siempre dobla en punto.* (The church bell always tolls on time.)  
*Acabo de darme cuenta que no estaré disponible a esa hora.* (I've just realized that I won't be available at that time.)  
*Espero que te des cuenta de lo que hiciste.* (I hope that you realize what you did.)  
*¿Cómo te sentís?* (How do you feel?)  
*Me siento muy mal.* (I feel very bad.)  
*No me digas que tomaste una botela entera de gaseosa.* (Don't tell me you drank a whole bottle of soda.)  
*El ejército ocupó el pobre pueblo durante tres años.* (The army occupied the poor town for three years.)

*Lo bueno de este departamento es que tiene bastante luz.*

(What's good about this apartment is that it has a ton of light.)

## Grammar Points

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Prepositions are invariable words that introduce nouns, noun phrases or subordinate clauses, making them depend on a verb that is previous given. In Spanish, there are many prepositions and even more prepositional phrases; however, the most common prepositions are "por, para, de, a, en".

In this grammar point, we'll focus on the preposition "para" and take a look at the 8 principle ways that the preposition "para" can be used.

Again, because prepositions are "invariable" (i.e. they don't change forms), we'll be looking at the different "usages" of the preposition "para".

1) Utility - utilidad

"¿**Para** qué tanto esfuerzo?"

(What's all this effort **for**?)

2) Motive - motivo

"Lo dijo **para** molestarme."

(She said it **to** annoy me.)

3) Destination - destinatario

"Es **para** mamá."

(It's **for** mom.)

\*In this sense, the preposition "para" is used to express the final purpose of something:

"Trajeron una carta **para** Vanesa."

(They brought a card **for** Vanesa.)

"El regalo es **para** ti."

(The present is **for** you.)

"La vida es **para** vivir."

(Life is **for** living.)



4) Opinion - opinión

"**Para** Jorge, todas las mujeres son guapas."

(All women are pretty **to** Jorge.)

5) Comparisons - comparaciones

"**Para** ser tan joven, tiene ideas muy sensatas."

(He has very sensible ideas **for** his age.)

6) Time - tiempo

"Estará listo **para** las cinco."

(It'll be ready **by** five.)

\*This preposition is employed in relation to time. "Para" denotes *approximate time* rather than exact time. Note that the times expressed in these examples are *general* days rather than precise moments:

"La fiesta ha sido aplazada **para** el jueves."

(The party has been set **for** Thursday.)

"**Para** Navidad nos reuniremos."

(We will get together **for** Christmas.)

7) Immanence - inminencia

"Está **para** salir."

(He's **about to** leave.)

8) Direction - dirección

"El tren **para** Sevilla acaba de salir."

(The train has just left **for** Seville.)

\*Because of the inherent *indeterminacy* associated with "para", it cannot be used with verbs that imply the end of a movement/final destination. For example, we say "llegaremos a Caracas" (we will arrive in Caracas), using "a" rather than "para".

## Cultural Insight

---

Costa Rica is a very small country. Whenever anything out of the ordinary happens, it is put on the news. So, picture this. You win one of the lotteries and suddenly your face is plastered all over the TV.



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Now you cannot walk down the street in San José without someone recognizing you. The positive side is that you have won a substantial amount of money, on the other hand, everyone knows. There are a lot of muggings and petty crime in Costa Rica. If you win the lottery, I would recommend keeping where you live a secret. If someone finds out, you could come home and find that your house has been completely emptied.



## Beginner Lesson S2

Coffee doesn't get better!

22

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## Formal Spanish

---

GLEND A            Justo lo que necesitaba... un café bien cargado.  
MARIA            El café de Costa Rica... es lo que llaman 'levanta muertos'.  
GLEND A            Totalmente, no creo que haya mejor.  
MARIA            ¿Usted sabía que en otros países pagan hasta diez euros por una taza de  
                         café de Costa Rica?  
GLEND A            ¡Ande! No lo sabía pero. ¡qué suerte que aquí casi es gratis!

## Formal English

---

GLEND A            Just what I needed... a strong cup of coffee.  
MARIA            Costa Rican coffee... they say it will raise the dead.  
GLEND A            Totally, I do not think that there is a better one.  
MARIA            Did you know in other countries they pay up to ten euros per cup of  
                         Costa Rican coffee?  
GLEND A            Wow! I did not know, but we are lucky that here it is almost free!

