



## Beginner 4

Lessons 1-25

1-25

## 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 S4

Look What Spicy Little Spanish Dish We've Cooked Up for You!

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## Formal Spanish

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Fernanda	¡Alo!, ¿abuelita?, ¡Soy yo, Fernanda!
Abuela	¡Ahhhy!, ¡Fernandiiiita!, ¿Cómo estás mi niña?
Fernanda	Muy bien abue, ¿Y tú?
Abuela	Ahy, mi hijita, estoy bien, ¡Gracias a Dios!
Fernanda	Abue, ¿me puedes decir los ingredientes de tu famosa receta de Chiles rellenos? Quiero cocinar para mi novio.

## English

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Fernanda	Hello! Grandma? It's me, Fernanda!
Abuela	Heeeeey! Fernandiiiita! How's my little girl?
Fernanda	Very well granny, and you?
Abuela	Ohhh, honey, I'm fine! Thank God!
Fernanda	Granny, can you tell me what the ingredients are for your famous "Chile Relleno" (filled pepper) recipe? I wanna cook for my boyfriend.

## Informal Spanish

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Fernanda	¡Alo!, ¿abuelita?, ¡Soy yo, Fernanda!
Abuela	¡Ahhhy!, ¡Fernandiiiita!, ¿Cómo estás mi niña?
Fernanda	Muy bien abue, ¿Y tú?
Abuela	Ahy, mi hijita, estoy bien, ¡Gracias a Dios!
Fernanda	Abue, ¿me puedes decir los ingredientes de tu famosa receta de Chiles rellenos? Quiero cocinar para mi novio.

## Informal English

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Fernanda	Hello! Grandma? It's me, Fernanda!
Abuela	Heeeeey!, Fernandiiiita! How's my little girl?
Fernanda	Very well granny, and you?
Abuela	Ohhh, Honey, I'm fine! Thank God!
Fernanda	Granny, can you tell me what the ingredients are for your famous "Chile Relleno" (Filled Pepper) recipe? I wanna cook for my boyfriend.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
abuelita	grandmother	noun (diminutive)
niña	little girl	noun
gracias a Dios	thank God	expression
receta	recipe	noun
cocinar	to cook	verb
novio	boyfriend	masculine noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Mi abuela tiene ochenta años.*

"My grandmother is eighty years old."

*Hay muchas niñas en el jardín.*

"There are a lot of little girls in the garden."

*Gracias a Dios que Carlos compró el arroz.*

"Thank God Carlos bought the rice."

*María compró un libro de recetas de cocina italiana.*

"Maria bought a cookbook of Italian cooking."

*Mi mamá no cocina muy bien.*

"My mother doesn't cook very well."

*Rodrigo es el nuevo novio de María.*

"Rodrigo is Maria's new boyfriend."

## Grammar Points

**The Focus of This Lesson is the Spanish Preposition Meaning "for, to, in order to"**

*Quiero cocinar para mi novio.*

**"I wanna cook for my boyfriend."**

Prepositions are invariable words that introduce nouns, noun phrases, or subordinate clauses, making them depend on a verb that we stated 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 *para* and look at the eight principle ways that we can use the preposition *para*.

### Formation

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

Usage	Spanish	"English"
"Utility" - <i>utilidad</i>	<i>¿Para qué tanto esfuerzo?</i>	"What's all this effort for?"
"Motive" - <i>motivo</i>	<i>Lo dijo para molestarme.</i>	"She said it to annoy me."
"Destination" - <i>destinatario</i>	<i>Es para mamá.</i>	"It's for mom."
"Opinion" - <i>opinión</i>	<i>Para Jorge, todas las mujeres son guapas.</i>	"All women are pretty to Jorge."
"Comparisons" - <i>comparaciones</i>	<i>Para ser tan joven, tiene ideas muy sensatas.</i>	"He has very sensible ideas for his age."
"Time" - <i>tiempo</i>	<i>Estará listo para las cinco.</i>	"It'll be ready by five."
"Immanence" - <i>inminencia</i>	<i>Está para salir.</i>	"He's about to leave."
"Direction" - <i>dirección</i>	<i>El tren para Sevilla acaba de salir.</i>	"The train has just left for Seville."

## Notes

Because of the inherent indeterminacy associated with *para*, we cannot use it with verbs that imply the end of a movement or 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 we express in these examples are general days rather than precise moments.**

## Related Expressions

Additionally, we can use *para* to express the final purpose of a thing.

