



Beginner 3

Lessons 1-20

1-20

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Introduction

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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.

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Beginner Lesson S3

Spanish Prepositions: I'd Like to See the Results of Some Tests!

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Formal Spanish

KARINA Buenos Días, ¿en qué le puedo ayudar?
ALEJANDRO Buenas, quería contactar al doctor para ver los resultados de unos exámenes.
KARINA Disculpe, pero el doctor no se encuentra en este momento.
ALEJANDRO No hay problema, ¿cuando puedo contactarlo?
KARINA Si gusta, puede llamarlo mañana.
ALEJANDRO Perfecto, muchas gracias.

Formal English

KARINA Good morning, how may I help you?
ALEJANDRO Morning, I wanted to contact the doctor to see the results from some tests.
KARINA Excuse me, but the doctor is not here at this time.
ALEJANDRO No problem, when can I contact him?
KARINA If you'd like, you can call him tomorrow.
ALEJANDRO Perfect, thank you very much.

Informal Spanish

KARINA Buenos Días, ¿en qué te puedo ayudar?
ALEJANDRO Buenas, quería contactar al doctor para ver los resultados de unos exámenes.
KARINA Disculpa, pero el doctor no se encuentra en este momento.
ALEJANDRO No hay problema, ¿cuando puedo contactarlo?
KARINA Si gusta, puedes llamarlo mañana.
ALEJANDRO Perfecto, muchas gracias.

Informal English

KARINA Good morning, how may I help ya?
ALEJANDRO Morning, I wanted to contact the doctor to see the results from some



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tests.
KARINA Excuse me, but the doctor isn't here at this time.
ALEJANDRO No problem, when can I contact him?
KARINA If you'd like, you can call him tomorrow.
ALEJANDRO Perfect, thanks very much.

Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
ayudar	to help	verb	Latin, adiutare (to aid)
contactar	to contact, get in touch	verb	
resultado	result	masculine noun	
encontrar	to find, to meet with	verb	Latin, in contra (on the opposite side)
si	if	interjection	
examen	examination, exam	masculine noun	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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El contexto de la palabra nos ayuda a entenderla. "The context of a word helps us to understand it."
Gracias por ayudarme. "Thank you for helping me."
¿A qué número te puedo contactar? "At what number can I contact you?"
Estos resultados desafortunadamente no nos dicen mucho. "The results unfortunately don't tell us much."
Encuentran la playa. "They find the beach."
Si lloviera esta noche, retiraría me de aquí a mil años, o mejor a cien no más. "If it were to rain tonight, I would withdraw from here a thousand years, or maybe just a hundred."
¿Cuántos exámenes no has probado? "How many exams haven't you passed?"

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is the Spanish Preposition *de*

Buenas, quería contactar al doctor para ver los resultados de unos exámenes.

"Morning, I wanted to contact the doctor to see the results from some tests."

We use the preposition *de* to express:

1. Possession
2. Membership

We express possession by means of the name of the possessor preceded by the preposition *de*.

For example:

1. *el libro de Martín* means, "Martín's book"

With membership, we do not refer to the relation between the possessor and the thing possessed. Instead, we refer to the attributes or objects contained in a person or thing. That is to say, we convey the qualities, nature, condition, or character of something or someone.

For example:

1. *es un día de sol* means, "it's a sunny day"

Along these same lines, we use the preposition *de* to express the material of which something is made. This usage has also extended to signify the matter or issue of something as well.

For example:

1. *la falda de algodón* means, "the cotton skirt"
2. *el discurso trata de la economía* means, "the lecture is about economics"

Since prepositions are invariable, *de* will never undergo any form changes such as we see in verbs, nouns, or adjectives, for example. However, you can expect to see this preposition used as a "prefix" at the beginning of words sometimes. We'll go deeper into that at another time.

Example Sentences



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Spanish	"English"
<i>¿Dónde dejaste el libro de Martín?</i>	"Where did you leave Martin's book?"
<i>No podrás resistir la sinceridad de Miguel.</i>	"You won't be able to resist the sincerity of Miguel."
<i>Al entrar a la sala, noté de inmediato el brillo del piso.</i>	"Upon entering the living room, I immediately notice the shine of the floor."
<i>Eres un estudiante de talento, te recomiendo que sigas con los estudios.</i>	"You're a student of talent, I recommend you continue with your studies."
<i>La puente de madera se está por romper.</i>	"The wooden bridge is about to break."
<i>¿Han visto mi cuaderno de cuero?</i>	"Have you seen my leather notebook?"
<i>Te presto mi libro de geografía.</i>	"I'll lend you my book of geography."
<i>Hablábamos de la política.</i>	"We were talking about politics."

Cultural Insight

Health Care in Latin America

Working people pay for their social insurance and this guarantees medical coverage to the person and his or her family. The public health system is usually slow. Sometimes, people can wait long hours, days, or even months to get an appointment with a doctor. And even when an appointment is given, there is no guarantee that treatment will be administered quickly. If you do happen to have a little more money at your disposal, seriously consider visiting a private clinic. The level of healthcare is top of the line and the prices are a fraction of what the care costs in the United States.





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Spanish Prepositions: Is This a Very Urgent Matter for You?

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Formal Spanish

KARINA ¿Me puede decir sus datos por favor?
ALEJANDRO Mi Nombre es Alejandro Alfaro.
KARINA ¿Su número de teléfono?
ALEJANDRO Ocho, ocho, dos, tres, cinco, cuatro, dos, cero.
KARINA ¿Podemos contactarlo a cualquier hora?
ALEJANDRO Solo estoy disponible hasta las ocho de la noche.
KARINA Perdon, Don Alejandro, ¿es muy urgente el asunto?
ALEJANDRO Sí, realmente necesito los resultados lo más pronto posible.

Formal English

KARINA Can you give me your contact information please?
ALEJANDRO My name is Alexander Alfaro.
KARINA Your phone number?
ALEJANDRO Eight, eight, two, five, four, two, zero.
KARINA Can we contact you at any time?
ALEJANDRO I am only available until eight o'clock at night.
KARINA Excuse me, Mr. Alfaro, but is this a very urgent matter?
ALEJANDRO Yes, I actually need the results as soon as possible.

Informal Spanish

KARINA ¿Me puedes decir tus datos por favor?
ALEJANDRO Mi Nombre es Alejandro Alfaro.
KARINA ¿Tu número de teléfono?
ALEJANDRO Ocho, ocho, dos, tres, cinco, cuatro, dos, cero.
KARINA ¿Podemos contactarte a cualquier hora?
ALEJANDRO Solo estoy disponible hasta las ocho de la noche.
KARINA Perdon, Don Alejandro, ¿es muy urgente el asunto?
ALEJANDRO Sí, realmente necesito los resultados lo más pronto posible.

Informal English



KARINA Can ya' give me your contact information please?
ALEJANDRO My name is Alexander Alfaro.
KARINA Your phone number?
ALEJANDRO Eight, eight, two, five, four, two, zero.
KARINA Can we contact you at any time?
ALEJANDRO I'm only available until eight o'clock at night.
KARINA Excuse me, Mr. Alfaro, but is this a very urgent matter?
ALEJANDRO Yeah, I actually need the results as soon as possible.

Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
dato	piece of information, personal details, data	masculine noun
número	number	masculine noun
cualquier(a)	any	indefinite adjective
disponible	available	adjective
hora	hour, time	feminine noun
asunto	issue, matter, affair	masculine noun

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Necesito sus datos personales, señor.

"I need your personal information, sir."

El número del verbo puede ser singular o plural.

"The number of the verb can be singular or plural."

Supongo que cualquier día recibiré la carta que tanto espero.

"I imagine that any day now I'll receive the letter that I've been waiting so long for."

Busco cualquier hotel para hospedarme.

"I look for any hotel to stay at."

Acabo de darme cuenta que no estaré disponible a esa hora.

"I've just realized that I won't be available at that time."

¿A qué hora hemos quedado?

"What time are we going to meet?"

Hemos llegado en buena hora.

"We've arrived at a good time."

No es grave el asunto.

"It's not a serious matter."

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is the Spanish Preposition *por*

¿Me puede decir sus datos por favor?

"Can you give me your contact information please?"

Prepositions are invariable words that introduce nouns, noun phrases, or subordinate clauses, making them depend on a verb that we state previously. In Spanish, there are many prepositions and even more prepositional phrases. However, the most common prepositions are *por*, *para*, *de*, *a*, and *en*.

In this grammar point, we'll focus on the preposition *por* and look at the seven principle ways that we can use the preposition *por*.

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

The Seven Usages of the Preposition *por*

I. **Cause:** It expresses the cause of an action.

Por haber llovido mucho, el partido fue cancelado.

"**Because** of it having rained so much, the game was canceled."

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

Entrar por la puerta

"To enter **through** the door"

III. **Agent of the Passive:** It introduces the agent of a passive action.

Él ha sido arrestado por la policía.

"He has been arrested **by** the police."

IV. **Medium:** It expresses the medium through which we carry out an action.

Hablar por teléfono

"To talk **by** phone"

V. **Mode:** It forms adverbial and conjunctive phrases.

Por fin.

"**At** last."

VI. **Substitution/Equivalence:** It 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."

VII. *Used in formulas of judgement/exclamation:*

¡Por el amor de Dios!

"For the love of God!"

*Here is a similar example in which we use *por* to express the cause of an action:

1. *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:

1. *Trabajo para mi familia.*

"I work for/am employed by my family."

*Here, *para* has a different meaning. It is as if I were employed by my family rather than working to support them.

Cultural Insight

Latin American Doctors

Most doctors who graduated from public universities have completed a very good and complete program of six or seven years of study to become doctors plus some extra years to obtain a specialty. Doctors are accustomed to dealing with all kinds of people of all ages, social status, and genre. Many doctors in Latin America speak some English, so if you cannot communicate your problem in Spanish they will be very helpful to guide you and give you the medicine or treatment you need. However, doctors are available only with appointment in public and private sectors. In case of an emergency, people can always visit the emergency room or pay a little bit more money to have a quicker service in a private clinic.



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Spanish Prepositions: Did You Tell the Doctor to Call You?

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Formal Spanish

ALEJANDRO Señorita, buenos días, se encuentra la doctora.
KARINA No señor, ella no trabaja hoy.
ALEJANDRO Pero yo llamé antes y usted me dijo que la podía encontrar hoy.
KARINA Si gusta, le dejo el mensaje a la doctora que lo llame apenas venga mañana.
ALEJANDRO Sí, por favor, es muy importante.

Formal English

ALEJANDRO Good morning Miss, is the doctor in?
KARINA No sir, she is not working today.
ALEJANDRO But I called beforehand and you told me that I would be able to meet with her today.
KARINA If you'd like, I will leave a message for the doctor to call you as soon as she gets in tomorrow.
ALEJANDRO Yes please, it's very important.

Informal Spanish

ALEJANDRO Señorita, buenos días, se encuentra la doctora.
KARINA No, ella no trabaja hoy.
ALEJANDRO Pero yo llamé antes y tú me dijiste que la podía encontrar hoy.
KARINA Si gusta, le dejo el mensaje a la doctora que te llame apenas venga mañana.
ALEJANDRO Sí, por favor, es muy importante.

Informal English

ALEJANDRO Good morning Miss, is the doctor in?
KARINA No, she's not working today.
ALEJANDRO But I called beforehand and you told me that I would be able to meet with her today.



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KARINA If you'd like, I'll leave a message for the doctor to call ya' as soon as she gets in tomorrow.
ALEJANDRO Yeah please, it's very important.

Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
encontrarse	to encounter, to run into, to meet by chance	pronominal verb
doctor(a)	doctor	masculine/feminine noun
trabajar	to work	verb
mensaje	message	masculine noun
apenas	as soon as, no sooner than, hardly	adverb
antes	before, prior	adverb, adjective, conjunction

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Me encontré con un pariente lejano.

Espere aquí hasta que salga el doctor.

Ellos trabajan en los Estados Unidos.

¿A qué hora me enviaste el mensaje de texto?

Le dejo el mensaje a la doctora que te llame

apenas venga mañana.

Llamáme antes de irte... Sí mamá...

"I ran into a distant relative."

"Wait here until the doctor comes out."

"They work in the United States."

"What time did you send me the text message?"

"I'll leave a message for the doctor to call you as soon as she gets in tomorrow."

"Call me before you leave... Okay, Mom..."

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is the Spanish Preposition *a*

Le dejo el mensaje a la doctora que lo llame apenas venga mañana.

"I will leave a message for the doctor to call you as soon as she gets in tomorrow."

We can use the preposition *a* to express movement and finalization. Fundamentally, we use this preposition to express the idea of material or figurative movement and final destination or purpose. We also use it with infinitives that compliment a conjugated verb of movement. It is the same when the

infinitive of a verb compliments a conjugated verb with a sense of finalization.

On the other hand, certain compound sentences with verbs of volition do not signify a sense of finalization, and therefore do not carry the preposition *a*. This is because the action is not finalized, nor are we implying the end of the action. Rather, we are expressing a desire to complete an action in the future.

One last issue concerning the preposition *a* is the aspect of distance or periods of time. The sense of time combines with the idea of movement from one moment to another, and with distance, we are addressing movement from one point of space to another. These finalized transitions from point to point are the reason why we use the preposition here.

Observe the following examples with the preposition *a*:

Points Of Time

Here are some sample sentences in which the preposition *a* illustrates points of time:

1. *Estudia de diez a doce.*
"He studies from ten **to** twelve."
2. *Trabajo de nueve a cinco.*
"I work from nine **to** five."

Physical Movement/Final Destination

Here are some sample sentences in which the preposition *a* illustrates physical movement/final destination:

1. *Voy a Granada.*
"I am going **to** Granada."
2. *Es una carta dirigida a ella.*
"It is a card addressed **to** her."

Final Purpose

Here are some sample sentences in which the preposition *a* illustrates final purpose:

1. *Vengo a preguntar algo.*
"I come **to** ask something."
2. *Van a buscar ayuda.*
"They are going **to** search for help."

Finalized Action/Ultimate Intent

Here are some sample sentences in which the preposition *a* illustrates finalized action/ultimate intent:

1. *Aprendo a nadar.*
"I learn **to** swim."
2. *Ella enseña a leer a sus alumnos.*
"She teaches her students **to** read."

Movement/Distance

Here is a sample sentence in which the preposition *a* illustrates movement/distance:

1. *Él va de un lado al otro.*
"He goes from one side **to** the other."

*In this example, note the contraction of *a* and *el* into *al*. We do this when the movement we are expressing with *a* is being directed towards a masculine noun such as *el otro* ("the other").

We also use the preposition *a* with direct and indirect object compliments.

For example, in the sentence, *En la calle vimos a tu hermana*, we use the preposition *a* with the direct object compliment. We cannot say, *vimos tu hermana*, but rather we must say *vimos a tu hermana*. This always occurs when the direct object compliment is a person or a thing that has been personified. This means that the direct object compliment is determined rather than undetermined in the mind of the speaker. For example the sentence, *vimos a tu hijo en el jardín*, refers to a determined person, "your son." While the sentence, *vimos un niño en el jardín*, refers to an undetermined person (we don't know the child's identity).