## Informal Spanish

---

GLEND A            Justo lo que necesitaba... un café bien cargado.  
MARIA            El café de Costa Rica... es lo que llaman 'Levanta muertos'.  
GLEND A            Totalmente, no creo que haya mejor.  
MARIA            ¿Sabías que en otros países pagan hasta diez euros por una taza de café  
                         de Costa Rica?  
GLEND A            ¡Anda! No lo sabía pero. ¡qué suerte que aquí casi es gratis!

## Informal English

---

GLEND A            Just what I needed... a strong cup of coffee.  
MARIA            Costa Rican coffee... they say it will raise the dead.  
GLEND A            Totally, I don't think that there's a better one.  
MARIA            Did ya' know in other countries they pay up to ten euros per cup of



Costa Rican coffee?

GLEND A

Wow! I didn't know, but man we're lucky that here it's almost free!

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
cargado, -a	strong, loaded	adjective	Latin, carrus (car)
levanta muertos	raise the dead	set phrase	Latin, levāre (to raise) + mors (death)
totalmente	totally	adverb	Latin, totus (all, the whole, total)
taza	cup, mug	fem. noun	Arabic, <span>كاس</span> (cup)
suerte	luck, good luck, sort	fem. noun	Latin, sors, -tis (an oracular response, prophesy)
gratis	free	adjective, adverb	Latin, gratis (free)

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>No me gusta el café cargado, para mí es muy fuerte.</i>	(I don't like strong coffee, it's too strong for me.)
<i>Este café es levanta muertos, tomáte un poquitico.</i>	(This coffee will raise the dead, have just a little bit.)
<i>Está totalmente cubierto.</i>	(It's totally overcast out.)
<i>¿Te sirvo una taza de café o vos preferís una infusión?</i>	(Can I serve you a cup of coffee or do you prefer herbal tea?)
<i>¡Suerte! ¡Ya nos vemos!</i>	(Good luck! See you soon!)
<i>Hay personas que siempre tienen suerte.</i>	(There are people who are always lucky.)
<i>Por la compra de un cuarto de kilo de café, recibe otro cuarto gratis.</i>	(Get a quarter kilo of coffee free with the purchase of one quarter kilo.)

## Grammar Points

**For expressions of possibility, doubt, and volition, the Subjunctive Tense is regularly employed.**

In today's conversation, we see the phrase:

"No creo que haya mejor." (I don't think that there's a better one.)

Notice how the verb "haya" (in the present subjunctive, from "haber" in the infinitive) is being used here as a verb of existence, the "terciopersonal", which is the third person singular impersonal. This verb belongs to a group of irregular verbs in the Present Subjunctive which do not end in -O in the first person of the Present Indicative.

These verbs are:

"dar" (infinitive), "doy" (first person present indicative);

"estar" (infinitive), "estoy" (first person present indicative);

"haber" (infinitive), "he" (first person present indicative);

"saber" (infinitive), "sé" (first person present indicative);

and "ser" (infinitive), "soy" (first person present indicative).

## **Observe the following conjugation of "haber" in the Present Subjunctive:**

yo haya (that I may have) --- \* --- nosotros hayamos (that we may have)  
tú hayas (that you may have) --- \* --- vosotros hayáis (that you all may have) *inf.*  
él haya (that he may have) --- \* --- ellos hayan (that they may have) *masc.*  
haya (that it may have) *neut.*

## **When we express doubt or possibility, the Subjunctive form of the verb in the dependent clause is used:**

"*Dudo que haya* mucha gente." (I doubt that there will be many people.)

"*No creo que haya* otra opción." (I don't think there's another option)

"*Puede ser que haya* una fiesta en la casa cuando llegemos." (It's possible there may be a party in the house when we get there.)



## Cultural Insight

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Costa Rica has set the standards for quality coffee for the rest of Central and South America. The best known coffee regions are Tarrazu, Tres Rios, Heredia, and Alajuela. Most coffee in Costa Rica comes from the *caturra* coffee varietal and is characterized as a bright and full bodied coffee. Other popular Costa Rica coffee varieties are Mondo Novo and Catuai. The best Costa Rican coffee beans, which are grown above 3,900 feet, are designated as "strictly hard bean". The "good hard bean" classification is given to coffees grown from 3,300 to 3,900 feet. Due to the rather small availability for coffee cultivation, Costa Rica has focused on making their coffee some of the highest quality in the world since they cannot produce a high quantity.





## Beginner Lesson S2

She likes her tamales hot!