**For example:**

1. *Trajeron una carta para Vanesa.*  
"They brought a card for Vanesa."
2. *El regalo es para ti.*  
"The present is for you."
3. *La vida es para vivir.*  
"Life is for living."

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## Cultural Insight

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### **A Secret Weapon in Latina Kitchens!**

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The stereotype of the close-knit Latino family has a very strong basis in reality. At the head of many, if not most families, is a matriarch. While the tides are turning, gender roles are still firmly set in many places, and cooking is seen mainly as a female activity. Most young women are taught how to cook from an early age, helping in their mother's or grandmother's kitchens. By the time a woman becomes a grandmother, she usually has years of experience and is quite a proficient cook. Usually, everyone has favorite recipes and will cook these with joy. If you want to make a Latina grandmother smile, ask her for seconds - better yet - ask her for thirds!



## Beginner Lesson S4

You Don't Want to Leave Your Spanish Dish Half-baked, Do You?

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## Formal Spanish

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Abuela Fernandita, ¿me dijiste que sólo necesitas saber los ingredientes? Y... ¿la receta?

Fernanda Sí Abue,sólo los ingredientes, yo sé como hacer los chiles.

Abuela Ahhh, bueno amor, recuerda que estoy medio sorda.

Fernanda tranquila abuelita yo recuerdo.

Abuela Entonces lo que necesitas es 4 chiles grandes, ¼ de carne molida, 2 huevos, harina, aceite, 100 gramos de pasitas, 1 tomate, y una cebolla.

Fernanda ¿Necesito algo más, abue?

Abuela No mamita, sólo eso, espero que tu novio lo disfrute.

## English

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Abuela Fernandita, you told me you only needed to know the ingredients? And...the recipe?

Fernanda Yes Granny, only the ingredients. I know how to make the chiles ("peppers").

Abuela Ahhh, okay my love, remember that I'm half-deaf.

Fernanda Relax grandma, I remember.

Abuela So what you need is 4 big peppers, ¼ pound ground meat, 2 eggs, flour, oil, 100 grams of raisins, 1 tomato, and 1 onion.

Fernanda Do I need anything else, granny?

Abuela No honey, only that, I hope your boyfriend will enjoy it.

## Informal Spanish

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Abuela Fernandita, ¿me dijiste que sólo necesitas saber los ingredientes? Y... ¿la receta?

Fernanda Sí Abue,sólo los ingredientes, yo sé como hacer los chiles.

Abuela Ahhh, bueno amor, recuerda que estoy medio sorda.

Fernanda tranquila abuelita yo recuerdo.

Abuela Entonces lo que necesitas es 4 chiles grandes, ¼ de carne molida, 2 huevos, harina, aceite, 100 gramos de pasitas, 1 tomate, y una cebolla.

Fernanda ¿Necesito algo más, abue?

Abuela No mamita, sólo eso, espero que tu novio lo disfrute.

## Informal English

Abuela: Fernandita, you told me you only needed to know the ingredients?  
And...the recipe?

Fernanda: Yes Granny, only the ingredients. I know how to make the chiles ("peppers").

Abuela: Ahhh, okay my love, remember that I'm half-deaf.

Fernanda: Relax grandma, I remember.

Abuela: So what you need is 4 big peppers, ¼ pound ground meat, 2 eggs, flour, oil, 100 grams of raisins, 1 tomato, and 1 onion.

Fernanda: Do I need anything else, granny?

Abuela: No honey, only that, I hope your boyfriend will enjoy it.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
saber	to know, to know how	verb
tranquilo(-a)	calm, relaxed, tranquil	adjective
recordar	to remember	verb
entonces	then, so then	adverb
lo que necesitas	whatever you need	phrase
disfrutar	to enjoy, to make the most of	verb

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>Yo sé que San José es la capital de Costa Rica.</i>	"I know that San José is the capital of Costa Rica."
<i>Mi hijo es muy tranquilo.</i>	"My son is very calm."
<i>Recuerda a poner el ventilador cuando salgas del baño.</i>	"Remember to put on the fan when you come out of the bathroom."
<i>Entonces, podemos empezar.</i>	"So then, we can begin."
<i>Lo que necesitas es un vaso de agua.</i>	"What you need is a glass of water."
<i>disfruté mucho la comida anoche, pero creo que me ha dado algo de indigestión.</i>	"I really enjoyed last night's food, but I think it gave me a bit of indigestion."