In the case of indirect object compliments, we use *a* to express the person or thing that receives harm or benefit from the action of a verb. For example in the sentence, *yo envié un regalo a Pedro*, the



direct compliment is *un regalo* and the indirect complement is *Pedro*.

This preposition also has modal significance in terms of average, instrument, and price.

For example:

1. *a mano*
"by hand"
2. *al cinco por ciento*
"at five percent"
3. *a tres pesetas el litro*
"at three pesetas per liter"

It also has causal significance, as in *a petición del público* ("at the request of the public").

Cultural Insight

How to Get the Job Done!

Even if you have an appointment, do not think for one second that things will always go smoothly, even in a doctor's office. There is a very relaxed mood to most things and if you think that a doctor's receptionist can seem indifferent in the United States, experience another level in Latin America. These people will be very polite and they will try to help you to the best of their ability but do not be surprised if you do not get a call back. It may not be looked upon very kindly, but being a little pushy will get the job done. Do not be afraid to call repeatedly or even show up at the doctor's office. This will put people on the spot and they will work hard to get out of it.



Beginner Lesson S3

That's Easy "for" You to Say in Spanish!

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Formal Spanish

NADIA Tengo un dolor de cabeza.
OLIVIA ¿Qué pasa, Nadia?
NADIA Acabo de comprar una Macbook y tengo dos horas tratando de bajar
Skype.
OLIVIA ¡Pero eso es de lo más fácil!
NADIA Claro, para usted que la ha usado por tanto tiempo.
OLIVIA Mire, usted solo va a www.skype.com y hace click en instalar.

Formal English

NADIA I have a headache.
OLIVIA What is going on, Nadia?
NADIA I've just bought a Macbook and I have spent two hours trying to
download Skype.
OLIVIA But that is as easy as it gets!
NADIA Sure, for you who has used a Macbook for so long.
OLIVIA Look, you just go to www.skype.com and click on install.

Informal Spanish

NADIA ¡Ay, prima! Tengo un dolor de cabeza.
OLIVIA ¿Qué pasa, Nadia?
NADIA Acabo de comprar una Mac y tengo dos horas tratando de bajar Skype.
OLIVIA ¡Pero eso es de lo más fácil!
NADIA Claro, para tí que la has usado por tanto tiempo.
OLIVIA Mira, solo vas a www.skype.com y haces click en instalar.

Informal English

NADIA Ah, cuz', I've got a headache.
OLIVIA What's going on, Nadia?
NADIA I've just bought a Mac and I've spent two hours trying to download



OLIVIA Skype.
NADIA But that's as easy as it gets!
OLIVIA Sure, for you who's used a Mac for so long.
OLIVIA Look, just go to www.skype.com and click on install.

Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
dolor de cabeza	headache	noun phrase
acabar de	to have just...	verbal phrase
tratar de	to try to	verbal phrase
bajar	to come down, to go down, to download	verb
fácil	easy	adjective
tanto, -a	so much, so many	adjective, adverb, masc. noun

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

3 *¡Ay, tengo un dolor de cabeza horrible!*
Ella acaba de comprar nuevos anteojos.
Trato de aprender español.
Ellos están bajando por las escaleras.
Aprender otro idioma es fácil.
Me gusta tanto que ya no sé qué hacer.

Me gusta tanto que quiero repetir.

"Ahh, I have a horrible headache!"
"She has just bought new glasses."
"I try to learn Spanish."
"They are coming down the stairs."
"It is easy to learn another language."
"I like it so much that I no longer know what to do."
"I like it so much that I want to have seconds."

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is the Spanish Preposition *para*
Claro, para usted que la ha usado por tanto tiempo.
"Sure, for you who has used a Macbook for so long."

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*, and *en*.

In this grammar point, we'll focus on the preposition *para* and look at the eight principle ways that we can use the preposition *para*.

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

Eight Usages of the Preposition para

1. *Utilidad* - "Utility"

¿Para qué tanto esfuerzo?
"What's all this effort **for**?"

2. *Motivo* - "Motive"

Lo dijo para molestarte.
"She said it **to** annoy me."

3. *Destinatario* - "Destination"

Es para mamá.
"It's **for** mom."

4. *Opinión* - "Opinion"

Para Jorge, todas las mujeres son guapas.
"All women are pretty **to** Jorge."

5. *Comparaciones* - "Comparisons"

Para ser tan joven, tiene ideas muy sensatas.
"He has very sensible ideas **for** his age."

6. *Tiempo* - "Time"

Estará listo para las cinco.
"It'll be ready **by** five."

7. *Inminencia* - "Immanence"

Está para salir.
"He's **about to** leave."

8. *Dirección* - "Direction"

El tren para Sevilla acaba de salir.
"The train has just left **for** Seville."

Because of the inherent indeterminacy associated with *para*, we cannot use it with verbs that imply the



end of a movement or a final destination. For example, we say *llegaremos a Caracas* ("we will arrive in Caracas"), using *a* rather than *para*.

We also employ this preposition in relation to time. *Para* denotes **approximate time** rather than exact time.

For example:

1. *La fiesta ha sido aplazada para el jueves.*
"The party has been set for Thursday."
2. *Para Navidad nos reuniremos.*
"We will get together for Christmas."

*Note that the times expressed in these examples are **general** days rather than precise moments.

Cultural Insight

PCs vs. Macs

Windows based PCs are the worldwide norm. Macs only hold about 20% of the world's computer users. People consider them good machines but outside the US, they are extremely expensive. If you carry a Mac laptop, be wary. They are tempting targets for thieves. PCs are very cheap and abundant. For the money that you spend on a Mac, you can get a PC with many more features. Either way, it is clear that Macs are better machines. You may be safe in a random WiFi port at a café, but be alert for anyone looking at your computer or anyone who follows you out. It is very easy to recognize a Mac, and even easier to steal one.





Beginner Lesson S3

Spanish Prepositions: Speak to Me IN Spanish, Not IN Chinese!

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Formal Spanish

NADIA Bueno, ya fui a la página esa y ahora?
OLIVIA Ahora usted lo instala localmente.
NADIA Usted me habla en chino.
OLIVIA Ponga atención, mire, usted hace click en instalar, lo instala y reinicia la computadora.
NADIA A ver... mmm... ¡Lo hice! ¡Ya esta!

Formal English

NADIA Okay, so I am already on that page, now what?
OLIVIA Now you install it locally.
NADIA You are speaking to me in Chinese!
OLIVIA Pay attention. Look, click on install, you install it, and restart the computer.
NADIA Let's see...hmmm...I did it! Now it is ready!

Informal Spanish

NADIA Bueno, ya fui a la página esa y ahora?
OLIVIA Ahora lo instalas localmente.
NADIA ¡Prima, me hablas en chino!
OLIVIA Pon atención, mira, haces click en instalar, lo instalas y reinicias la computadora.
NADIA A ver... mmm... ¡Lo hice! ¡Ya esta!

Informal English

NADIA Okay, so I'm already on that page, now what?
OLIVIA Now you install it locally.
NADIA Cuz, you're speaking to me in Chinese!
OLIVIA Pay attention. Look, click on install, you install it, and restart the computer.



NADIA

Let's see...hmmm...I did it! Now it's ready!

Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
página	page	feminine noun
eso(a)	that, those	demonstrative pronoun
instalar	to install	verb
atención	attention	feminine noun
localmente	locally	adverb
reiniciar	to restart	verb

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Esta página tiene letras grandes.

"This page has big letters."

Esa chica es loca.

"That girl is crazy."

Esos chicos son amigos de Mariela.

"Those guys are Mariela's friends."

Tengo que instalar un programa nuevo.

"I have to install a new program."

¡Presta atención!

"Pay attention!"

Localmente esta carnicería es la mejor.

"Locally, this butcher is the best."

Lo instalas localmente.

"You install it locally."

Para solucionar el problema deber reiniciar la computadora.

"To solve the problem, you can restart the computer."

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is the Preposition *en* ("in")

Usted me habla en chino.

"You are speaking to me in Chinese!"

We use this preposition to communicate concepts of space and time. While the preposition *a* establishes a dynamic relation, the preposition *en* establishes static relationships.

For example:

1. *Vivo en Madrid.*
"I live **in** Madrid."

In this example, the spacial concept of living *in* Madrid is static/permanent. The preposition *en* can denote participation in abstract and collective concepts.

For example:

1. *Soy hábil en engañar.*
"I am skilled **in** deception."

We can often combine the preposition *en* with verbs of motion to vaguely express the end of the movement:

For example:

1. *caer en el agua*
"to fall **in** the water"

The preposition *en* also has modal significance for numerous adverbial phrases:

For example:

1. *en serio*
"seriously"
2. *en broma*
"jokingly"

We can also use the preposition *en* to convey the instrument, means, or price of something:



For example:

1. *hablar en inglés*
"to talk in English"

Finally, we use the preposition *en* with infinitives and the gerund to form verbal phrases:

For example:

1. *Estoy caminando en el parque.*
"I am walking in the park."

En is the Spanish counterpart to the English word "in," although it can have some slightly different meanings when translated.

For example:

1. *Te recompenso en besos.*
"I'll pay you *in/with* kisses."
2. *Llegaré en dos minutos.*
"I'll arrive *in/within* two minutes."

Cultural Insight

Spanish Immersion

When learning a new language it is important to surround yourself with it. Try changing the language on some of your favorite computer programs. This may be difficult at first but soon enough you will gain a familiarity with it that will be very important. Immersion means immersing yourself. Your mind will work while you aren't consciously aware and soon enough you will be able to use your program just as easily as if it were in your native language. Language is very easy to change on many programs.



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Beginner Lesson S3

Spanish Adverbs: You're Almost a Professional Now!

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Formal Spanish

OLIVIA Listo, ya puede hablar con sus contactos.
NADIA Y ¿cómo hago eso?
OLIVIA Es aun más fácil, mire, ponga su nombre y contraseña.
NADIA Nombre... contraseña... ¡ya!
OLIVIA Ahora, haga click en el nombre de la persona con quien quiere hablar.
NADIA OK... click en el nombre...¿Hola?... ¿José?... Soy Nadia!
OLIVIA ¿Ve? No es tan difícil como se imaginaba.
NADIA ¡Gracias, Prima! ¡Ya entendí!

Formal English

OLIVIA All set, now you can speak with your contacts.
NADIA How do I do that?
OLIVIA It's even easier. Look, put in your name and password.
NADIA Name...password...got it!
OLIVIA Now, click on the name of the person you want to speak with.
NADIA Okay...click on the name... Hello? José? It's Nadia!
OLIVIA Ya' see? It's not as hard as you thought.
NADIA Thanks, cuz'! Now I get it!

Informal Spanish

OLIVIA Listo, ya puedes hablar con tus contactos.
NADIA Y ¿cómo hago eso?
OLIVIA Es aun más fácil, mira, pon tu nombre y contraseña.
NADIA Nombre... contraseña... ¡ya!
OLIVIA Ahora, haz click en el nombre de la persona con quien quieres hablar.
NADIA OK... click en el nombre...¿Hola?... ¿José?... Soy Nadia!
OLIVIA ¿Ves? No es tan difícil como te imaginabas.
NADIA ¡Gracias, Prima! ¡Ya entendí!

Informal English



OLIVIA All set, now you can speak with your contacts.
NADIA How do I do that?
OLIVIA It's even easier. Look, put in your name and password.
NADIA Name...password...got it!
OLIVIA Now, click on the name of the person you want to speak with.
NADIA Okay...click on the name... Hello? José? It's Nadia!
OLIVIA Ya' see? It's not as hard as you thought.
NADIA Thanks, cuz'! Now I get it!

Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
contacto	contact	masculine noun
aun	even	adverb
contraseña	password, watchword, countersign	feminine noun
hablar	to speak, to talk	verb
imaginar	to imagine, to assume	verb
primo(a)	cousin	noun

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

¿Tienes un correo electrónico para guardar contacto?

"Do you have an email account to keep contact?"

Aun los tontos lo saben.

"Even a fool knows that."

Siempre olvido la contraseña de mi cuenta de banco.

"I always forget the password for my bank account."

Hablas bien.

"You speak well."

Me imagino que sabes mucho sobre la cultura local.

"I assume you know very much about the local culture."

Mi prima se llama Erica.

"My cousin's name is Erica."

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Spanish Adverbs of Manner

No es tan difícil como se imaginaba.

"It's not as hard as you thought."

Adverbs of:

1. Time
2. Place
3. Manner
4. Quantity
5. Affirmation
6. Negation
7. Doubt
8. Exclusion
9. Inclusion
10. Interrogation

Here is a list of **Adverbs of Manner**.

Adverbs:

<i>Spanish</i>	"English"
<i>alto</i>	"aloud"
<i>aprisa</i>	"swiftly"
<i>así</i>	"like this/that"
<i>aun</i>	"even"
<i>bajo</i>	"silently"
<i>bien</i>	"well"
<i>casi</i>	"almost"
<i>claro</i>	"clearly"
<i>como</i>	"as, like, such as"
<i>cual</i>	"as, like, such as"
<i>despacio</i>	"slowly"
<i>duro</i>	"hard"
<i>excepto</i>	"except"
<i>mal</i>	"badly, poorly"
<i>pronto</i>	"soon"
<i>recio</i>	"strongly"
<i>rudo</i>	"brutally"
<i>salvo</i>	"save"



<i>sereno</i>	"calmly"
<i>tranquilo</i>	"calmly"

Adverbial Locutions:

Spanish	"English"
<i>a ciegas</i>	"blindly"
<i>a cuestras</i>	"piggyback"
<i>a diestro y siniestro</i>	"tactlessly"
<i>a hurtadillas</i>	"secretly"
<i>a la moda</i>	"fashionably"
<i>al revés</i>	"backwards"
<i>a oscuras</i>	"in the dark"
<i>a sabiendas</i>	"knowingly"
<i>a toda velocidad</i>	"at full speed"
<i>a tontas y a locas</i>	"disorderly"
<i>de buena gana</i>	"willingly"
<i>de buen grado</i>	"willingly"
<i>de golpe</i>	"suddenly"
<i>de improviso</i>	"offhand"
<i>de mala gana</i>	"reluctantly"
<i>de mal grado</i>	"unwillingly"
<i>de prisa</i>	"fast"
<i>de pronto</i>	"suddenly"
<i>de repente</i>	"suddenly"
<i>en balde</i>	"in vain"
<i>en resumen</i>	"in short"
<i>en vano</i>	"in vain"
<i>por desgracia</i>	"unfortunately"
<i>sobre todo</i>	"above all, especially"

Sample Sentences

Spanish	"English"
<i>Logré a convenirlo, pero me ayudó de mala gana.</i>	"I managed to convince him, but he helped me reluctantly."
<i>Casi ganaron el campeonato.</i>	"They almost won the championship."
<i>Había mucha confusión cuando de golpe llegaron los oficiales.</i>	"There was a lot of confusion when the officers suddenly arrived."
<i>Es necesario que entregues pronto el documento.</i>	"It's necessary that you hand the document in soon."