23

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## Formal Spanish

---

DIANA Mire lo que traje!  
LIGIA Tamales! A tiempo para el desayuno.  
DIANA Prepare usted el café, yo los voy sirviendo.  
LIGIA Recuerde a ponerle chile al de mamá.  
DIANA Cierto, a ella le gustan los tamales picantes!

## Formal English

---

DIANA Look at what I brought.  
LIGIA Tamales, just in time for breakfast!  
DIANA You make the coffee, I will get to serving.  
LIGIA Remember to put chili on mom's tamale.  
DIANA True, she likes her tamales hot!

## Informal Spanish

---

DIANA Hermanita, mira lo que traje!  
LIGIA Tamales! A tiempo para el desayuno.  
DIANA Prepara tú el café, yo los voy sirviendo.  
LIGIA Recuerda a ponerle chile al de mamá.  
DIANA Cierto, a ella le gustan los tamales picantes!

## Informal English

---

DIANA Sis, look at what I brought.  
LIGIA Tamales, just in time for breakfast!  
DIANA You make the coffee, I'll get to serving.  
LIGIA Remember to put chili on mom's tamale.  
DIANA True, she likes her tamales hot!





## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
tamal	tamal	masc. noun	Nahuatl, tamalli (steamed cornmeal dough)
a tiempo	on time	adverbial phrase	Latin, ad (at, on , about) + tempus (time)
recordar	to remember	verb	Latin, recordāri (to remember)
chile	chili	masc. noun	Nahuatl, chilli (hot pepper)
picante	spicy	adjective	Latin, beccus (beak)
cierto, -a	certain, sure	adjective, adverb, interjection	Latin, certus (certain)

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Los tamales me gustan en el desayuno.*

(I like tamales at breakfast.)

*Lo que más me importa es que lleguemos a tiempo.*

(What matters to me most is that we arrive on time.)

*Recuerda a poner el ventilador cuando salgas del baño.*

(Remember to put on the fan when you come out of the bathroom.)

*¿A vos te gusta el chile o no comés picante?*

(Do you like chili or don't you eat spicy foods?)

*Para mí la salsa es demasiado picante.*

(The sauce is too spicy for me.)

*¿Estás cierto? ¿No querés acompañarnos?*

(Are you sure? Don't you want to come with us?)

## Grammar Points

*An indirect object is to whom or for whom the action of the verb is carried out. When the noun that's acting as an indirect object is replaced by a pronoun, then it's called an indirect object pronoun. In English, indirect object pronouns are "me, you, him, her, us and them. Let's have a look at how that this translates to Spanish:*

Indirect Object Pronouns receive verbal action "indirectly". So, they don't tell us "what" happened, but rather for whom it happened, or to what it happened. What can be tricky about learning these in Spanish is that they usually don't require prepositions. Sound confusing? Don't worry, it will clear up

quickly. Depending on the placement of one of these words, these indirect object pronouns, and the context in general, we will understand the prepositional meaning implicit in the pronominal phrase.

## Formation

me (to/for me) -----\*----- nos (to/for us)  
te (to/for you, *inform.*) -----\*----- os (to/for you all, *inform.*)  
le (to/for him) -----\*----- les (to/for them, *masc.*)  
le (to/for her) -----\*----- les (to/for them, *fem.*)  
le (to/for you, *form.*) -----\*----- les ( o/for you all, *form.*)

## Observe the following sample sentences:

"Ella me dijo que vendría esta noche."  
(She said to me that she would come tonight.)

"Te daré todo lo que tengo."  
(I will give all that I have to you.)

"A Mariana la universidad le mandó su diploma."  
(The university sent to Mariana her diploma.)

"Me es difícil creer que usted no pueda hacer nada."  
(It's hard for me to believe that you can't do anything.)

"Me es interesante escuchar lo que me cuentas."  
(It's interesting for me to listen to what you tell me.)

"Que las vacaciones te sean gratas."  
(May the holidays be enjoyable for you.)

\*The above sample sentences are written out to show the indirect object with a preposition in English, but many times there is no preposition. For example, "me dijo que vendría esta noche," where "me" is the indirect object, even though it may look like the direct object. You can always figure out the indirect object by asking (to/for whom/what) something is done.

## Cultural Insight

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Tamales are a delicious and varied dish of Latin America. Traditionally, a tamale is made with a steam cooked corn dough called masa. This dough can be filled with many different ingredients or no ingredients. Tamales can be filled with many different ingredients: meats, cheeses, chilis, chicken, pretty much anything that comes to mind. Tamales are generally wrapped in either a corn husk or banana leaf before cooking but wax paper has also been used in more modern settings. Tamales are made in one form or another throughout Latin America and its varied ingredients by region demonstrates the dishe's versatility.