## Grammar Points

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**The Focus of This Lesson is the Word *medio***

*Ahhh, bueno amor, recuerda que estoy medio sorda.*

"Ahhh, okay my love, remember that I'm half deaf."

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Today, we are going to go over the word *medio*. We use the word *medio* ("half") to modify an adjective or noun.

We can employ *medio* ("half") as an adjective and as an adverb:

### Formation

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*medio(-a)*  
*adjetivo*  
(placed before noun)

*medio*  
*adverbio*  
"half"

### Sample Sentences

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**As an Adjective:**

<i>Spanish</i>	"English"
<i>medio kilo</i>	"half a kilo"
<i>media manzana</i>	"half an apple"
<i>pagar medio pasaje</i>	"to pay half fare"
<i>media hora</i>	"half an hour"

**As an Adverb:**

<i>Spanish</i>	"English"
<i>Ella está medio loca.</i>	"She's half crazy."

<i>Todo lo deja a medio terminar.</i>	"He leaves everything half-finished."
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## Notes

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Keep in mind that we can also utilize *medio* as a noun with one of these meanings: "half," "middle," or "means."

## Cultural Insight

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### Traditional Chile Rellenos

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Traditional chile rellenos ("stuffed peppers") are usually stuffed with meat, cheese, rice, and other ingredients and then deep-fried! Sounds healthy, doesn't it? Now, before we get ahead of ourselves, chile rellenos are made with either poblano chiles or Anaheim chiles. The skin is removed, coated with egg, dipped in batter, and stuffed with the aforementioned cheese and meat. Poblano chiles are spicy and the Anaheim chiles are a little cooler. It all depends on how spicy you want your final product to be. Here are a couple of tips. Make sure that the filling is room temperature or slightly chilled; if it is hot, it will make the coating slide off. Stuff the peppers but don't over stuff them, an exploded chile relleno is never a good thing!





## Beginner Lesson S4

Your Spanish Can Get You Everything You Want Right Now!

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## Formal Spanish

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Fernanda Amor, ¿vamos al supermercado?  
Sebastián ¡Si quieres!  
Fernanda Vamos a comprar todos los ingredientes para los chiles rellenos de mi abuela.  
Sebastián ¿Qué más necesitamos?  
Fernanda Ya tengo los chiles, la cebolla, el tomate...  
Sebastián Y yo tengo las pasas y los huevos.  
Fernanda En casa tenemos, aceite. Sólo nos falta la carne.

## English

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Fernanda Love, wanna go to the supermarket?  
Sebastián If you want!  
Fernanda We're gonna buy all the ingredients for my Grandma's chile rellenos.  
Sebastián What else do we need?  
Fernanda I already have the peppers, the onion, the tomato...  
Sebastián And I have the raisins and the eggs.  
Fernanda We have oil at home. All we're missing is the meat.

## Informal Spanish

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Fernanda Amor, ¿vamos al supermercado?  
Sebastián ¡Si quieres!  
Fernanda Vamos a comprar todos los ingredientes para los chiles rellenos de mi abuela.  
Sebastián ¿Qué más necesitamos?  
Fernanda Ya tengo los chiles, la cebolla, el tomate...  
Sebastián Y yo tengo las pasas y los huevos.  
Fernanda En casa tenemos, aceite. Sólo nos falta la carne.

## Informal English

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Fernanda Love, wanna go to the supermarket?  
Sebastián If you want!  
Fernanda We're gonna buy all the ingredients for my Grandma's chile rellenos.  
Sebastián What else do we need?  
Fernanda I already have the peppers, the onion, the tomato...  
Sebastián And I have the raisins and the eggs.  
Fernanda We have oil at home. All we're missing is the meat.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
amor	love	noun
comprar	to buy	verb
todo(-a)	all, every, everyone, completely, whole	adjective, pronoun, noun
sólo	only, just	adverb
falta	fault, lack, mistake	feminine noun
relleno	stuffed, stuffing	noun, adjective

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

¡Encontré el amor de mi vida!  
Luis quiere comprar un carro nuevo.  
Todos están bien.  
Sólo quiero olvidarme de tí.  
A mi café le falta azúcar.