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<i>De repente se me ocurrió algo.</i>

"Something suddenly occurred to me."

As you can see, there are many adverbial locutions (sayings that take adverbs) in the Spanish language. Many of these are somewhat metaphoric so it's important not to analyze them word by word, but as a whole. This is one of the challenges of grasping *usage* in another language. Of course, some of these expressions can border on slang. Take for example the locution *a toda velocidad* ("at full speed"). This is a direct translation and the phrase works in both English and Spanish. Yet, if we wanted to add a little flavor to the expression, we might say *a flecha veloz*, which we could translate directly as "arrow fast," or indirectly as "like a bat out of hell." There is a lot of room to play and manipulate the language in the usage of adverbial locutions, and as you'll see, this is done *a cada rato* ("often").

Cultural Insight

Internet in Latin America

The Internet is also popular in Latin America. Some people have Internet at home but with very low speed, while many others have computers at home with no Internet at all. A great majority of people still do not have a home computer. If you visit a big city, you will not have any problem finding a Café Internet. Small towns generally have Internet cafés as well. They are common throughout Latin America not only to fulfill the local need for Internet access, but also for any tourists that may be passing through and want to check their email. It all depends on your luck, because some of them have very good connection while others do not.



Beginner Lesson S3

Spanish Adverbs: Are We Eating Lunch Here at Your House?

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Formal Spanish

LAURA Oiga, Santiago, pásame esa olla.
SANTIAGO Tome...
LAURA ¿Ya picó las verduras para el almuerzo?
SANTIAGO Lo hago apenas termine de sazonar el guiso de rabo de buey.
LAURA Bueno, aquí le dejo el cuchillo encima de la tabla de picar.
SANTIAGO ¡Gracias, Laura!

Formal English

LAURA Hey, Santi, pass me that pot.
SANTIAGO Here you go...
LAURA Should I chop the vegetables for lunch now?
SANTIAGO I'll do it as soon as I season the ox tail stew.
LAURA Okay, I'll leave you the knife here on top of the cutting board.
SANTIAGO Thanks, Laura!

Informal Spanish

LAURA Oye, Santi, pásame esa olla.
SANTIAGO Toma...
LAURA ¿Ya picó las verduras para el almuerzo?
SANTIAGO Lo hago apenas termine de sazonar el guiso de rabo de buey.
LAURA Bueno, aquí te dejo el cuchillo encima de la tabla de picar.
SANTIAGO ¡Gracias, gringuita!

Informal English

LAURA Hey, Santi, pass me that pot.
SANTIAGO Here ya' go...
LAURA Should I chop the vegetables for lunch now?
SANTIAGO I'll do it as soon as I season the ox tail stew.



LAURA Okay, I'll leave you the knife here on top of the cutting board.
SANTIAGO Thanks, gringuita!

Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
pasar	to pass, to pass by, to spend time	verb
picar	to chop finely, to nibble	verb
verdura	vegetable	feminine noun
guiso	stew	masculine noun
sazonar	to ripen, to mature, to make something spicy	verb
encima	above, in addition	adverb

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*¿Me puedes pasar el arroz, por favor?
Antes de cocinar los vegetales, tenemos que picarlos.
Es bueno comer verduras.
Yo amo el guiso.
Me robaron la billetera y encima mi celular.*

"Can you please pass me the rice?"
"Before cooking the vegetables, we have to chop them."
"It is good to eat vegetables."
"I love the stew."
"They robbed my wallet and on top of it my cell phone."

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Spanish Adverbs of Place

Bueno, aquí le dejo el cuchillo encima de la tabla de picar.

"Okay, I'll leave you the knife here on top of the cutting board."

Adverbs in Spanish are invariable, that is, they do not show number or gender. Their function is to modify the meaning of verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. We can group adverbs into the following categories.

Adverbs of:

1. Time
2. Place
3. Manner
4. Quantity
5. Affirmation
6. Negation
7. Doubt
8. Exclusion
9. Inclusion
10. Interrogation

Here is a list of **Adverbs of Place**.

Adverbs

<i>Spanish</i> ("English")	<i>Spanish</i> ("English")
<i>abajo</i> ("below, downstairs")	<i>aquí, acá</i> ("here, over here")
<i>adentro</i> ("in")	<i>afuera</i> ("outside")
<i>ahí, allá</i> ("there, over there")	<i>ante</i> ("before")
<i>arriba</i> ("above, overhead, upstairs")	<i>cerca</i> ("close, near, nearby")
<i>delante</i> ("ahead")	<i>dentro</i> ("inside")
<i>detrás</i> ("behind, after")	<i>donde</i> ("where")
<i>encima</i> ("above, on top")	<i>enfrente</i> ("in front of")
<i>fuera</i> ("outside")	<i>lejos</i> ("far away")

Adverbial Locutions

<i>Spanish</i> ("English")	<i>Spanish</i> ("English")
<i>a casa</i> ("home")	<i>a la derecha</i> ("to the right")
<i>a la izquierda</i> ("to the left")	<i>al revés</i> ("backwards")
<i>de abajo</i> ("downstairs")	<i>de abajo hacia arriba</i> ("upward")
<i>de aquí en adelante</i> ("henceforth")	<i>de arriba hacia abajo</i> ("downward")
<i>de donde</i> ("from where")	<i>dentro de</i> ("within, inside")
<i>en alguna parte</i> ("somewhere")	<i>en casa</i> ("at home")
<i>en cualquier parte</i> ("anywhere")	<i>en cualquier momento</i> ("at any time, whenever")
<i>en el extranjero</i> ("abroad")	<i>en ninguna parte</i> ("nowhere")
<i>en otra parte</i> ("elsewhere")	<i>en todas partes</i> ("everywhere")



<i>por ahí</i> ("that way, over there")	<i>por aquí</i> ("this way, over here")
---	---

Sample Sentences

Spanish	"English"
<i>Había vivido en el extranjero por dos años cuando empecé a extrañar a mi país.</i>	"I had lived abroad for two years when I began to miss my country."
<i>Detrás de ese edificio está el banco.</i>	"The bank is behind that building."
<i>En todas partes del mundo, a la gente le gusta comer bien.</i>	"People like to eat well everywhere in the world."
<i>Me puedes llamar en cualquier momento.</i>	"You can call me at any time."
<i>Vamos para allá. Creo que el hotel está cerca.</i>	"Let's go that way. I think the hotel is nearby."

Adverbial locutions are simply particular phrasal expressions that use adverbs. These lists of adverbs of place are not comprehensive of course, but they should give you a good idea of the general formation and usage. Adverbs of place locate the action of the verb in relation to the space within which it occurs.

Think for example of the phrase *caminamos* ("we walk"). What we know from this is the action, the actors, and the time when it occurs, but we don't know **where** it occurs. Adverbs of place define this location to make the action of verbs more precise and descriptive. Thus, we can say *caminamos detrás de la guía* ("we walk behind the guide"), which gives the verbal action a sense of spatiality.

Cultural Insight

Ox Tail Stew

Ox tail stew is a kind of soup with lots of vegetables and spices. To prepare it, you have to braise the four pounds ox tail, beef tail, or lamb neck in olive oil until brown. When fully browned, add beef stock, red wine, and salt. Sauté the onions, garlic, shallots, thyme, parsley, celery, and carrots separately. Add sautéed vegetables to meat mixture, stir to blend, pour into casserole dish, and bake for approximately two hours or until meat is tender. Serve with black bread and butter over white rice. Trust us; this will be enough for the entire family and then some!



Beginner Lesson S3

Spanish Adverbs of Time: Relax! We've Already Thought of That!

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Formal Spanish

SANTIAGO	Corra Laura, aquí está el plato para la mesa 2.
LAURA	¡Ocupo ajo! ¿¡Dónde está el ajo!?
SANTIAGO	En la condimentera.
LAURA	¡Sirva la sopa!
SANTIAGO	¡Esto está de locos!... ¿y el cucharón?
LAURA	¡Lo tiene en frente! ¡El pollo! ¿Y el pollo? ¿¡Dónde está el pollo!?
SANTIAGO	Respire, Laura, ya está en el horno.
LAURA	Ay, perdón, es que hay mucha gente...
SANTIAGO	Voy a batir los huevos.
LAURA	Sal... orégano... paprika... listo?
SANTIAGO	Listo, llame a los meseros.

Formal English

SANTIAGO	Run Laura, here's the dish for table two.
LAURA	I need garlic! Where's the garlic!?
SANTIAGO	It's with the spices.
LAURA	Serve the soup!
SANTIAGO	This is getting crazy! ...and the ladle?
LAURA	It's right in front of you! The chicken! And the chicken? Where's the chicken?
SANTIAGO	Breathe, Laura, it's already in the oven.
LAURA	Ah, sorry, it's just that there are a lot of people...
SANTIAGO	I'm going to beat the eggs.
LAURA	Salt...oregano...paprika...got it?
SANTIAGO	Got it, call the waiters.

Informal Spanish

SANTIAGO	Corre Laura, aquí esta el plato para la mesa 2.
LAURA	¡Ocupo ajo! ¿¡dónde está el ajo!?
SANTIAGO	En la condimentera.
LAURA	¡Sirve la sopa!
SANTIAGO	¡Esto está de locos!... ¿y el cucharón?



LAURA ¿Lo tienes en frente! ¡El pollo! ¿Y el pollo? ¿¡Dónde está el pollo!?

SANTIAGO Respira, Laura, ya está en el horno.

LAURA Ay, perdón, es que hay mucha gente...

SANTIAGO Voy a batir los huevos.

LAURA Sal... orégano... paprika... listo?

SANTIAGO Listo, llama a los meseros.

Informal English

SANTIAGO Run Laura, here's the dish for table two.

LAURA I need garlic! Where's the garlic!?

SANTIAGO It's with the spices.

LAURA Serve the soup!

SANTIAGO This is getting crazy! ...and the ladle?

LAURA It's right in front of you! The chicken! And the chicken? Where's the chicken?

SANTIAGO Breathe, Laura, it's already in the oven.

LAURA Ah, sorry, it's just that there are a lot of people...

SANTIAGO I'm going to beat the eggs.

LAURA Salt...oregano...paprika...got it?

SANTIAGO Got it, call the waiters.

Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
correr	to run, to pull (move), to go fast	verb
ocupar	to occupy, to take up	verb
frente	front	masculine noun
batir	to beat (eggs)	verb
cucharón	ladle	masculine noun
horno	oven	masculine noun

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Me gusta correr en el parque.

"I like to run in the park."

El ejército ocupó el pobre pueblo durante tres años.

"The army occupied the poor town for three years."

Antes de echar los otros ingredientes, tienes que batir los huevos bien.

"Before pouring the other ingredients, you have to beat the eggs very well."

Necesito más cucharones en mi cocina.

"I need more ladles in my kitchen."

Las palomitas estan en el horno.

"The popcorn is in the oven."

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Spanish Adverbs of Time

Respira, Laura, ya está en el horno.

"Breathe, Laura, it's already in the oven."

Adverbs in Spanish are invariable, that is, they do not show number or gender. Their function is to modify the meaning of verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. We can group adverbs into the following categories.

Adverbs of:

1. Time
2. Place
3. Manner
4. Quantity
5. Affirmation
6. Negation
7. Doubt
8. Exclusion
9. Inclusion
10. Interrogation

Here is a list of **Adverbs of Time**.

Adverbs

<i>Spanish ("English")</i>	<i>Spanish ("English")</i>
<i>ahora - ("now")</i>	<i>ant año - ("long ago")</i>



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<i>anteayer</i> - ("the day before yesterday")	<i>antes</i> - ("before")
<i>aún</i> - ("still, yet")	<i>ayer</i> - ("yesterday")
<i>cuando</i> - ("when")	<i>despacio</i> - ("slowly")
<i>después</i> - ("after")	<i>entonces</i> - ("then")
<i>hoy</i> - ("today")	<i>jamás</i> - ("never")
<i>luego</i> - ("soon")	<i>mañana</i> - ("tomorrow")
<i>mientras</i> - ("while")	<i>nunca</i> - ("never")
<i>pronto</i> - ("soon")	<i>siempre</i> - ("always")
<i>tarde</i> - ("late")	<i>temprano</i> - ("early")
<i>todavía</i> - ("still, yet")	<i>ya</i> - ("already, by now")

Adverbial Locutions

Spanish ("English")	Spanish ("English")
<i>al anochecer</i> - ("at nightfall")	<i>de ahora en adelante</i> - ("from now on")
<i>de día</i> - ("in the day")	<i>de la mañana</i> - ("in the morning")
<i>de la noche a la mañana</i> - ("overnight")	<i>de la tarde</i> - ("in the afternoon")
<i>de noche</i> - ("at night")	<i>de vez en cuando</i> - ("from time to time")
<i>en fin</i> - ("at last")	<i>pasado mañana</i> - ("the day after tomorrow")
<i>por ahora</i> - ("for now")	<i>por último</i> - ("finally")

Sample Sentences

Spanish	"English"
<i>Aún estamos en Bogotá.</i>	"We are still in Bogota."
<i>Nunca le habías llamado.</i>	"You had never called him."
<i>Me gusta viajar de vez en cuando.</i>	"I like to travel from time to time."
<i>De ahora en adelante, no hablaremos inglés.</i>	"From now on, we will not speak English."

Adverbial locutions are simply particular phrasal expressions that use adverbs. These lists of adverbs of time are not extensive of course, but they should give you a good idea of the general formation and usage. Adverbs are important because they locate the verbal action, in this case temporally. That is, adverbs of time modify the verbal action in such a way that the temporal aspect of the action gains dimension. For example, if we say *a Martín le gusta viajar* ("Martin likes to travel"), we know nothing about when Martin likes to travel. We simply express the pleasure he takes as a fact without any



temporal aspect. However, if we add an adverb, we can modify the action of "liking."

For example:

1. *A Martín le gusta viajar de noche.*
"Martin likes to travel at night."

Cultural Insight

Tipping in Latin America

You do not need to tip wait staff in restaurants, or any other kind of service such as watchmen in parking lots. The tips are already included in your bill. At the end of the month, the employees receive an already set percentage of the sales and the owners find it easier to do it this way. If you leave a tip on the table for the waiter, they will probably give it to the owner with the rest of the money because the waiter is not supposed to get money from the client and the owner will keep it.



Beginner Lesson S3

Spanish Preterit: I Cooked Food All Day Before We Ate!

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Formal Spanish

LAURA Cocinando todo el día y hasta ahora como yo.
SANTIAGO Oiga, y ¿para la noche?
LAURA Creo que unas costillitas.
SANTIAGO Tenemos que marinarlas desde ya.
LAURA ¿Quedó aceite de oliva?
SANTIAGO Creo que no. Ocupamos más limones también.
LAURA Bueno, terminemos de comer y empecemos con la cena.