## Beginner Lesson S2

It makes you feel like eating there...

24

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## Formal Spanish

---

PATRICIA Yo creo que deberíamos ir a una soda a almorzar.  
REBECCA Hoy es sábado, en la soda de la esquina hay casados buenísimos.  
PATRICIA Sí, esa señora fue inteligente en abrir una soda, ¡cocina tan rico!  
REBECCA ¡Y lo mantiene todo tan limpio!... que dan ganas de comer ahí.  
PATRICIA ¡Decidido! Vamos por un casado.

## Formal English

---

PATRICIA I think we should go have lunch at a Soda.  
REBECCA Today is Saturday, in the soda on the corner there are really good Casados.  
PATRICIA That lady was smart to open a Soda, she cooks so well!  
REBECCA And she keeps everything so clean!... it makes you feel like eating there.  
PATRICIA It is decided, let's go for a Casado.

## Informal Spanish

---

PATRICIA Yo creo que deberíamos ir a una soda a almorzar.  
REBECCA Hoy es sábado, en la soda de la esquina hay casados buenísimos.  
PATRICIA Sí, esa señora fue inteligente en abrir una soda, ¡cocina tan rico!  
REBECCA ¡Y lo mantiene todo tan limpio!... que dan ganas de comer ahí.  
PATRICIA ¡Decidido! Vamos por un casado.

## Informal English

---

PATRICIA I think we should go have lunch at a Soda.  
REBECCA Today's Saturday, in the soda on the corner there are really good Casados.  
PATRICIA That lady was smart to open a Soda, she cooks so well!  
REBECCA And she keeps everything so clean!... it makes you feel like eating there.  
PATRICIA It's decided, let's go for a Casado.



## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
deber	should, ought to, duty	auxiliary verb	Latin, debere (ought to, to owe, to be due)
hoy	today	adverb	Latin, hodie (this day)
sábado	Saturday	masc. noun	Latin, sabbatum (sabbath)
abrir	to open	verb	Latin, aperire (to open)
limpio, -a	clean	adjective	Latin, limpīdus (clear)
almorzar	to have lunch, to eat lunch	verb	Vulgar Latin, admordere (to bite into)

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>Ya deben estar en casa.</i>	(They ought to be home by now.)
<i>Hoy es sábado.</i>	(Today is Saturday.)
<i>Hoy es sábado.</i>	(Today is Saturday.)
<i>¿Puedes abrir la puerta, por favor?</i>	(Can you please open the door?)
<i>La casa está limpia.</i>	(The house is clean.)
<i>Nosotros almorzamos pollo.</i>	(We have chicken for lunch.)

## Grammar Points

The Preterit Tense expresses an action completed prior to the moment of speech or to another action. In the Preterit Tense, there are a number of **irregular verbs**. We call these "irregular", because they don't follow the basic formation patterns like the majority of the verbs within the system.

What makes verbs irregular in the Preterit Tense is a **stem-change**.

We saw that the stem of "hacer" in the Present Tense was "hac-".

The verbs "venir", "ser" and "ir" all had irregular stems in the Present (i.e. "vien-", "so-" and "va-").

In the Preterit Tense, the stems-changes are as follows: "hic-", "vin-", "fu-", "fu-".

The verbs "ser" and "ir" are identical in the Preterit.

For "hacer" and "venir", after these stem changes are made, the following endings are used: "-e, -iste, -o, -imos, -isteis and -ieron".

For "ser" and "ir", the Preterit endings are: "-i, -iste, -e, -imos, -isteis, -eron.

## Here are the conjugations of these three irregular verbs in the preterit:

*Singular ----- \* ----- Plural*

yo hice (I did/made) ----- \* ----- nosotros hicimos (we did/made)  
tú hiciste (you did/made) ----- \* ----- vosotros hicisteis (you all did/made) *informal*  
él hizo (he did/made) ----- \* ----- ellos hicieron (they did/made) *masculine*  
ella hizo (she did/made) ----- \* ----- ellas hicieron (they did/made) *feminine*  
usted hizo (you did/made) *formal* ----- \* ----- ustedes hicieron (you all did/made) *formal*  
hizo (it did/made) *neuter* ----- \* ----- hicieron (they did/made) *neuter*