"I found the love of my life!"  
"Luis wants to buy a new car."  
"Everyone is well."  
"I just want to forget about you."  
"My coffee is missing sugar."

## Grammar Points

**The Focus of This Lesson is Irregular Present Indicative Verb Formation: *querer***

**¡Si quieres!**

**"If you want!"**

The verb *querer* means, "to want." It is an irregular -er verb in Spanish and is an extremely common verb. It's often used as an auxiliary verb, placed before a main verb in the infinitive (e.g., *quiero comer*, "I want to eat").

Let's have a look at the forms of *querer* in the **Present Tense of the Indicative Mood**.

## Formation

### Querer

<i>Singular Spanish</i>	<b>"English"</b>	<i>Plural Spanish</i>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>yo quiero</i>	"I want"	<i>nosotros queremos</i>	"we want"
<i>tú quieres</i>	"you want" - <i>informal</i>	<i>vosotros queréis</i>	"you all want" - <i>informal</i>
<i>él quiere</i>	"he wants"	<i>ellos quieren</i>	"they want" - <i>masculine</i>
<i>ella quiere</i>	"she wants"	<i>ellas quieren</i>	"they want" - <i>feminine</i>
<i>usted quiere</i>	"you want" - <i>formal</i>	<i>ustedes quieren</i>	"you all want" - <i>formal</i>

## Sample Sentences

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Quiero una bebida.</i>	"I want a beverage."
<i>¿Quieres dar una vuelta?</i>	"Do you want to go for a walk?"
<i>Miguel quiere bailar esta noche.</i>	"Miguel wants to dance tonight."
<i>Ella no quiere acompañarnos.</i>	"She doesn't want to come with us."
<i>¿Usted quiere decir que nos ayudará?</i>	"Do you mean to say, sir, that you will help us?"
<i>Queremos cocinar algo rico este domingo.</i>	"We want to cook something delicious this Sunday."
<i>¿Qué queréis beber?</i>	"What do you all want to drink?"
<i>Martín y Javier quieren salir.</i>	"Martín and Javier want to go out."
<i>Susana y Beatriz quieren una gasiosa.</i>	"Susana and Beatriz want a soda."
<i>Ustedes siempre quieren lo mismo.</i>	"You all always want the same thing."

## Notes

Notice that a number of words in English share the Latin root (quærere) with the Spanish word *querer*. Among them are "acquire," "require," "query," and "inquire." If we remember that the Latin word means, "to try to obtain," it may be easier to remember that the Spanish word *querer* means "to want."



## Related Expressions

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The verb *querer* can also mean, "to love," as in the example *te quiero* ("I love you"). However, this must be distinguished from the deeper and more serious kind of love, which is expressed by the verb *amar*, as in the example *te amo* ("I love you"). In the course of a relationship, if you are falling for your significant other, you would tell him or her *te quiero* before you go on to say *te amo*.

One way to make this distinction is to look at the past participles of these verbs when we use them as nouns. For example, *querrido* means, "dear." We often use this word before someone's name in a letter: *Querrida Angela* ("Dear Angela"). On the other hand, *amado* and *amada* mean "beloved."

## Cultural Insight

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### Latin American Farmers Markets

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If you travel anywhere in Latin America and enjoy cooking, I urge you to find a farmers market. These are usually held once a week. Farmers from around the country bring their fresh produce and sell it at amazingly low prices. You see the difference when you visit any supermarket. The price does rise by more than 100%. Bring your dictionary because you will be stunned with the abundance of exotic fruits and vegetables available next to your more familiar varieties. Do yourself a favor and try something different. Give your taste buds a ride they will not soon forget!



## Beginner Lesson S4

We Are Going to Tell You Exactly Where to Find What You Are Looking  
for!

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## Formal Spanish

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Fernanda	Amor, no encuentro la carne.
Sebastián	Puedes preguntarle a la cajera dónde está.
Fernanda	Sí, voy a preguntarle, ¡Buenas señorita! ¿Sabes dónde está la carne?
Cajera	¡Buenos días señora!, lamento decirte que no vendemos carne aquí.
Fernanda	¡Pero! ¿cómo?
Cajera	Sí es extraño, pero en la tienda de al lado está la carnicería.
Fernand	Mmm, ¡gracias por la información!, vamos a ir.