Formal English

LAURA Cooking all day and only now I finally get to eat.
SANTIAGO Hey now, and what about for tonight?
LAURA I'm thinking about some pork ribs.
SANTIAGO We've got to marinate them right away.
LAURA Is there olive oil left?
SANTIAGO I don't think so. We need more limes too.
LAURA Okay, let's finish eating and start on the dinner.

Informal Spanish

LAURA Cocinando todo el día y hasta ahora como yo.
SANTIAGO Oye, y ¿para la noche?
LAURA Creo que unas costillitas.
SANTIAGO Tenemos que marinarlas desde ya.
LAURA ¿Quedó aceite de oliva?
SANTIAGO Creo que no. Ocupamos más limones también.
LAURA Bueno, terminemos de comer y empecemos con la cena.

Informal English

LAURA Cooking all day and only now I finally get to eat.
SANTIAGO Hey now, and what about for tonight?



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LAURA I'm thinking about some pork ribs.
SANTIAGO We've got to marinate them right away.
LAURA Is there olive oil left?
SANTIAGO I don't think so. We need more limes too.
LAURA Okay, let's finish eating and start on the dinner.

Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
cocinar	to cook	verb
costilla	rib, cutlet	feminine noun
aceite	oil	masculine noun
desde	since	preposition
creo que	I think, I believe	set phrase
comer	to eat	verb

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Yo nunca cocino sopa. "I never cook soup."
Me quebré una costilla. "I broke a rib."
El aceite esta caliente. "The oil is hot."
Desde que nació mi hijo no puedo dormir. "I haven't slept since my son was born."
Ellos comen mucho. "They eat a lot."

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is the Preterit Tense

¿Quedó aceite de oliva?

"Is there olive oil left?"

The preterit tense expresses an action prior to the present or another action.

For example:

1. "I *saw* him two days ago."

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"I spoke with her while you were working."

To form the preterit tense for regular verbs, we first must remove the -ar, -er, or -ir ending to get the root of the verb. Then we add one of the correct preterit endings. The preterit endings for all regular -er and -ir verbs are identical.

Terminar

<i>Singular Spanish</i>	"Singular English"	<i>Plural Spanish</i>	"Plural English"
<i>yo terminé</i>	"I finished"	<i>nosotros terminamos</i>	"we finished"*
<i>tú terminaste</i>	"you finished"	<i>vosotros terminasteis</i>	"you all finished" - <i>informal</i>
<i>él terminó</i>	"he finished"	<i>ellos terminaron</i>	"they finished" - <i>masculine</i>
<i>ella terminó</i>	"she finished"	<i>ellas terminaron</i>	"they finished" - <i>feminine</i>
<i>usted terminó</i>	"you finished" - <i>formal</i>	<i>ustedes terminaron</i>	"you all finished" - <i>formal</i>

Aprender

<i>Singular Spanish</i>	"Singular English"	<i>Plural Spanish</i>	"Plural English"
<i>yo aprendí</i>	"I learned"	<i>nosotros aprendimos</i>	"we learned"
<i>tú aprendiste</i>	"you learned"	<i>vosotros aprendisteis</i>	"you all learned" - <i>informal</i>
<i>él aprendió</i>	"he learned"	<i>ellos aprendieron</i>	"they learned" - <i>masculine</i>
<i>ella aprendió</i>	"she learned"	<i>ellas aprendieron</i>	"they learned" - <i>feminine</i>
<i>usted aprendió</i>	"you learned" - <i>formal</i>	<i>ustedes aprendieron</i>	"you all learned" - <i>formal</i>

Decidir

<i>Singular Spanish</i>	"Singular English"	<i>Plural Spanish</i>	"Plural English"
<i>yo decidí</i>	"I decided"	<i>nosotros decidimos</i>	"we decided"*
<i>tú decidiste</i>	"you decided"	<i>vosotros decidisteis</i>	"you all decided" - <i>informal</i>



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<i>él decidió</i>	"he decided"	<i>ellos decidieron</i>	"they decided" - <i>masculine</i>
<i>ella decidió</i>	"she decided"	<i>ellas decidieron</i>	"they decided" - <i>feminine</i>
<i>usted decidió</i>	"you decided" - <i>formal</i>	<i>ustedes decidieron</i>	"you all decided" - <i>formal</i>

Sample Sentences

Spanish	"English"
<i>¿Cuánto ganaste ayer?</i>	"How much did you earn yesterday?"
<i>Aprendisteis a tomar el metro hace tiempo.</i>	"You all learned to take the subway a while back."
<i>Y tu hijito, ¿de quién aprendió esas vulgaridades?</i>	"And you little boy, where did you learn those expletives?"
<i>Decidieron ir a la playa a pesar de las inclemencias del tiempo.</i>	"They decided to go to the beach despite the inclement weather."
<i>¿Cuándo decidiste mudarte a Costa Rica?</i>	"When did you decide to move to Costa Rica?"

For regular -ar and -ir verbs, the present indicative and preterit indicative forms are identical.

For example:

1. **Terminamos** el trabajo ayer.
"We *finished* the job yesterday."
2. **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 we use it. On the other hand, -er verbs do not follow this rule.

Cultural Insight



Latin American Pork Dishes

Pork is a very popular meat in Latin America. Pigs are generally popular in many tropical and island cultures. For the most part, pork is fried. Roast pork is very popular, as are what we call "pork cracklings," known in Latin America as *chicharones*. *Chicharones* are deep fried pigskins and they are not the most healthy option on the menu. Pork is more popular in the Caribbean and we use it in a variety of dishes. Pigs are seen as easier to raise and are not used for work so they can be raised and killed without effecting the productivity of a farm. My personal favorite pork dish is called *pernil*. *Pernil* is a pork shoulder that we marinate with a garlic sauce and let soak for at least a night. We then bake the dish for at least four or five hours. If you want an extra tender dish, use a large turkey bag. You will be amazed at the flavor and tenderness!



Beginner Lesson S3

Spanish Historical Present: Talking About Close Calls in Spanish

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Formal Spanish

LAURA Santiago, ¡qué día!
SANTIAGO Hoy, sí, me gané el salario.
LAURA ¡Salud por eso, Santiago!
SANTIAGO ¡Salud! No hay nada mejor como un mojito para terminar un día agotador.
LAURA ¿Un mojito?... Sí... ¡llevamos cinco!
SANTIAGO Hoy casi me corto un dedo.
LAURA ¡Salud por esooooo!
SANTIAGO Laura, mejor la llevo a su casa.

Formal English

LAURA Santi, what a day!
SANTIAGO Today, I really earned my keep.
LAURA Cheers to that, Santiago!
SANTIAGO Cheers! There's nothing better than a Mojito to finish off a tiring day.
LAURA A Mojito...? Yes...let's take five!
SANTIAGO Today, I almost cut my finger.
LAURA Cheers to that!
SANTIAGO Laura, I'd better take you home.

Informal Spanish

LAURA Santi, ¡qué día!
SANTIAGO Hoy, sí, me gané el salario.
LAURA ¡Salud por eso, compa!
SANTIAGO ¡Salud! No hay nada mejor como un mojito para terminar un día agotador.
LAURA ¿Un mojito?... Sí... ¡llevamos cinco!
SANTIAGO Hoy casi me corto un dedo.
LAURA ¡Salud por esooooo!
SANTIAGO Laura, mejor te llevo a tu casa.



Informal English

LAURA Santi, what a day!
SANTIAGO Today, I really earned my keep.
LAURA Cheers to that, bud!
SANTIAGO Cheers! There's nothing better than a Mojito to finish off a tiring day.
LAURA A Mojito...? Yes...let's take five!
SANTIAGO Today, I almost cut my finger.
LAURA Cheers to that!
SANTIAGO Laura, I'd better take you home.

Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
agotador	exhausting	adjective
dedo	finger	noun
compa	buddy	noun
salario	wages, pay	noun
¡Salud por eso!	Cheers to that!	set phrase
salud	health, cheers	noun, interjection

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Caminar desde mi casa a mi trabajo es agotador. "Walking from my house to work is exhausting."
Mis dedos son muy pequeños. "My fingers are very small."
¡Oye, compa, pásame ese trago! "Hey there buddy, pass me that drink!"
Hoy me aumentaron el salario. "Today, I got a raise in my salary."
Mi hijo se va a casar. ¡Salud por eso! "My son is going to get married. Cheers to that!"
¡Salud a todos! "Cheers to everyone!"

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

Salud: ("cheers")

Por favor, saludame a tu abuela.

Ese muchacho nunca saluda.

Related words: el saludo ("the greeting") (noun), saludando ("the waving") (gerundio), saludado ("waved") (past particle)

Agotador: ("exhausting")

El ejercicio es agotador.

Caminar desde mi casa a mi trabajo es agotador.

Related words: agotarse ("to get worn-out") (verb), agotado ("worn-out")(adjective, past particle), cansado-a ("tired") (adjective)

Dedo: ("finger")

A mi vecino lo operaron de un dedo del pie.

Mis dedos son pequeños.

Related words: mano ("hand") (noun), uñas ("fingernails") (noun), pies ("feet") (noun)

Compa: ("buddy, pal")

Mi compa de la escuela se llama Pedro.

Compa, compa, me da una monedita.

Related words: compañero-a ("partner") (noun), acompañarse ("to accompany") (verb), compañía ("the company") (noun)

Salario: ("salary, wage")

Mi salario es por mes.

Hoy me aumentaron el salario.

Related words: sueldo ("the wage") (noun), asalariado ("employee") (adjective, past particle), pagar un sueldo a ("to pay a salary") (verbo)

¡Salud por eso!: (phrase)

Hoy nació mi primer hijo. ¡Salud por eso!

Mi hijo se va a casar. ¡Salud por eso!

Related words: ¡Que dicha! (Costa Rica) ("I'm glad for you," "that's so nice," "that makes me happy for you"), ¡Que alegría! ("happiness, how great"), ¡bebamos por eso! ("let's drink for it") , brindar ("to drink a toast") (verbo)

Grammar Points



The Focus of This Lesson is the Historical Present

Hoy casi me corto un dedo.

"Today, I almost cut my finger."

Uso Verbal: Presente histórico

Verbal Usage: Historical Present

Using the present tense to express a past situation is a very common thing for Spanish speakers to do. You will often hear a person recounting the events of a previous experience using the present tense. Doing this gives a livelier feel to the speech, and it helps to transport our thoughts to a past event as if it were happening before our eyes.

We do this in English as well. For example, if you are telling a friend about what happened to you last night you might say, "So I'm sitting there watching TV when all of a sudden I see my uncle Daniel walk out of the bathroom with his pants on backwards." In this case, the speaker is describing a past situation and using the present tense to do so. Keep this lesson in mind when you are talking about past experiences and you will add a new dimension to your language abilities.

5 In the present tense of the indicative mood, there are numerous irregular forms. Since our real concern here is "usage" and not "formation," we'll give the conjugations for three regular verbs.

cortar ("to cut")

corto, cortas, corta

cortamos, cortais, cortan

comer ("to eat")

como, comes, come

comemos, comeis, comen

abrir ("to open")

abro, abres, abre

abrimos, abrís, abren

Sample Sentences

1. *Hoy en la mañana, casi me corto el dedo.* (as opposed to *casi me corté*)
"This morning, I almost cut my finger."
2. *En el año mil novecientos y diez, el autor camina por su barrio, come en un su restaurante favorito y se desaparece para siempre.* (as opposed to *el autor caminaba / comió en su restaurante favorito / se desapareció*)
"In the year nineteen ten, the author walks through his neighborhood, eats in his favorite restaurant, and disappears forever."
3. *Ayer, salgo del hotel, abro la puerta y ¡veo a una mujer infartante!* (as opposed to *salí del hotel / abrí la puerta / vi a una mujer*)
"Yesterday, I leave the hotel, open the door, and see a woman who would give anyone a heart-attack!"

As you're probably already starting to notice, what's tricky about this is listening to someone use the present tense and understand that the action to which they're referring took place prior to the moment of speech.

Again, this is common in spoken Spanish. Among intellectual crowds, you're likely to hear more conjugations. However, the *pueblo* often prefers the present tense to the preterit in order to express a past action.

6

Cultural Insight

Mojito

A *mojito* is one of the most popular drinks in Latin America and pretty much anywhere rum is widely available. This cocktail incorporates rum, mint, and lime. Don't be greedy and gulp it down, a *mojito* is better when you drink it slowly. Sipping the drink will allow the flavor of the mint to intensify gradually (which is a very, very good thing!). Here is a very good recipe that I have come across...enjoy it on an extremely hot day!

Ingredients:

Juice of 1 lime

1 tbsp of caster (superfine sugar)

4 fresh mint sprigs

5 tbsp of white rum

Crushed ice

6 tbsp of soda water

Instructions:

Mix the limejuice and sugar in a cocktail shaker and shake until the sugar has dissolved. Add three of the mint sprigs, the rum, and some crushed ice and shake vigorously. Pour into a tall glass, top with the soda water, and decorate with the remaining mint.

Make sure you shake the cocktail! Doing so bruises the mint leaves, releasing their flavor. If you don't happen to have a cocktail shaker, bruise the mint leaves by hand before adding them!



Beginner Lesson S3

Spanish Present Indicative: Would You Give Me Directions?

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Formal Spanish

MATEO Disculpe... ¿usted sabe dónde queda Barrio Amón?
JIMENA Sí, usted sigue hasta el parque, luego 2 cuadras al sur...
MATEO ¡Gracias! Es que busco el apartamento de un amigo.
JIMENA ¡Espere!... en la esquina hay una tienda de zapatos... de ahí usted sigue
 directo.
MATEO Wow.. OK, voy a apuntarlo mejor.
JIMENA Luego, cruza la calle, y llega a la iglesia... ¡y ya está!
MATEO Bueno, deséeme suerte.

Formal English

MATEO Excuse me...do you know where Barrio Amon is?
JIMENA Yeah, ya' continue to the park, then two blocks south...
MATEO Thanks! It's just that I'm looking for my friend's apartment.
JIMENA Hold on! On the corner there's a shoe store...from there, you go straight.
MATEO Wow...okay, I think it'd be better if I wrote this down.
JIMENA Then, you cross the street, and you reach a church...and that's it!
MATEO Okay, wish me luck.

Informal Spanish

MATEO Disculpá... ¿vos sabés dónde queda Barrio Amón?
JIMENA Sí, vos seguís hasta el parque, luego 2 cuadras al sur...
MATEO ¡Gracias! Es que busco el apartamento de un amigo.
JIMENA ¡Esperá!... en la esquina hay una tienda de zapatos... de ahí vos seguís
 directo.
MATEO Wow.. OK, voy a apuntarlo mejor.
JIMENA Luego, cruzás la calle, y llegás a la iglesia... ¡y ya está!
MATEO Bueno, deseáme suerte.

Informal English



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MATEO Excuse me...do you know where Barrio Amon is?
JIMENA Yeah, ya' continue to the park, then two blocks south...
MATEO Thanks! It's just that I'm looking for my friend's apartment.
JIMENA Hold on! On the corner there's a shoe store...from there, you go straight.
MATEO Wow...okay, I think it'd be better if I wrote this down.
JIMENA Then, you cross the street, and you reach a church...and that's it!
MATEO Okay, wish me luck.

Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
barrio	neighborhood	masculine noun
cuadra	block	feminine noun
esquina	corner	noun
ahí	there, over there	adverb
cruzar	to cross	verb
sur	south, south wind	masculine noun

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Es mejor no pasar por los barrios bravos.

"It's better not to go through the rough neighborhoods."

¿Cuántas cuadras ya hemos caminado?

"How many blocks have we walked now?"

La vuelta de la esquina.

"Just around the corner."

Estoy ahí a las ocho.

"I'll be there at eight o'clock."

¿Cruzamos la calle?

"Should we cross the street?"

En el sur, siempre hace frío.

"It's always cold in the south."

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Using the Present Tense Indicative Mood to Make Requests

Sí, vos seguís hasta el parque, luego 2 cuadras al sur...

"Yeah, ya' continue to the park, then two blocks south..."

While people will understand you and most will not be offended if you use the imperative form to request something, it is a sign of advanced understanding of the language to use more informal

commands, such as the present tense of the indicative mood. It adds a new dimension to your speaking abilities and many locals will appreciate the phrasing.

Think of it this way: suppose you are a waiter and two foreigners who speak English order hamburgers in your restaurant. The first person says, "give me a hamburger." The second person orders by saying "would you give me a hamburger?" Notice that the meaning is exactly the same, but the second person orders their food in a more polite and informal manner. It is the same for us in a Spanish setting. Just remember that little things, such as the use of the present tense of the indicative mood, can make a big difference in the way people understand you and in your overall enjoyment of the language. All right, on to the conjugation.

Conjugation

Infinitive: *dar* ("to give")

doy, das, da

damos, dais, dan

With the irregular verb *ver*, we see something similar to what we saw with *dar*. With *ver*, the stem is simply a -v, and the first person singular has an interesting form. Here, we see the ending -eo. Again, with the verb *ver* in this tense and mood, there are no accents on any of the forms. Review the conjugation below:

Infinitive: *ver* ("to see")

veo, ves, ve

vemos, veis, ven

Finally, we have the verb *oír* ("to hear"). This verb is irregular and follows a distinct pattern in conjugation. It may seem difficult to recognize irregular verbs such as *oír* ("to hear") at first, and it certainly is challenging to master the conjugation. However, with a little practice and patience you can do it.

Infinitive: *oír* ("to hear")

oigo, oyes/oís, oye

oímos, oís, oyen

Sample Sentences

Spanish	"English"
<i>Me das cinco minutos por favor.</i>	"Please, give me five minutes."
<i>Me das un café cortado y no te</i>	"Give me a cappuccino and don't be long,



<i>demoras, ¿ya?</i>	okay?"
<i>Si tenés alguna duda, me decís.</i>	"If you have a problem, let me know."
<i>Me recoges a las ocho en punto... salgo de mi clase a las siete con cuarenta y cinco.</i>	"Pick me up at eight on the dot...I get out of class at seven forty-five."

Let's take a closer look at how to use the verbs *dar* ("to give"), *ver* ("to see"), and *oír* ("to hear") in the present tense of the indicative mood. We begin with the verb *dar* ("to give"). The interesting thing about this verb is that its stem is simply the letter -d, and that in the first person singular, it has the -oy ending, which we also saw with *estar* (*estoy*), *ser* (*soy*), and *ir* (*voy*).

You should also note that there are no accents on the verb *dar* in this tense and mood. Instead of using the imperative mood by saying *déme un café* ("give me a coffee"), we use the present tense of the indicative mood and say *Usted me da un café* ("give me a coffee"). Note that the meaning we express is the same, but the manner in which the order is conveyed is slightly less formal and demanding. It is more of a polite request rather than a straight order.

Cultural Insight

What if You Get Lost in Central America?

Everyone gets lost. However, this fact is especially true when you are on vacation. Foreign places can be hard to navigate. In the countries of Central America for example, there aren't any street signs. We are telling the truth--they do not exist! This can make things a bit difficult, especially when you don't know the landmarks people will refer to when they are giving directions. Overall, people want to be very helpful to you. They will give you directions even if they have no idea where you are going. It would be rude not to at least try to help you! The problem is, by the end of it you may be more lost than you were before and that is never a good thing! The most important thing to remember when you are lost is to keep calm. Also, it never hurts to keep the equivalent of \$20 in your shoe...hey, you never know what can happen! Oh, and don't hold a map out for the world to see. This may seem like common sense but it might surprise you how many tourists are robbed because they were picked out of a crowd because they were looking at a map very obviously lost!





Beginner Lesson S3

Irregular Spanish “Vos” Forms: Do You Understand?

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Formal Spanish

JAVIER ¡Oiga, muchacho! ¿Usted sabe de qué tiene cara?
MATEO ¿De qué?
JAVIER ¡De perdido!
MATEO Tiene razón, tengo una hora de estar dando vueltas.
JAVIER ¿Adónde va? lo vi cruzar unas diez veces.
MATEO Barrio Amón, a buscar un amigo.
JAVIER Es fácil... usted se vas por esta misma calle, dos cuadras ¡nada más!
MATEO ¿Eso es todo? ¡gracias, amigo!

Formal English

JAVIER Hey, little man! Do you know what you're face has written all over it?
MATEO What?
JAVIER Lost!
MATEO You're right! I've been going around in circles for an hour.
JAVIER Where are you going? I saw you cross here like ten times.
MATEO Barrio Amon...to look for a friend.
JAVIER It's easy...you go down this same street, just two blocks!
MATEO That's it? Thanks buddy!

Informal Spanish

JAVIER ¡Oye, muchacho! ¿Vos sabés de qué tenés cara?
MATEO ¿De qué?
JAVIER ¡De perdido!
MATEO Tenés razón, tengo una hora de estar dando vueltas.
JAVIER ¿Adónde vas? te vi cruzar unas diez veces.
MATEO Barrio Amón, a buscar un amigo.
JAVIER Es fácil... vos te vas por esta misma calle, dos cuadras ¡nada más!
MATEO ¿Eso es todo? ¡gracias, amigo!

Informal English



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JAVIER Hey, little man! Do you know what you're face has written all over it?
MATEO What?
JAVIER Lost!
MATEO You're right! I've been going around in circles for an hour.
JAVIER Where are you going? I saw you cross here like ten times.
MATEO Barrio Amon...to look for a friend.
JAVIER It's easy...you go down this same street, just two blocks!
MATEO That's it? Thanks buddy!

Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
perdido(a)	lost	adjective
razón	reason	feminine noun
vuelta	turn, return, walk	feminine noun
mismo(a)	same, very, right	adjective, adverb
adónde	where	adverb
cara	face	noun

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

3

<i>Hay muchas razones.</i>	"There are many reasons."
<i>Vamos a dar una vuelta.</i>	"Let's go for a spin."
<i>Nos damos la vuelta en la próxima esquina.</i>	"We turn at the next corner."
<i>¡Qué sorpresa que nos encontramos en la misma tienda!</i>	"What a surprise that we run into each other in the same store!"

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is the Phenomenon of *vos*

¿Vos sabés de qué tenés cara?

"Do you know what you're face has written all over it?"

In Argentina, we tend to use *vos* as the second person singular personal pronoun instead of *tú*. They mean the same thing really, but when we use *vos*, the endings of some of the verb forms change. Argentina is not the only country where you can find the *voseo*, or the phenomenon of using *vos*

instead of *tu*. You can also find it in parts of Bolivia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Please note though, when to use *vos* and when to use *tú* changes from one country to the next.

Here, our focus is on the irregular forms for *vos* in the present tense of the indicative mood.

Irregular -ar Verbs

For all irregular -ar verbs, we create the *vos* form by dropping the infinitive ending and adding -*ás* to the stem.

For Example:

1. *mostrar*

Tu Form: *tú muestras*

Vos Form: *vos mostrás*

Notice that *mostrar* is an *o-ue* stem-changing verb.

Irregular -er Verbs

The same goes for all irregular -er verbs. We create the *vos* form by dropping the infinitive ending and adding -*és* to the stem.

For Example:

1. *volver*

Tu Form: *tú vuelves*

Vos Form: *vos volvés*

Again, notice that the verb *volver* is an *o-ue* stem-changing verb.

Regular Irregular -ir Verbs

For all regular and irregular -ir verbs, the *vos* form always follows the *vosotros* form.

For Example:

1. **Tu Form:** *tú sales*
Vos Form: *vos salís*
2. **Tu Form:** *tú exiges*
Vos Form: *vos exigís*

Note: The verbs *ser* and *ir* are exceptions to this list.

Sample Sentences

Spanish	"English"
<i>Si vos querés que te acompañe vos me decís.</i>	"If you want me to go with you, just tell me."
<i>¿Lo entendés? porque no lo entiendo bien.</i>	"Do you understand it, because I don't understand it well."
<i>Si salís sin abrigo, estás loco.</i>	"If you go outside without a coat you're crazy."
<i>¿Me podés hacer un favor?</i>	"Can you do me a favor, please?"
<i>Si vos hacés la ensalada, yo preparo el aliño.</i>	"If you make the salad, I'll prepare the dressing."

Notice that for irregular verbs in the present tense of the indicative mood, we see the presence of the infinitive stem for verbs whose subject is *vos*.

For Example:

1. **contar** (cont-, *contás*)
2. **querer** (quer-, *querés*)
3. **transferir** (transfer-, *transferís*)

Also, it's important to recognize how the forms for *tú* and *vos* are related to each other. It's not as if someone who tends to use *vos* and the corresponding verb forms won't understand *tú* and its corresponding forms. If you're going to learn one, you might as well learn both.

For Example:



1. *contar*:

Tu Form: *tú cuentas*

Vos Form: *vos contás*

2. *querer*:

Tu Form: *tú quieres*

Vos Form: *vos querés*

3. *transferir*:

Tu Form: *tú transfieres*

Vos Form: *vos transferís*

Cultural Insight

Where to Use *Vos* vs. *Tu*

Although the use of *vos* varies from region to region, and whether it is considered standard Spanish varies widely from country to country, you can hear people use *vos* in many countries in Central America, in the countries of southern South America (Chile, Argentina, Uruguay), and in parts of Columbia, Peru, and Ecuador. In parts of the Americas where there was a strong influence of the Spanish Court (places such as Mexico and Peru), the eventual change from *vos* to *tú* and *vuestra merced* to *usted* mirrored the evolution of the Spanish language in Spain. However, in regions farther away from centers of power, this evolution did not necessarily follow the same pattern. Central America did not have the resources of Mexico and Peru and was thus considered the backwater of the Spanish Empire.



Beginner Lesson S3

Using “Vos” in Spanish Imperatives: Don’t Ask Me Next Time!

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Formal Spanish

MATEO Mire, Pablo, fue una odisea.
PABLO Pero, ¿qué dice?.. si es cerca.
MATEO No sabe la perdida que me di.. ¡una mujer me mandó al limbo!
PABLO Bueno, y ¿cómo fue que llegó?
MATEO Yo seguí hasta el parque, luego dos cuadras al sur, en la esquina en la tienda de zapatos... directo... crucé la calle y llegué a la iglesia.
PABLO ¡Hombre! Usted andaba del otro lado, para llegar aquí sólo camina de su puerta, ¡directo cuatro cuadras y ya!
MATEO ¡¡¡Qué!!! ¡No le vuelvo a preguntar!

Formal English

MATEO Look Pablo, it was an odyssey.
PABLO But, what are you saying? ...it's close.
MATEO You don't know how lost I was...one woman sent me to limbo.
PABLO All right, so how did you end up getting here?
MATEO I continued to the park, then two blocks south, at the corner where the shoe store is... straight...I crossed the street and reached the church.
PABLO Man! You were coming from the other side. To get here you just walk out your door, four blocks straight ahead, and that's it!
MATEO Fine! I won't ask you again!

Informal Spanish

MATEO Mirá, Pablo, fue una odisea.
PABLO Pero, ¿qué decís?.. si es cerca.
MATEO No sabés la perdida que me di.. ¡una mujer me mandó al limbo!
PABLO Bueno, y ¿cómo fue que llegaste?
MATEO Yo seguí hasta el parque, luego dos cuadras al sur, en la esquina en la tienda de zapatos... directo... crucé la calle y llegué a la iglesia.
PABLO ¡Hombre! Vos andabas del otro lado, para llegar aquí sólo caminás de tu puerta, ¡directo cuatro cuadras y ya!
MATEO ¡¡¡Qué!!! ¡No te vuelvo a preguntar!



Informal English

MATEO Look Pablo, it was an odyssey.
PABLO But, what are you saying? ...it's close.
MATEO You don't know how lost I was...one woman sent me to limbo.
PABLO All right, so how did you end up getting here?
MATEO I continued to the park, then two blocks south, at the corner where the shoe store is... straight...I crossed the street and reached the church.
PABLO Man! You were coming from the other side. To get here you just walk out your door, four blocks straight ahead, and that's it!
MATEO Fine! I won't ask you again!

Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
odisea	odyssey, ordeal	noun
mandar	to order, to send, to be in charge	verb
directo	direct, straight	adjective
iglesia	church	feminine noun
andar	to walk, to go	verb
cerca	near, nearby	adverb

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Yo leí la Odisea cuando tenía catorce años. "I read the Odyssey when I was fourteen years old."
Espero que me mandes la carta pronto. "I hope that you send me the letter soon."
Mi casa está directo a la plaza. "My house is straight from the plaza."
La campana de la iglesia siempre dobla en punto. "The church bell always tolls on time."
Anda a la clínica antes de que te pongas muy mal. "Go to the clinic before you become very ill."
¿Sabe dónde hay una farmacia cerca de aquí? "Do you know where there's a pharmacy close by?"

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Using the Imperative Mood with *vos*

¡Hombre! Vos andabas del otro lado.

"Man! You were coming from the other side."

While *tú* is the standard pronoun for the second person singular, we also use *vos*. This second usage is the standard in places such as Argentina and Uruguay, and we use it interchangeably with *tú* in Costa Rica, Bolivia, and Chile as well as other places.

Aside from the different pronoun, verbs used with *vos* have different endings in the present tense of the indicative mood as well as in the imperative mood. Today, we're going to outline the general rules for using the imperative mood (i.e., commands) with the second person singular whose pronoun is *vos*.

To form **affirmative commands** addressing *vos*, all you have to do is use the following personal endings:

1. For -ar verbs, use -á
2. For -er verbs, use -é
3. For -ir verbs, use -í.

To form **negative commands** addressing *vos*, all of the forms are identical to the forms we use for *tú*:

1. For -ar verbs, use -es
2. For -er verbs, use -as
3. For -ir verbs, use -as

Affirmative Commands

-ar Verbs:

infinitive stem + -á

escuch[ar] + á = *¡escuchá, vos!* ("Listen, you!")

-er Verbs:

infinitive stem + -é

com[er] + é = *¡comé, vos!* ("Eat, you!")



-ir Verbs:

infinitive stem + -í

part[ir] + í = ¡*partí, vos!* ("Leave, you!")