*Singular ----- \* ----- Plural*

yo vine (I came) ----- \* ----- nosotros vinimos (we came)  
tú viniste (you came) ----- \* ----- vosotros vinisteis (you all came) *informal*  
él vino (he came) ----- \* ----- ellos vinieron (they came) *masculine*  
ella vino (she came) ----- \* ----- ellas vinieron (they came) *feminine*  
usted vino (you came) *formal* ----- \* ----- ustedes vinieron (you all came) *formal*  
vino (it came) *neuter* ----- \* ----- vinieron (they came) *neuter*

*Singular ----- \* ----- Plural*

yo fui (I was) ----- \* ----- nosotros fuimos (we were)  
tú fuiste (you were) ----- \* ----- vosotros fuisteis (you all were) *informal*  
él fue (he was) ----- \* ----- ellos fueron (they were) *masculine*  
ella fue (she was) ----- \* ----- ellas fueron (they were) *feminine*  
usted fue (you were) *formal* ----- \* ----- ustedes fueron (you all were) *formal*  
fue (it was) *neuter* ----- \* ----- fueron (they were) *neuter*

*Singular ----- \* ----- Plural*



yo fui (I went) ----- \* ----- nosotros fuimos (we went)  
tú fuiste (you went) ----- \* ----- vosotros fuisteis (you all went) *informal*  
él fue (he went) ----- \* ----- ellos fueron (they went) *masculine*  
ella fue (she went) ----- \* ----- ellas fueron (they went) *feminine*  
usted fue (you went) *formal* ----- \* ----- ustedes fueron (you all went) *formal*  
fue (it went) *neuter* ----- \* ----- fueron (they went) *neuter*

Observe the following sample sentences:

Hice lo que pude. (I did what I could.)

Vinieron a la casa a las dos de la mañana. (They came home at two in the morning.)

Fuiste al cine sin invitarme. (You went to the theater without inviting me.)

Fue un día maravilloso. (It was a wonderful day.)

\*The third person singular of "hacer" in the Preterit Tense does not have the stem-change "hic-", but "hiz-". This is so that the soft "c" or "z" sounds is maintained. Notice that with both "ser" and "ir", the third person singular has the "-e" ending and the third person plural has the "-eron" ending, again which is unique to irregular verbs in the Preterit Tense.

## Cultural Insight

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5

A 'soda' is the term for small family owned restaurants that are located all over Costa Rica. Devoid of the zoning restrictions, anyone who knows how to cook a good meal can open up a small restaurant either in some extra room in their house or at another location. Costa Rican cuisine is very simple and hardy. Rice, beans, and plantains are staples of the average Tico's diet and those items are eaten in different forms throughout the day. Breakfast generally comes in the form of 'Gallo Pinto' a dish that is a premixed combination of rice and beans. This is served with plantains, fried eggs, and some 'natillia' or sour cream. Lunch and dinner is served in the form of a 'casado' a combination plate of rice, beans, salad, plantains, and your choice of protein. All of these dishes are found in sodas all around Costa Rica and we urge you to try them.





## Beginner Lesson S2

Do Not Bother Me While I Am Trying to Relax in the Caribbean!

25

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## Formal Spanish

---

FRUTERA           Hola Gringo, ¿Quiere un mamón?  
GRINGO           ¿Un mamón? A ver... bueno, sí, quiero probarlo... pero, ¿qué más tiene?  
FRUTERA           ¡Tengo muchísima fruta! granadillas, carambola, guanábana, guava,  
                          higo, tamarindo, anonas y hasta marañones si quiere.  
GRINGO           Ehh... ¿cómo?.. deme una de cada una.  
FRUTERA           Pero, cuidadito con el estomago...  
GRINGO           La como poco a poco, quiero probar todos los tipos que pueda, voy a  
                          estar muy poco tiempo en el país.

## Formal English

---

FRUIT VENDOR    Hey there, Gringo, do you want a Spanish lime?  
GRINGO           A Spanish lime? Let's see...well, okay, I'll give it a shot...but, what else  
                          do you have?  
FRUIT VENDOR    I have lots of fruit! Passion fruit, star fruit, guanabana, guava, figs,  
                          tamarind, soursop, even cashew fruit, if you want.  
GRINGO           What? ...Give me one of each.  
FRUIT VENDOR    But, you had better be careful with your stomach...  
GRINGO           I'll eat it little by little. I want to try as much as I can since I'll be in the  
                          country for a short time.