## English

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Fernanda	Love, I can't find the meat.
Sebastián	You can ask the cashier where it is.
Fernanda	Yeah, I'm gonna ask her. Hello, miss. Do you know where the meat is?
Cajera	Good morning, ma'am! I'm sorry to tell you that we don't sell meat here.
Fernanda	But! How?
Cajera	Yes, it's strange, but there is a butcher right next door.
Fernand	Mmm, thanks for the information. We're gonna go.

## Informal Spanish

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Fernanda	Amor, no encuentro la carne.
Sebastián	Puedes preguntarle a la cajera dónde está.
Fernanda	Sí, voy a preguntarle, ¡Buenas señorita! ¿Sabes dónde está la carne?
Cajera	¡Buenos días señora!, lamento decirte que no vendemos carne aquí.
Fernanda	¡Pero! ¿cómo?
Cajera	Sí es extraño, pero en la tienda de al lado está la carnicería.
Fernand	Mmm, ¡gracias por la información!, vamos a ir.

## Informal English

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Fernanda	Love, I can't find the meat.
Sebastián	You can ask the cashier where it is.

Fernanda: Yeah, I'm gonna ask her. Hello, miss. Do you know where the meat is?  
 Cajera: Good morning, ma'am! I'm sorry to tell you that we don't sell meat here.  
 Fernanda: But! How?  
 Cajera: Yes, it's strange, but there is a butcher right next door.  
 Fernand: Mmm, thanks for the information. We're gonna go.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
encontrar	to encounter, to run into, to meet by chance	pronominal verb
preguntar	to ask a question, to wonder	verb
cajero(-a)	ATM (masculine noun only), bank teller	masculine & feminine noun
lamentar	to be sorry, to lament	verb
extraño	strange, stranger	
carnicería	butchers	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>Me encontré con un pariente lejano.</i>	"I ran into a distant relative."
<i>¡Pregúntame todo lo que quieras!</i>	"Ask me anything you like!"
<i>¿Dónde queda el cajero más cercano?</i>	"Where is the nearest ATM?"
<i>Lamentamos no poderte asistir.</i>	"We're sorry for being unable to help you."
<i>La ropa de ese hombre es muy extraña.</i>	"That man's clothes are really strange."
<i>La carnicería está cerrada.</i>	"The butcher is closed."

## Grammar Points

**The Focus of This Lesson is *perífrasis*: Ir a + infinitivo (Periphrasis: "Going to + Infinitive").**  
*Sí, voy a preguntarle, ¡Buenas señorita! ¿Sabes dónde está la carne?*  
**"Yeah, I'm gonna ask her. Hello, miss. Do you know where the meat is?"**

Today, we will 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.

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

## Formation

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

<b><i>Present Tense</i></b>
<i>yo voy a...</i>
<i>tú vas a...</i>
<i>él va a...</i>
<i>ella va a...</i>
<i>usted va a...</i>
<i>nosotros vamos a...</i>
<i>vosotros vais a...</i>
<i>ellos/ellas van a...</i>
<i>ustedes van a...</i>

<b><i>Imperfect Past Tense</i></b>
<i>yo iba a...</i>
<i>tú ibas a...</i>
<i>él iba a...</i>
<i>ella iba a...</i>
<i>usted iba a...</i>
<i>nosotros íbamos a...</i>
<i>vosotros ibais a...</i>
<i>ellos/ellas iban a...</i>

ustedes iban a...

## Sample Sentences

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 with the following use of the absolute future:

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"):

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<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."

## Notes

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:

1. it's very, very common in everyday speech, since this expresses a future tense in a less direct way than the absolute future.
2. the verb *ir* is very, very irregular, which means that you're going to have to memorize the forms.

## Related Expressions

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There are many different kinds of periphrastic constructions in Spanish. For example, we can say *estoy por llegar*, which means "I am about to arrive," or *este concept puede ser difícil*, which means "this concept can be difficult."

## Cultural Insight

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### Latin America Gives New Meaning to the Phrase Buyer Beware!

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Customer service in Latin America is not the same as it is in the United States. In our overwhelmingly polite, politically correct culture, the customer is always right. In Latin America, this is not the case; if the customer is wrong, he or she is wrong. It is a different view. Simply because a customer has the money and he or she is having a service performed does not mean that the seller makes himself or herself subservient in any way. Of course, this does not apply to hotels that cater to tourists from countries where you can be fired if you are rude to a tourist in any way. Once you leave the confines of the hotel, it is a different world. It's funny when you meet people who do not think that money is absolutely everything.