Negative Commands

-ar Verbs:

no + infinitive stem + -es

escuch[ar] + es = ¡*no escuches, vos!* ("Don't you listen!")

-er Verbs:

no + infinitive stem + -as

com[er] + as = ¡*no comas, vos!* ("Don't you eat!")

-ir Verbs:

no + infinitive stem + -as

part[ir] + as = ¡*no partas, vos!* ("Don't you leave!")

Sample Sentences

Spanish	"English"
<i>Miráme cuando te hablo.</i>	"Look at me when I'm talking to you."
<i>No me mires, mi pelo está hecho un desastre.</i>	"Don't look at me; my hair is a disaster."
<i>Comé todo lo que vos querrás.</i>	"Eat all that you want."
<i>No comas tanto o te va a salir una panza.</i>	"Don't eat so much or else you'll get a paunch."
<i>Escribíme una carte cuando vos llegues.</i>	"Write me a letter when you arrive."
<i>No me escribas si vos no ma vas a decir cosas bonitas.</i>	"Don't write to me if you're not going to tell me nice things."

Remember that using the *voseo* is a regional tendency and that every form of Spanish is made up of regional tendencies. The *voseo* however, is very distinct. Since *vos* is a pronoun all on its own, and since it receives different personal endings in the present tense of the indicative mood and in the imperative mood as we've seen today, it could be confusing to the untrained ear.

However, it's also important to realize that if you're in a place such as Argentina where the *voseo* is the standard, or in Costa Rica where we use it interchangeably with *tú*, if you use the *tú* form, it's not like



the person your speaking to will not understand you. On the contrary, speakers who prefer *vos* to *tú* understand and can use both forms. That being said, it's definitely a good idea to learn to recognize the *voseo*, and if you're interested in really giving your Spanish some flavor, it's a good idea to learn how to use it as well.

Cultural Insight

Commands in Latin America

Giving someone a command (using the imperative mood) may sound harsh to some, but in actuality is less demanding in Spanish. When giving a command, one is not ordering the person to perform an action in the sense that English speakers are accustomed to as in, "I command you!" Commands can be either formal or informal. In Latin America, the forms of both formal and informal commands are the same in the plural. To form the plural command (again either formal or informal), one must only add -n to the singular formal command. In a society where we still hold formality in high regards, this distinction is important. This rule on the other hand, does not apply to *vos*. When using *vos*, one is being informal. Remember, the use of *vos* is limited to certain countries but would be understood anywhere in the Spanish-speaking world.



Beginner Lesson S3

Spanish Indefinite Pronouns: Do You Have Some Time?

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Formal Spanish

PABLO Me dieron cuatro días de vacaciones.
ANDREA Ya le hacía falta un descanso.
PABLO Debería sacar unos días libres también.
ANDREA Creo que tengo unos acumulados.
PABLO ¡Vamos! Pida permiso y nos vamos a la playa.
ANDREA ¡Vale!

Formal English

PABLO They gave me four vacation days.
ANDREA You've needed a break for a while now.
PABLO You ought to take some free days too.
ANDREA I think I have some saved up.
PABLO Let's go! Get permission and we'll go to the beach.
ANDREA You got it!

Informal Spanish

PABLO Me dieron cuatro días de vacaciones.
ANDREA Ya te hacía falta un descanso.
PABLO Deberías sacar unos días libres también.
ANDREA Creo que tengo unos acumulados.
PABLO ¡Vamos! Pide permiso y nos vamos a la playa.
ANDREA ¡Vale!

Informal English

PABLO They gave me four vacation days.
ANDREA You've needed a break for a while now.
PABLO You ought to take some free days too.
ANDREA I think I have some saved up.



PABLO Let's go! Get permission and we'll go to the beach.
ANDREA You got it!

Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
hacer falta	to be lacking something, in need of something, to miss something	verb
descansar	to rest	verb
acumulado	accumulated	adjective, noun, past particle
sacar	to take out, pull out, get out	verb
pedir	to ask for	verb
¡vale!	okay	interjection

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

¡Me haces muchísima falta!

"I miss you so much!"

¡Que ganas de descansar!

"I really want to rest!"

Usted ha acumulado mucho resentimiento.

"You've accumulated a lot of resentment."

Si yo saco la basura, tú sacas al perro.

"If I take out the garbage, you take the dog out."

Yo le pido a Dios que me ayude.

"I ask God to help me."

¡vale, vamos!

okay, let's go!

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Indefinite Pronouns

Debería sacar unos días libres también.

"You ought to take some free days too."

We know that a noun is a person, place, or thing and that a pronoun replaces a noun while at once referring to it and agreeing with it. Indefinite pronouns lack definite terms. They express the notions of quantity, identity, and other kinds of vague or undetermined manners. They take the place of a non-concrete person or thing or one whose determination is not in the interest of the speaker. Since

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they take the place of a noun, they work like nouns, even though they also can work as adjectives. There are many kinds of indefinite pronouns and each one tends to have a number of different forms. Here, we will go over some of the most common.

Singular			
Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	"English"
<i>uno</i>	<i>una</i>	<i>uno</i>	"one"
<i>alguno</i>	<i>alguna</i>	<i>algo</i>	"some, someone, something"
<i>ninguno</i>	<i>ninguna</i>	<i>nada</i>	"none, no one, not... any, nothing"
<i>poco</i>	<i>poca</i>	<i>poco</i>	"few"
<i>mucho</i>	<i>mucha</i>	<i>mucho</i>	"many"
<i>demasiado</i>	<i>demasiada</i>	<i>demasiado</i>	"too many"
<i>todo</i>	<i>toda</i>	<i>todo</i>	"all, everyone"
<i>otro</i>	<i>otra</i>	<i>otro</i>	"another"
<i>mismo</i>	<i>misma</i>	<i>mismo</i>	"the same one"
<i>tan, tanto</i>	<i>tanta</i>	<i>tanto</i>	"so much, so many"

Plural		
Masculine	Feminine	"English"
<i>unos</i>	<i>unas</i>	"some"
<i>algunos</i>	<i>algunas</i>	"some"
<i>ningunos</i>	<i>ningunas</i>	"no one, none"
<i>pocos</i>	<i>pocas</i>	"few"
<i>muchos</i>	<i>muchas</i>	"many"
<i>demasiados</i>	<i>demasiadas</i>	"too many"
<i>todos</i>	<i>todas</i>	"all, everyone"
<i>otros</i>	<i>otras</i>	"others"
<i>mismos</i>	<i>mismas</i>	"the same ones"
<i>tantos</i>	<i>tantas</i>	"so much, so many"

Those with Two Forms		
Singular	Plural	"English"
<i>cualquiera</i>	<i>cualesquiera</i>	"whichever"
<i>quienquiera</i>	<i>quienesquiera</i>	"whoever"



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Those with a Single Form	
Spanish	"English"
<i>alguien</i>	"someone"
<i>nadie</i>	"no one"
<i>demás</i>	"the rest"

Sample Sentences

Spanish	"English"
<i>Mariana, ¿te sirvo algo?</i>	"Mariana, can I serve you something?"
<i>¿Buscás a alguien en particular?</i>	"Are you looking for someone in particular?"
<i>Algunos dicen que el problema se va a resolver solito.</i>	"Some say the problem will resolve itself."
<i>Ayer te di todos mis billetes y ya no me queda ninguno.</i>	"Yesterday, I gave you all my bills and I don't have any left."
<i>Los pocos que se atreven a leer a los escritores desconocidos ganan una mejor perspectiva de lo que es la literatura.</i>	"The few who dare to read unknown writers gain a better perspective on what literature is."
<i>A cualquiera le gustaría ir de vacaciones.</i>	"Anyone would like to go on vacation."
<i>Quiquiera que seas, no pongas la música tan alta.</i>	"Whoever you are, don't play the music so loud."
<i>Todos dicen lo mismo.</i>	"Everyone says the same thing."

Remember that indefinite pronouns are very similar to indefinite adjectives. The main difference, aside from formation, is that the adjectives modify the noun in an indefinite way, while the pronouns replace the noun and express the same sense of vagueness. For example, we could say *algunas personas dicen...*, in which case we use the indefinite adjective *algunas* (notice that it modifies *personas*). Alternatively, we could say *algunos dicen...*, in which case we're using the masculine plural form that acts as the neuter.

Cultural Insight



Time Off and Vacation in Latin America

Countries in Latin America are capitalist by definition, but far more left leaning. The workweek is shorter, and vacation time is freely given. Generally, companies will automatically grant two weeks per year for vacation. In addition to these fourteen days, employers grant Christmas week as well as *Semana Santa*. With seniority, more time is granted. It is not unheard of for an individual to have five weeks off per year, and that is business days! American companies that have offices in Latin America follow the American model. This may seem like an ideal situation for the overworked population of the United States but companies in Latin America do not grant sick days. All time off that you accumulate is deemed vacation days whether you are sick or not.



Beginner Lesson S3

Spanish Demonstrative Pronouns: This is a Shortcut!

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Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
mejor	better, best	adjective, adverb
manejar	to drive, to operate, to manage	verb
seguir	to follow, to keep on, to continue, to still be	verb
nunca	never, not...ever	adverb
optimista	optimistic	adjective
atajo	shortcut	masculine noun

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Es una ciudad pequeña, o mejor dicho, es un gran pueblo. "It's a small city, or better yet, it's a large town."

Si manejabas a la playa, te acompañaría.

"If you drove to the beach, I would join you."

¿Sigues detrás de ella?

"Are you still after her?"

En el invierno, nunca salgo sin abrigo.

"In the winter, I never go out without a coat."

Mi novio es muy optimista, cree que se va a ganar la lotería.

"My boyfriend is very optimistic; he believes he is going to win the lottery."

Conozco un atajo por ahí.

"I know a shortcut over there."

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Demonstrative Pronouns (*Pronombres - demostrativos*)

Éste es un atajo...

"This is a shortcut..."

A pronoun refers to a noun, which it takes the place of. With pronouns, we can refer to words that we mention previously in order to avoid redundancy. Demonstrative pronouns then will be very similar to "demonstrative adjectives," with the distinction that the pronouns will replace the word to which they refer, while the adjectives will modify this word.

What makes a demonstrative pronoun different from other pronouns is that it indicates the spatial

relationship between the speaker, the person we are speaking to, and the thing we are referring to. For example, 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.

Referring to Something Near the Speaker and the Person Being Spoken to

Masculine Singular: *este*

Feminine Singular: *esta*

Neuter Singular: *esto*

Masculine Plural: *estos*

Feminine Plural: *estas*

Referring to Something Near the Person Being Spoken to

Masculine Singular: *ese*

Feminine Singular: *esa*

Masculine Plural: *esos*

Feminine Plural: *esas*

Referring to Something Distant from the Speaker and the Person Being Spoken to

Masculine Singular: *aquel*

Feminine Singular: *aquella*

Masculine Plural: *aquellos*

Feminine Plural: *aquellas*



Sample Sentences

<i>Spanish</i>	"English"
<i>No me gusta esta camisa, prefiero esa.</i>	"I don't like this shirt. I prefer that one."
<i>Aquellos que dicen mucho hacen poco.</i>	"Those who talk a lot do very little."
<i>Éste no es el momento de hacer bromas.</i>	"This is not the time to make jokes."
<i>Me gusta esta playa, pero más me gusta aquella que queda unas dos horas más hacia el sur.</i>	"I like this beach. I like that one more that's about two more hours to the south."

Notice how demonstrative pronouns "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 that the verb *mostrar*, which means, "to show," is at the heart of the word *demonstrativo* ("demonstrative").

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Make sure you don't confuse demonstrative "adjectives" with demonstrative "pronouns." For example, in the sentence *no puedo aceptar ESO* ("I can't accept THAT."), the word *eso* is actually taking the place of what I can't accept. Whereas, if we say *no puedo aceptar esa oferta* ("I can accept THAT offer."), we are using the word *esa* as an adjective that modifies *oferta*. To further your understanding of demonstratives, refer to demonstrative adjectives.

Cultural Insight

Latin American Chauvinism on the Road

The fact that Pablo will not listen to Andrea is not surprising in the slightest. Even in the United States, a certain sense of *machista* still exists. We have already established that this male chauvinistic outlook is alive and well in Latin America. Women are not expected to be able to drive well. When asked why this is the case, many men will dismiss them as being, 'too emotional' and their reflexes 'aren't quick enough.' This is evident in not only their outlook of women drivers but also their behavior towards them on the road. Common courtesy on the road is not the norm while driving in Latin America. The same traffic laws and enforcement that we find in the United States does not apply. With this, you will see men going out of their way to be courteous to women on the road while completely ignoring other males who are trying to make the same turn. This creates a very hazardous environment on the road for everyone.



Beginner Lesson S3

Spanish Preterit: You Didn't Make a Reservation Either?!

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Informal Spanish

PABLO ¡Lo logramos! Ahora sí ¿en cuál hotel reservaste?
ANDREA ¿Hotel? ¿Quedamos que tú llamabas!
PABLO No, no yo dije que... espera, si tú no reservaste ni yo... ¿entonces?
ANDREA ¡Entonces no tenemos donde dormir!
PABLO Es imposible conseguir un cuarto en este mes.
ANDREA Nos toca dormir en la playa o en el auto.

Informal English

PABLO We made it! Now then, in which hotel did you make our reservation?
ANDREA Hotel? We agreed that you were going to call!
PABLO No, no, I said that...hold on, if you didn't make a reservation and I didn't
 either...then?
ANDREA Then we don't have anywhere to sleep!
PABLO It's impossible to get a room this month.
ANDREA We either have to sleep on the beach or in the car.

Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
lograr	to achieve, to manage	verb
reservar	to book, to reserve, to book, to save	verb
quedar	to stay (put), to remain, to be located, to arrange	verb
esperar	to expect, to wait, to hope	verb
cuarto	room	noun
playa	beach, coastline	noun

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Los atletas mexicanos lograrán la victoria en Beijing. "Mexican athletes will achieve victory in Beijing."



Lograré mis metas.

"I will achieve my goals."

Es importante reservar para tener un lugar asegurado.

"It's important to make a reservation to have a secure place."

El café de internet queda en la esquina.

"The Internet cafe is on the corner."

Nos quedamos en la casa de mi amigo.

"We stayed at my friend's house."

Mi novia espera en el paradero del autobús.

"My girlfriend waits at the bus stop."

Mi cuarto es muy pequeño, sólo hay espacio para la cama.

"My room is very small; there's only space for the bed."

La playa está hermosa.

"The beach is beautiful."

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Preterit Verb Formation (regulars)

¡Lo logramos!

"We made it!"

The preterit tense expresses an action prior to the present or another action.

For Example:

1. "I **saw** him two days ago."
2. "I **spoke** with her, while you were working."

To form the preterit 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 preterit endings.

The preterit endings for all regular -er and -ir verbs are identical.