## Informal Spanish

---

FRUTERA           Hola Gringo, ¿Quieres un mamón?  
GRINGO           ¿Un mamón? A ver... bueno, sí, quiero probarlo... pero, ¿qué más  
                          tienes?  
FRUTERA           ¡Tengo muchísima fruta! granadillas, carambola, guanábana, guava,  
                          higo, tamarindo, anonas y hasta marañones si quieres.  
GRINGO           Ehh... ¿cómo?.. dame una de cada una.  
FRUTERA           Pero, cuidadito con el estomago...  
GRINGO           La como poco a poco, quiero probar todos los tipos que pueda, voy a  
                          estar muy poco tiempo en el país.



## Informal English

- FRUIT VENDOR Howdy, Gringo, do ya' want a Spanish lime?  
 GRINGO A Spanish lime? Let's see...well, okay, I'll give it a shot...but, what else have ya' got?  
 FRUIT VENDOR I got lots of fruit! Passion fruit, star fruit, guanabana, guava, figs, tamarind, soursop, even cashew fruit, if ya' want.  
 GRINGO What? ...Give me one of each.  
 FRUIT VENDOR But, ya' better be careful with your stomach...  
 GRINGO I'll eat it little by little, I wanna try as much as I can since I'll be in the country for a short time.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
poco a poco	little by little	adverbial locution of time	Latin, paucus ("little") + ad ("to") + paucus ("little")
cada	each, every	adjective	Greek, kata ("according to")
probar	to prove, to test, to try	verb	Latin, probāre ("to judge, test, examine")
hasta	until, up to	preposition	Arabic, hatta
tipo(a)	kind, type	noun	Greek, tupos ("form")
tener	to have	verb	Latin, tenere ("to hold fast")

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Poco a poco te acostumbrarás.*

"Little by little, you'll get used to it."

*Me levanto a las seis cada día.*

"I get up at six every day."

*¿Has probado alguna vez las judías con almejas?*

"Have you ever tried beans with clams?"

*Vamos a viajar desde Madrid hasta Barcelona.*

"We're going to travel from Madrid all the way to Barcelona."

*Es un tipo de manzana.*

"It's a kind of apple."

*Ella tiene amigas.*

"She has girlfriends."

## Grammar Points

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### **The Focus of This Lesson is Using the Imperative Mood in Spanish**

*Ehh... ¿cómo?.. deme una de cada una.*

**"What? ..Give me one of each."**

---

The Imperative Mood is a way of expressing the speaker's attitude toward an action. It expresses the will to influence the behavior of another by way of a command, entreaty, or exhortation. We must remember that even though verbs in this mood are commands, we can and often do express them in a polite manner.

<b>Imperative Mood for -AR Verbs</b>	
<b>Spanish</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
<i>dar</i>	infinitive
<i>da</i>	if I'm addressing "you" informally
<i>de</i>	if I'm addressing "you" formally
<i>dad</i>	if I'm addressing "you all" informally in Spain
<i>den</i>	if I'm addressing "you all" formally in Spanish, or formally and informally in Latin America

\*Remember that we do not use the *vosotros* form in Latin America, which means that for the informal and formal plural, we use the *Ustedes* ("you all") -en form for the imperative mood of -AR verbs.

### **For example:**

1. *Martín, Ernesto, denme dos segundos.*  
"Martin, Ernesto, give me two seconds."

### **Sample Sentences**

---

1. *Deme uno de cada uno.*  
"Give me one of each."
2. *Dame las llaves y te las devuelvo después.*  
"Give me the keys and I'll give them back to you later."
3. *Oigan, chicos, denme una hora y me encuentro ahí con ustedes.*  
"Hey guys, give me an hour and I'll meet up with you there."



## Cultural Insight

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### **Latin American Fruits and Vegetables**

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One of the beautiful things of Latin America is the abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables. We highly recommend that you make a trip to a farmer's market not only to be impressed with the sheer diversity and abundance of produce, but also the price. Many fruits and vegetables will be familiar to you while others will not. For example, one of the fruits mentioned in the conversation is guava. Guava is a small green or yellow egg-shaped tropical fruit. When ripe, it exudes a slightly musky, intense aroma that may be suggestive of peaches, lemons, and honey. Now this may seem like a perfect fruit, but it is full of rock, and I mean rock-hard seeds. These seeds make guava all but impossible to eat out of hand. How do you solve this problem? People often serve Guava cooked, in jam form or seeded and poached. You also may have seen guava paste, which is used in many Latino desserts.



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