## Beginner Lesson S4

The Key to Everything That's Happening in Latin America!

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## Formal Spanish

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Carnicero            ¡Hola!, ¿cómo están?, ¿los puedo ayudar?  
Fernanda            ¡Hola señor!, estamos buscando carne molida.  
Carnicero            ¡Claro! ¿De cuál tipo? y ¿Cuánto necesitan?  
Fernanda            eh, ¿me está diciendo que hay varios tipos?, y ... ¿cuál es la  
                         diferencia?  
Sebastián            ajajajaj, ¿no sabés?  
Carnicero            Sí, señorita, hay molida de cerdo, molida de res y molida de pollo.

## English

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Carnicero            Hi! How are you? Can I help you?  
Fernanda            Hello sir! We're looking for ground meat.  
Carnicero            Of course! What kind? And how much do you need?  
Fernanda            Ummm, you're telling me there are various kinds? And...what is the  
                         difference?  
Sebastián            Hahahaha, you don't know?  
Carnicero            Yes, ma'am, there is ground pork, ground beef, and ground chicken.

## Informal Spanish

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Carnicero            ¡Hola!, ¿cómo están?, ¿los puedo ayudar?  
Fernanda            ¡Hola señor!, estamos buscando carne molida.  
Carnicero            ¡Claro! ¿De cuál tipo? y ¿Cuánto necesitan?  
Fernanda            eh, ¿me está diciendo que hay varios tipos?, y ... ¿cuál es la  
                         diferencia?  
Sebastián            ajajajaj, ¿no sabés?  
Carnicero            Sí, señorita, hay molida de cerdo, molida de res y molida de pollo.

## Informal English

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Carnicero            Hi! How are you? Can I help you?  
Fernanda            Hello sir! We're looking for ground meat.  
Carnicero            Of course! What kind? And how much do you need?

Fernanda: Ummm, you're telling me there are various kinds? And...what is the difference?  
Sebastián: Hahahaha, you don't know?  
Carnicero: Yes, ma'am, there is ground pork, ground beef, and ground chicken.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
ayudar	to help	verb
buscar	to look for, to search	verb
carne molida	ground beef	noun
cual	which	pronoun, adjective, adverb
varios tipos	various types	adjective, noun
res	beast, animal	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Mi hermana siempre ayuda a su hija con la tarea de la escuela.* "My sister always helps her daughter with her homework."  
*Estoy buscando mis zapatos, pero no los encuentro porque siempre me los escondes.* "I am looking for my shoes but cannot find them because you always hide them from me."  
*Los domingos mi mamá compra carne molida y hace hamburguesas.* "On Sundays, my mother buys ground beef and makes hamburgers."  
*¿Cuál es su canción favorita?* "What is your favorite song?"

## Grammar Points

**The Focus of This Lesson is Gerund Verb Formation Part 2 (Formación Verbal - Gerundio 2)**

***¡Hola señor!, estamos buscando carne molida.***

**"Hello sir! We're looking for ground meat."**

*El gerundio* ("the gerund") functions as an adverb, and we use it to express simultaneous or continuous action. To form gerunds, we will associate the *-ando* ending after the stem of regular *-ar* verbs and the *-iendo* ending after the stem of regular *-er* and *-ir* verbs. To find the stem of a verb, simply remove the infinitive ending (e.g., *trabajar*, *trabaj-*, *trabajando*). Here, we're looking at the regular *-ar* verb *trabajar* ("to work").

## Formation

Spanish	"English"	Construction
<i>yo estoy trabajando</i>	"I am working"	singular
<i>tú estás trabajando</i>	"you are working"	singular
<i>él está trabajando</i>	"he is working"	singular
<i>ella está trabajando</i>	"she is working"	singular
<i>usted está trabajando</i>	"you are working"	singular, formal
<i>está trabajando</i>	"it is working"	singular, neuter
<i>nosotros estamos trabajando</i>	"we are working"	plural
<i>vosotros estáis trabajando</i>	"you all are working"	plural, informal
<i>ellos están trabajando</i>	"they are working"	plural, masculine
<i>ellas están trabajando</i>	"they are working"	plural, feminine
<i>ustedes están trabajando</i>	"you all are working"	plural, formal
<i>están trabajando</i>	"they are working"	neuter

## Sample Sentences

Spanish	"English"
<i>Miguel está trabajando en casa.</i>	"Miguel is working at home."
<i>Tú y yo estamos trabajando bien.</i>	"You and I are working well."
<i>¿Vosotros estáis trabajando en el banco?</i>	"Are you all working in the bank?"
<i>Estoy trabajando en turismo.</i>	"I am working in tourism."