Formation

Terminar

<i>Singular Spanish</i>	"English"	<i>Plural Spanish</i>	"English"
<i>yo terminé</i>	"I finished"	<i>nosotros terminamos</i>	"we finished"
<i>tú terminaste</i>	"you finished"	<i>vosotros terminasteis</i>	"you all finished" - <i>informal</i>



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<i>él terminó</i>	"he finished"	<i>ellos terminaron</i>	"they finished" - <i>masculine</i>
<i>ella terminó</i>	"she finished"	<i>ellas terminaron</i>	"they finished" - <i>feminine</i>
<i>usted terminó</i>	"you finished" - <i>formal</i>	<i>ustedes terminaron</i>	"you all finished" - <i>formal</i>

Aprender

<i>Singular Spanish</i>	"English"	<i>Plural Spanish</i>	"English"
<i>yo aprendí</i>	"I learned"	<i>nosotros aprendimos</i>	"we learned"
<i>tú aprendiste</i>	"you learned"	<i>vosotros aprendisteis</i>	"you all learned" - <i>informal</i>
<i>él aprendió</i>	"he learned"	<i>ellos aprendieron</i>	"they learned" - <i>masculine</i>
<i>ella aprendió</i>	"she learned"	<i>ellas aprendieron</i>	"they learned" - <i>feminine</i>
<i>usted aprendió</i>	"you learned" - <i>formal</i>	<i>ustedes aprendieron</i>	"you all learned" - <i>formal</i>

Decidir

<i>Singular Spanish</i>	"English"	<i>Plural Spanish</i>	"English"
<i>yo decidí</i>	"I decided"	<i>nosotros decidimos</i>	"we decided"
<i>tú decidiste</i>	"you decided"	<i>vosotros decidisteis</i>	"you all decided" - <i>informal</i>
<i>él decidió</i>	"he decided"	<i>ellos decidieron</i>	"they decided" - <i>masculine</i>
<i>ella decidió</i>	"she decided"	<i>ellas decidieron</i>	"they decided" - <i>feminine</i>
<i>usted decidió</i>	"you decided" - <i>formal</i>	<i>ustedes decidieron</i>	"you all decided" - <i>formal</i>

Sample Sentences

<i>Spanish</i>	"English"
<i>¿Cuánto ganaste ayer?</i>	"How much did you earn yesterday?"
<i>Aprendisteis a tomar el metro hace tiempo.</i>	"You all learned to take the subway a while back."
<i>Y tu hijito, ¿de quién aprendió esas vulgaridades?</i>	"And you little boy, where did you learn those expletives?"



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<i>Decidieron ir a la playa a pesar de las inclemencias del tiempo.</i>	"They decided to go to the beach despite the inclement weather."
<i>¿Cuándo decidiste mudarte a Costa Rica?</i>	"When did you decide to move to Costa Rica?"

Notes

For regular -ar and -ir verbs, the present indicative and preterit indicative forms are identical.

For Example:

1. *Terminamos el trabajo ayer.*
"We **finished** the job yesterday."
2. *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 we use it. -ER verbs, on the other hand, do not follow this rule.

There many, many, many irregular verbs in the preterit tense of the indicative mood; however, many of these are grouped into categories than can be memorized very easily with just a little practice. For example, consider the verb *tener* ("to have"). If we learn that *yo tuve* means, "I had," then we already also know that *mantuve* means, "I maintained," *contuve* means, "I contained," and *sostuve* means, "I sustained."



Beginner Lesson S3

Using the Spanish Periphrasis: It's Going to Rain!

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Formal Spanish

PABLO Me cayó una gota en la cabeza...
ANDREA Ohhh nooo va a llover...
PABLO ¡Qué vacaciones! debajo de una palmera con lluvia...
ANDREA Pablo, ¿qué dijimos del optimismo?
PABLO Sí, sí... que íbamos a ser optimistas.
ANDREA Además mojarse bajo la lluvia puede ser romántico.
PABLO Tiene razón, ¡vamos!

English

PABLO A raindrop just fell on my head.
ANDREA Ohhh nooo! It's going to rain...
PABLO Some vacations these are...under a palm tree with rain...
ANDREA Pablo, what did we say about optimism?
PABLO Yeah, yeah...that we were going to be optimistic.
ANDREA What's more, getting wet in the rain can be romantic.
PABLO You're right, let's go!

Informal Spanish

PABLO Me cayó una gota en la cabeza...
ANDREA Ohhh nooo va a llover...
PABLO ¡Qué vacaciones! debajo de una palmera con lluvia...
ANDREA Pablo, ¿qué dijimos del optimismo?
PABLO Sí, sí... que íbamos a ser optimistas.
ANDREA Además mojarse bajo la lluvia puede ser romántico.
PABLO Tienes razón, ¡vamos!

Informal English

PABLO A raindrop just fell on my head.



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ANDREA Ohhh nooo! It's going to rain...
PABLO Some vacations these are...under a palm tree with rain...
ANDREA Pablo, what did we say about optimism?
PABLO Yeah, yeah...that we were going to be optimistic.
ANDREA What's more, getting wet in the rain can be romantic.
PABLO You're right, let's go!

Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
gota	drop, raindrop	noun
llover	to rain	verb
palmera	palm tree, palm	noun
lluvia	rain	noun
mojarse	to get wet	reflexive verb
romántico	romantic	adjective

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

A mí me gusta ver caer las gotas de agua.

"I like to see the rain drops falling."

En Costa Rica llueve mucho.

"It rains a lot in Costa Rica."

Voy a sembrar palmeras pequeñas en mi jardín.

"I am going to plant small palm trees in my garden."

En mayo empieza la temporada de las lluvias en Costa Rica.

"In May, the rainy season begins in Costa Rica."

Yo no sé nadar pero me gusta mojarme en el mar.

"I don't know how to swim but I like getting wet in the ocean."

Mi papá es muy romántico con mi mamá: le dice "¡mi amor!" y le trae rosas.

"My father is very romantic with my mother. He calls her my love and brings her roses."

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Expressing Future Actions Using the Periphrasis

Sí, sí... que íbamos a ser optimistas.

"Yeah, yeah...that we were going to be optimistic."

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.

Construction

***ir* (personal verb) + *a* + infinitive (impersonal verb)**

PRESENT TENSE:

yo voy a...
tú vas a...
él va a...
ella va a...
usted va a...
nosotros vamos a...
vosotros vais a...
ellos/ellas van a...
ustedes van a...

IMPERFECT PAST TENSE:

yo iba a...
tú ibas a...
él iba a...
ella iba a...
usted iba a...
nosotros íbamos a...
vosotros ibais a...
ellos/ellas iban a...
ustedes iban a...

For Example:

1. *Voy a caminar en el parque.*
"I'm going to walk in the park."
2. *Vas a hacer tu tarea.*
"You are going to do your homework."

***Contrast this to the following use of the absolute future:**



For Example:

1. *Iré a caminar en el parque.*
"I will go to walk in the park."
2. *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"):

<i>Spanish Present Tense</i>	"English"	<i>Spanish Imperfect Past Tense</i>	"English"
<i>Yo voy a trabajar.</i>	"I am going to work."	<i>Yo iba a trabajar.</i>	"I was going to work."
<i>Tú vas a venir.</i>	"You are going to come."	<i>Tú ibas a venir.</i>	"You were going to come."
<i>Ella va a dormir</i>	"She is going to sleep."	<i>Ella iba dormir.</i>	"She was going to sleep."
<i>Nosotros vamos a jugar.</i>	"We are going to play."	<i>Nosotros íbamos a jugar.</i>	"We were going to play."
<i>Vosotros vais a comer algo.</i>	"You all are going to eat something."	<i>Vosotros ibais a comer algo.</i>	"You all were going to eat something."
<i>Ellos van a correr.</i>	"They are going to run."	<i>Ellos iban a correr.</i>	"They were going to run."

Remember that we refer to *ir* ("to go") as the personal verb in this case because we are conjugating it to show who is going to carry out the impersonal action (the attached infinitive).

There are two reasons why this periphrastic construction is so important to learn. First, it's very, very common in everyday speech, since this expresses a future tense in a less direct way than the absolute future. Secondly, it's so important to learn because the verb *ir* is very, very irregular, which means that you're going to have to memorize the forms.



Cultural Insight

'A rainy vacation', doesn't sound right does it?? Almost sounds like recap of a nightmarish event, but it doesn't have to be. Throughout Latin America, the change of seasons means either a dry, warm climate which is the summer, or wet, warm climate which is the winter or the rainy season. The rainy season is not all bad. It is true that it will most likely rain every day, but the added water levels are an awesome plus for water based activities. This is when some take advantage of fewer tourists, lower prices and more time for fun!

In many areas, the rain does not come down until the afternoon and rains lightly for a short time. This allows rivers and foliage to grow. It becomes a perfect time for activities like white water rafting and canoeing. There is nothing better than getting soaked while maneuvering down a river. Another great activity to enjoy in the rainy season is canyoneering / rappelling. Canyoneering is a decent down a mountain through canyons that are often cut into the bedrock stone, forming narrow gorges with numerous drops. Many of these drops have waterfalls that require rappelling which is a more technical sport requiring harnesses, ropes, gloves and a great deal of safety measures. When walking through the canyons in dense forest, the rainfall fills the canyons with fresh water also making the waterfalls alive. Nothing screams new adventures like a forest in the middle of the rainy season!

So you see, a 'rainy vacation' isn't all bad! It's definitely worth a try!

During the cold northern winter, many are drawn to vacationing in the warm, sunny beaches of Latin America. Generally, this is the dry season therefore is the best time to visit. The weather is hot, the beaches vivid and the ocean is refreshing and clean. If mountainous regions are your pick, it's a nice time for hiking through forests admiring the wildlife. Otherwise, you may be in for a heavy rainy season.

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Thousands choose to take a break from it all during Latin America's high season, which puts nice hotels in high demand. Before you depart for your much needed break, make sure you have your reservations set! Finding a hotel room during this time may not be so difficult depending on the city, but finding a deal on the room will be complicated. Also, finding adequate accommodations within your price range may prove time consuming and tedious if not booked in advance.

Many will take their chance and only book a hotel for the first and second night they arrive in a new country. If you choose to take this route, take a few points into consideration. The fewer guests the better, it's easier to find a room for 2 as opposed to 4 people. Research the areas you would like to stay in, to avoid those that may be in the bad side of town. Ask the locals for their opinion or any recommendations. They may be able to steer you in the right direction. If one hotel does not have a vacancy, another may.



Beginner Lesson S3

Link Your Past to the Present in Spanish: It's Been Centuries!

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Formal Spanish

JULIO Disculpa... ¿Usted es Silvia Herrera?... ¿de la generación 82?
SILVIA ¿Julio? ¡Si soy yo, han pasado siglos!
JULIO No puedo creer que recién en Facebook nos háyamos encontrado.
SILVIA Esto de Facebook sirve para encontrar gente.
JULIO Tenemos tanto de que hablar... dime, ¿qué ha sido de tu vida?

English

JULIO Excuse me...are you Silvia Herrera? ...from the class of '82?
SILVIA Julio? Yeah, it's me! It's been centuries!
JULIO I can't believe that just now in Facebook we have met up with each other.
SILVIA This whole thing about Facebook is useful for finding people.
JULIO We have so much to talk about...tell me, what have you been up to?

Informal Spanish

JULIO Disculpa... ¿tú eres Silvia Herrera?... ¿de la generación 82?
SILVIA ¿Julio? ¡Si soy yo, han pasado siglos!
JULIO No puedo creer que recién en Facebook nos háyamos encontrado.
SILVIA Esto de Facebook sirve para encontrar gente.
JULIO Tenemos tanto de que hablar... dime, ¿qué ha sido de tu vida?

Informal English

JULIO Excuse me...are you Silvia Herrera? ...from the class of '82?
SILVIA Julio? Yeah, it's me! It's been centuries!
JULIO I can't believe that just now in Facebook we have met up with each other.
SILVIA This whole thing about Facebook is useful for finding people.
JULIO We have so much to talk about...tell me, what have you been up to?



Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
generación	generation	noun
pasar	to pass, to go by, to come by, to come	verb
siglo	century	noun
recién	recently, newly, just	adverb of time
encontrar	to find, to meet with	verb
gente	people	feminine noun

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Mi papá y yo pertenecemos a diferentes generaciones.

¡Esto es un asunto pasado!

Estoy interesado en la Historia del siglo XV.

Ayer conocí al hijo de Juan que está recién nacido.

¡Alejandra nunca encuentra su bolso!

A mí me gusta hablar con la gente en los buses.

"My father and I are from different generations."

"This is a past point."

"I am interested in the history of the 15th century."

"Yesterday I met Juan's son who was recently born."

"Alejandra never finds her bag."

"I like to talk to the people on the buses. "

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is the Preterit Perfect Tense

Han pasado siglos!

"It's been centuries!"

The preterit perfect tense express an action in the past that is in some way linked to the present or is near the present. With the preterit 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, we very often use the preterit perfect with temporal expressions, which help clarify when the action took place. To form the preterit perfect, we use the present 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 we use.

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We form the regular participle in Spanish 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.

Construction

Infinitive: *contar*
Participle: *contado*

<i>Singular Spanish</i>	"English"	<i>Plural Spanish</i>	"English"
<i>yo he contado</i>	"I have counted"	<i>nosotros hemos contado</i>	"we have counted"
<i>tú has contado</i>	"you have counted"	<i>vosotros habéis contado</i>	"you all have counted" - <i>informal</i>
<i>él ha contado</i>	"he has counted"	<i>ellos han contado</i>	"they have counted" - <i>masculine</i>
<i>ella ha contado</i>	"she has counted"	<i>ellas han contado</i>	"they have counted" - <i>feminine</i>
<i>usted ha contado</i>	"you have counted"	<i>ustedes han contado</i>	"you all have counted" - <i>formal</i>
<i>ha contado</i>	"it has counted" - <i>neuter</i>	<i>han contado</i>	"they have counted" - <i>neuter</i>

Infinitive: *correr*
Participle: *corrido*

<i>Singular Spanish</i>	"English"	<i>Plural Spanish</i>	"English"
<i>yo he corrido</i>	"I have run"	<i>nosotros hemos corrido</i>	"we have run"
<i>tú has corrido</i>	"you have run"	<i>vosotros habéis corrido</i>	"you all have run" - <i>informal</i>
<i>él ha corrido</i>	"he has run"	<i>ellos han corrido</i>	"they have run" -



			<i>masculine</i>
<i>ella ha corrido</i>	"she has run"	<i>ellas han corrido</i>	"they have run" - <i>feminine</i>
<i>usted ha corrido</i>	"you have run" - <i>formal</i>	<i>ustedes han corrido</i>	"you all have run" - <i>formal</i>
<i>ha corrido</i>	"it has run" - <i>neuter</i>	<i>han corrido</i>	"they have run" - <i>neuter</i>

Infinitive: *dormir*

Participle: *dormido*

<i>Singular Spanish</i>	"English"	<i>Plural Spanish</i>	"English"
<i>yo he dormido</i>	"I have slept"	<i>nosotros hemos dormido</i>	"we have slept"
<i>tú has dormido</i>	"you have slept"	<i>vosotros habéis dormido</i>	"you all have slept" - <i>informal</i>
<i>él ha dormido</i>	"he has slept"	<i>ellos han dormido</i>	"they have slept" - <i>masculine</i>
<i>ella ha dormido</i>	"she has slept"	<i>ellas han dormido</i>	"they have slept" - <i>feminine</i>
<i>usted ha dormido</i>	"you have slept" - <i>formal</i>	<i>ustedes han dormido</i>	"you all have slept" - <i>formal</i>
<i>ha dormido</i>	"it has slept" - <i>neuter</i>	<i>han dormido</i>	"they have slept" - <i>neuter</i>



Sample Sentences

1. *Han dormido casi todo el día.*
"They have sleep almost all day."
2. *He corrido desde mi casa hasta la tuya.*
"I have run from my house to yours."
3. *¿Les has contado de lo que pasó?*
"Have you told them about what happened?"

Notes

The formation of the participle is key because we use it for **all** of the compound tenses. Likewise, it's equally as important to learn the forms of the auxiliary verb *haber*, as we also use its forms in **all** of the compound forms. We can also use the participle as an adjective in which case, its endings must be in agreement with the nouns that they modify. For example, *han dormido* means, "they have slept," but *ellos están dormidos* means, "they are asleep." Only when we use a participle as an adjective does its ending change. When it is part of a compound verb, it always ends with -o.

Cultural Insight

Hi5, Facebook, MySpace! Latin America uses them all!

Due to the high number of users, each of these sites offers a Spanish language version for their users in Latin America. Initially, Hi5 was the main social networking site for friends to find each other within their respective countries. Slowly, Myspace and then Facebook started to take over.

Friends of friends of friends who lived abroad introduced many to the alternative social networking sites. Therefore, in order to keep in touch with an old buddy that relocated to Europe or the US, they would create an account in Myspace or Facebook. Soon enough, people started to have multiple accounts to keep in touch with everyone on their friend list.

Generally, a younger crowd of high school and college-aged people uses these sites. Some parents have started using these sites to find long lost friends and have even planned High School reunions. They are able to reconnect with classmates that once moved away.

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Mostly, people use these sites to keep track of what everyone is doing. Most are too busy to stay in constant contact with friends, but thanks to the beauty of social networking, a quick update is a wall-post away!





Beginner Lesson S3

Spanish Imperfect Irregular Verbs: Oh, He Was So Handsome!

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Informal Spanish

SILVIA ¡No sabes con quien me encontré!
MARIANA ¿Con quién?
SILVIA ¿Te acuerdas de Julio... del colegio?
MARIANA Ah tiempos dorados... Tan guapo que era Julio.
SILVIA Él mismo.
MARIANA ¿Y fue así en la calle?
SILVIA No, ¡por internet!
MARIANA ¡No sabía que fueras cybernetica!

Informal English

SILVIA You have no idea whom I ran into!
MARIANA Who?
SILVIA Do you remember Julio...from high school?
MARIANA Ah the golden years...so handsome Julio was...
SILVIA That same one.
MARIANA And so was it on the street?
SILVIA No, on the Internet!
MARIANA I didn't know that you were cybernetic!

Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
acordarse	to remember	pronominal verb
colegio	school, high school	noun
dorados	golden	adjective
guapo	beautiful	adjective
ser	to be	verb
cibernética	cybernetic	adjective

Vocabulary Sample Sentences



No me acordé de la respuesta correcta en el examen.

Yo empecé el colegio a los 12 años.

El color del oro es dorado.

El esposo de mi hermana es muy guapo.

¿Eres de los Estados Unidos?

Estamos viviendo la era cibernética.

"I couldn't remember the correct answer on the test."

"I began high school at twelve years old."

"The color of gold is golden."

"My sister's husband is very handsome."

"Are you from the United States?"

"We are living in the cyber age."

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Irregular Imperfect Verb Formation

Tan guapo que era Julio.

"So handsome Julio was..."

The imperfect tense expresses an **incomplete action**. It's important to remember that we have no direct equivalent in the English language. The translations that we use will vary based on the context of a given verb. There are three main usages for the imperfect tense. We use it to indicate an action or state viewed as being in progress in the past (this means that we don't know when it started or stopped, but we know that it happened before the moment of speech). We also use it to indicate a customary or repeated action or state in the past (when used this way, we often translate it as "I used to walk"). And finally, we use it to give descriptions in the past in relation to another past tense (very often the preterit tense).

There are **only three** irregular verbs in the imperfect tense (*ser, ver, ir*).

Observe the following paradigm:

Formation



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<i>Singular Spanish</i>	"English"	<i>Plural Spanish</i>	"English"
<i>yo era</i>	"I used to be"	<i>nosotros éramos</i>	"we used to be"
<i>tú eras</i>	"you used to be"	<i>vosotros erais</i>	"you all used to be" - <i>informal</i>
<i>él era</i>	"he used to be"	<i>ellos eran</i>	"they used to be" - <i>masculine</i>
<i>ella era</i>	"she used to be"	<i>ellas eran</i>	"they used to be" - <i>feminine</i>
<i>usted era</i>	"you used to be" - <i>formal</i>	<i>ustedes eran</i>	"you all used to be" - <i>formal</i>
<i>era</i>	"it used to be" - <i>neuter</i>	<i>eran</i>	"they used to be" - <i>neuter</i>

<i>Singular Spanish</i>	"English"	<i>Plural Spanish</i>	"English"
<i>yo veía</i>	"I used to see"	<i>nosotros veíamos</i>	"we used to see"
<i>tú veías</i>	"you used to see"	<i>vosotros veíais</i>	"you all used to see" - <i>informal</i>
<i>él veía</i>	"he used to see"	<i>ellos veían</i>	"they used to see" - <i>masculine</i>
<i>ella veía</i>	"she used to see"	<i>ellas veían</i>	"they used to see" - <i>feminine</i>
<i>usted veía</i>	"you used to see" - <i>formal</i>	<i>ustedes veían</i>	"you all used to see" - <i>formal</i>
<i>veía</i>	"it used to see" - <i>neuter</i>	<i>veían</i>	"they used to see" - <i>neuter</i>

<i>Singular Spanish</i>	"English"	<i>Plural Spanish</i>	"English"
<i>yo iba</i>	"I used to go"	<i>nosotros íbamos</i>	"we used to go"
<i>tú ibas</i>	"you used to go"	<i>vosotros ibais</i>	"you all used to go" - <i>informal</i>
<i>él iba</i>	"he used to go"	<i>ellos iban</i>	"they used to go" -



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			<i>masculine</i>
<i>ella iba</i>	"she used to go"	<i>ellas iban</i>	"they used to go" - <i>feminine</i>
<i>usted iba</i>	"you used to go" - <i>formal</i>	<i>ustedes iban</i>	"you all used to go" - <i>formal</i>
<i>iba</i>	"it used to go" - <i>neuter</i>	<i>iban</i>	"they used to go" - <i>neuter</i>

Sample Sentences

1. *Siempre iban al cine el viernes.*
"They always used to go to the movies on Friday."
2. *Yo veía una película cuando me llamaste.*
"I was watching a movie when you called me."
3. *Éramos cinco en la mesa.*
"We were five at the table." / "There were five of us at the table."

Notes

For the verbs *ser* and *ir*, the only accent occurs in the first person plural (e.g., *éramos*, *íbamos*). All the imperfect forms of *ver* receive an accent. Remember the imperfect tense does not have a direct correlate in the English language and therefore, we have multiple options when we translate it. For example, we can translate *nosotros veíamos* as "we were seeing" if the action is interrupted by another past action, "we saw" if we don't know when the action started or stopped, or "we used to see" if the action was habitual in the past.



Cultural Insight

Staying in Touch in Latin America

Bumping into someone you know within San José is quite common. Costa Rica is a small country and though people are often going in different directions, you can always find a friendly face on the street. Within Costa Rica, it is very common to smile and greet your neighbors and coworkers whenever you see them. The people are warm and polite, therefore more people interact with each other and recall that interaction years later.

Bonds formed in elementary and high school are often solid friendships. Many are still very close to childhood friends and keep in touch regardless of how far away they live. For those that did not keep in touch, bumping into an old high school friend on the street may not be as common. Many may run in different circles, therefore, the chances of seeing each other diminishes greatly.

Instead, many graduating classes choose to have informal reunions every few years. With the inception of social networking sites like Facebook, the odds of keeping in touch have greatly increased.



Beginner Lesson S3

Are You the Spanish Object of Someone's Affections?

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Formal Spanish

RECEPCIONISTA Doña Silvia, hay un mensajero con flores en el lobby que la llama.
SILVIA ¿Flores? Un momento, ya bajo...Julio, ¿qué hace aquí?
JULIO Pensé en pasar... son casi las doce... ¿quiere almorzar?
SILVIA ¡Claro! ¡Qué sorpresa, qué bueno verte!
JULIO No ha cambiado nada.

English

RECEPTIONIST Ms. Silvia, there's a messenger with flowers in the lobby who's asking for you.
SILVIA Flowers? Just a minute, I'll be right down... Julio, what are you doing here?
JULIO I thought I'd stop by...it's almost twelve o'clock...do you want to have lunch?
SILVIA Of course! What a surprise! It's so good to see you!
JULIO You haven't changed a bit.

Informal Spanish

RECEPCIONISTA Doña Silvia, hay un mensajero con flores en el lobby que la llama.
SILVIA ¿Flores? Un momentito, ya bajo...Julio, ¿qué haces aquí?
JULIO Pensé en pasar... son casi las doce... ¿quieres almorzar?
SILVIA ¡Claro! ¡Qué sorpresa, qué bueno verte!
JULIO No has cambiado nada.

Informal English

RECEPTIONIST Ms. Silvia, there's a messenger with flowers in the lobby who's asking for you.
SILVIA Flowers? Just a minute, I'll be right down... Julio, what are you doing here?

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JULIO I thought I'd stop by...it's almost twelve o'clock...do you want to have lunch?
SILVIA Of course! What a surprise! It's so good to see you!
JULIO You haven't changed a bit.

Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
mensajero	messenger, courier	noun
flor	flower	noun
pasar	to pass, to go by, to come by, to come	verb
casi	almost, nearly	adverb
sorpresa	surprise	feminine noun
cambiar	to change	verb

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

El mensajero de la compañía es muy guapo.

"The company's messenger is very handsome."

A mi tía le gustan las flores amarillas.

"My aunt likes yellow flowers."

Yo paso mucho tiempo con mi familia.

"I pass a lot of time with my family."

Manuel es muy buen jugador, casi nunca falla.

"Manuel is a very good player, he almost never fails."

Tengo una sorpresa para mi mamá.

"I have a surprise for my mother."

Los niños han cambiado mucho, antes no eran así. "The children have changed a lot, they weren't like that before."

Grammar Points


The Focus of This Lesson is Preterit Perfect (regulars) Verb Formation

No has cambiado nada.

"You haven't changed a bit."

The preterit perfect tense expresses an action in the past that is in some way linked to the present or that is near the present. With the preterit 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, we often use the preterit perfect with temporal expressions, which help clarify when the action took place. To form the preterit perfect, we use the present 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 we use. In Spanish, we form the regular participle 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



Infinitive: <i>contar</i>			
Participle: <i>contado</i>			
Singular Spanish	"Singular"	Plural Spanish	"Plural English"

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	English"		
<i>yo he contado</i>	"I have counted"	<i>nosotros hemos contado</i>	we have counted
<i>tú has contado</i>	"you have counted"	<i>vosotros habéis contado</i>	you all have counted - <i>informal</i>
<i>él ha contado</i>	"he has counted"	<i>ellos han contado</i>	they have counted - <i>masculine</i>
<i>ella ha contado</i>	"she has counted"	<i>ellas han contado</i>	they have counted - <i>feminine</i>
<i>usted ha contado</i>	"you have counted" - <i>formal</i>	<i>ustedes han contado</i>	you all have counted - <i>formal</i>
<i>ha contado</i>	"it has counted" - <i>neuter</i>	<i>han contado</i>	they have counted - <i>neuter</i>

Infinitive: correr			
Participle: corrido			
Singular Spanish	"Singular English"	Plural Spanish	"Plural English"
<i>yo he corrido</i>	"I have run"	<i>nosotros hemos corrido</i>	"we have run"
<i>tú has corrido</i>	"you have run"	<i>vosotros habéis corrido</i>	"you all have run" - <i>informal</i>
<i>él ha corrido</i>	"he has run"	<i>ellos han corrido</i>	"they have run" - <i>masculine</i>
<i>ella ha corrido</i>	"she has run"	<i>ellas han corrido</i>	"they have run" - <i>feminine</i>
<i>usted ha corrido</i>	"you have run" - <i>formal</i>	<i>ustedes han corrido</i>	"you all have run" - <i>formal</i>
<i>ha corrido</i>	"it has run" - <i>neuter</i>	<i>han corrido</i>	"they have run" - <i>neuter</i>

Infinitive: dormir			
Participle: dormido			
Singular Spanish	"Singular English"	Plural Spanish	"Plural English"



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<i>yo he dormido</i>	"I have slept"	<i>nosotros hemos dormido</i>	"we have slept"
<i>tú has dormido</i>	"you have slept"	<i>vosotros habéis dormido</i>	"you all have slept" - <i>informal</i>
<i>él ha dormido</i>	"he has slept"	<i>ellos han dormido</i>	"they have slept" - <i>masculine</i>
<i>ella ha dormido</i>	"she has slept"	<i>ellas han dormido</i>	"they have slept" - <i>feminine</i>
<i>usted ha dormido</i>	"you have slept" - <i>formal</i>	<i>ustedes han dormido</i>	"you all have slept" - <i>formal</i>
<i>ha dormido</i>	"it has slept" - <i>neuter</i>	<i>han dormido</i>	"they have slept" - <i>neuter</i>

Sample Sentences

-
1. *Han dormido casi todo el día.*
"They have slept almost all day."
 2. *He corrido desde mi casa hasta la tuya.*
"I have run from my house to yours."
 3. *¿Les has contado de lo que pasó?*
"Have you told them about what happened?"

Notes

The formation of the participle is key because we use it for **all** of the compound tenses. Likewise, it's equally important to learn the forms of the auxiliary verb *haber* as we also use its forms in **all** of the compound forms. We can also use the participle as an adjective, in which case its endings must be in agreement with the nouns that they modify. For example, *han dormido* means, "they have slept," but *ellos están dormidos* means, "they are asleep." Only when we use a participle as an adjective does the ending change. When it is part of a compound verb, it always ends with -o.

Cultural Insight

Generally, an admirer will present a woman with flowers on a date or when they go visit them at home. At work is seldom seen a flower delivery for an employee. Usually flower arrangements arrive to decorate a building's lobby or their conference rooms. On very special occasions, such as an anniversary, an arrangement may be seen by the desk of a female colleague. It is generally something to admire as it is not the norm. Also, many women choose to decorate their desks or cubicles with small plants or flowers they bring in themselves. It is a nice touch used by many to liven up what may sometimes be a dreary workplace.

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