## Notes

The present + gerund construction in Spanish expresses something that is happening right now (e.g., *Estoy estudiando*, "I am studying"), as opposed to something that is done habitually. Notice that the gerundive form is the same for all the conjugations of *estar* above. Also, consider that we could replace the verb *estar* with another verb (e.g., *sigo llamando*, "I keep calling"). For this lesson, we've focused on constructions with *estar*. We can also use this construction with verbs that end in *-er*, such as *comer* ("to eat"), and *-ir*, such as *venir* ("to come"). Verbs that end in *-er* or *-ir* use *-iendo* instead of *-ando* to construct the gerundive form. We will discuss this further in other lessons.

## Cultural Insight

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### **Latin America Is for Carnivores**

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When it comes to a love of meat, Latin Americans are the kings. But if we get more specific, Argentina and Brazil will gladly eat a whole meal without vegetables. Pork, beef, chicken, lamb, and goat are popular throughout the Spanish-speaking world (goat is more popular in the Caribbean). But when it comes to cooking, the Argentines win, hands down. Using a *parilla* ("cast iron grill"), Argentines have perfected the art of grilling. Parties are common in which people will simply get together and have a *parilla* (more or less a "barbecue"). It is a good idea to go to these parties with an empty stomach and to avoid them if you are a vegetarian. You will not like what you see!



## Beginner Lesson S4

This Meaty Spanish Lesson is Really Easier than You Think!

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## Formal Spanish

Fernanda ¡esteeee!, eh hh, bueno,mmm, señor necesito, molido mixto.  
Carnicero Muy bien señorita, pero mixto.... ¿De cuáles carnes?  
Fernanda mmm, ¡pollo con carne, res!  
Carnicero Con gusto, ya se la preparo.  
Sebastián ¡Ajaja!, no sabes cuál tipo de carne necesitas, ¿verdad?  
Fernanda Sí lo sé, la de cerdo porque es más grasosa que la de res, y la de pollo porque es más suave que la de res, Además, la de pollo es tan buena como la de cerdo, porque las dos son carnes blancas.  
Sebastián Está bien, está bien, no necesito una explicación científica.

## English

Fernanda Ummmm! Umm, well, mmm, sir, I need mixed ground.  
Butcher Very well miss; but...mixed...of what meats?  
Fernanda Mmm, chicken with...beef!  
Butcher I'll be glad to; I'll prepare it right now.  
Sebastián Hahaha! You don't know what kind of meat you need, right?  
Fernanda Yes, I know! The pork because it's greasier than the beef, and the chicken because it's softer than the beef. Also, the chicken is as good as the pork, because they're both white meat.  
Sebastián Okay, okay, I don't need a scientific explanation.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
pollo	chicken	noun
preparar	to prepare, to get ready	verb
grasosa	fatty, greasy	adjective
además	moreover, and yet	adverb
bueno(-a)	good	adjective, masculine noun, interjection
científica	scientific	adjective

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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*¿Ustedes tiene pollo a la parilla?*

"Do you all have grilled chicken?"

*Mi papá prepara café todas las mañanas.*

"My father prepares coffee every morning."

*Estoy muy enfermo, es porque comí comida muy grasosa.*

"I'm really sick because I ate really greasy food."

*¡Y además el carro no es mío! Por eso no te lo puedo prestar.*

"And what's more, the car isn't mine! That's why I can't lend it to you."

*Luis es un buen hombre: siempre ayuda a todos.*

"Luis is a good man; he always helps everyone."

*Mi proyecto científico es muy interesante.*

"My science project is very interesting."

## Grammar Points

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**The Focus of This Lesson Is Comparisons of Equality: "As Interesting as..."**

*Además, la de pollo es tan buena como la de cerdo, porque las dos son carnes blancas.*

**"Also, the chicken is as good as the pork, because they're both white meat."**

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

### Formation

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***tan* + adjective or adverb + *como***

### Sample Sentences

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#### Positive Comparisons of Equality

<b><i>Spanish</i></b>	<b><i>"English"</i></b>
<i>Manejas <b>tan lento como</b> mi abuela.</i>	"You drive as slowly as my grandma does."
<i>La comida aquí es <b>tan rica como</b> la comida que mi madre prepara.</i>	"The food here is as delicious as the food that my mother prepares."
<i>Habla <b>tan rápido como</b> un papagayo.</i>	"He speaks as quickly as a parrot."
<i>Su carro es <b>tan nuevo como</b> su carro de mi tío.</i>	"His car is as new as my uncle's car."

## Negative Comparisons of Equality

<i>Spanish</i>	<i>"English"</i>
<i>Esta película no es <b>tan interesante como</b> la que vimos anoche.</i>	"This movie isn't as interesting as the one we saw last night."
<i>La tarea de hoy no es <b>tan difícil como</b> la de ayer.</i>	"Today's homework is not as difficult as yesterday's."
<i>Angela no es <b>tan alta como</b> Maria.</i>	"Angela is not as tall as Maria."

## Notes

We can make positive statements that indicate the equality between two or more things. However, we can also use the same structure while adding the word *no* to show that one thing is not equal to another. In either case, the construction *tan* + adjective/adverb + *como* remains intact.

## Cultural Insight

### Latin Americans: Pioneers of the Organic Food Movement

In general, the meat in many countries is very fresh. Latin America is historically an agricultural region and these countries have raised crops and livestock for centuries. The large agribusinesses and slaughterhouses that are present in the United States generally do not exist. If you are lucky enough to find a good butcher, you will notice a difference in the quality of the meat. The organic meat boom in the United States is funny to many people in Latin America who have been eating "organic" meat without even trying to do so. That's just the right way to raise cattle.





## Beginner Lesson S4

Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better in Spain!

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## Formal Spanish

Fernanda: ¡Que bien!, ya tengo todos los ingredientes, ahora sólo necesito empezar.

Sebastián: mm, ¡que hambre tengo!

Fernanda: Yo también, voy a cocinar rápidamente, pero antes de empezar a cocinar me voy a lavar las manos.

Sebastián: ¡Muy importante!

Fernanda: Estoy lista, ahoraaa..., primero voy a..., poner la carne adentro de los chiles.

Sebastián: Fernanda, perdón, pero, ¿no debes cocinar la carne antes de que la pongas adentro del chile?

Fernanda: Ah, sebas, no te metas, tú no sabes.

## English

Fernanda: All right! I now have all the ingredients, now all I need is to get started.

Sebastián: Mmm, I'm very hungry.

Fernanda: Me too, I'll cook quickly, but before I start cooking, I'm going to wash my hands.

Sebastián: Very important!

Fernanda: I'm ready, nooooo...first I'm going to...put the meat inside the peppers.

Sebastián: Fernanda, sorry, but shouldn't you cook the meat before putting it inside the peppers?

Fernanda: Ohhhh, Sebas, don't get involved, you don't know.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
empezar	to begin, to start	verb
hambre	hunger	noun
rápidamente	rapidly, quickly	adverb
poner	to put, to place	verb
adentro	inside	adverb
antes	before, prior	adverb, adjective,

		conjunction
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## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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*Empezamos con el vino.*

"We began with the wine."

*Ella tiene hambre.*

"She is hungry."

*José llegó a la casa rápidamente.*

"José arrived at the house quickly."

*Anda a la clínica antes de que te pongas muy mal.*

"Go to the clinic before you become very ill."

*El carro ya está adentro de la cochera.*

"The car is already inside the garage."

*Llárame antes de irte... Sí mamá...*

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

## Grammar Points

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### **The Focus of This Lesson is Adverbs Formation**

*Voy a cocinar rápidamente, pero antes de empezar a cocinar me voy a lavar las manos.*

**"I'll cook quickly, but before I start cooking, I'm going to wash my hands."**

---

Here, we are looking at *la formación de los adverbios* ("the formation of adverbs").

Adverbs serve as modifiers of:

1. a verb
2. an adjective
3. another adverb
4. a preposition
5. a phrase
6. a clause
7. a sentence

They express some relation of manner of:

1. quality
2. place
3. time
4. degree
5. number
6. cause
7. opposition
8. affirmation
9. denial

## Formation

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We may form adverbs in Spanish by adding the ending *-mente* to the feminine form of practically any adjective. If the adjective has only one form rather than both masculine and feminine forms, the same rule applies. Simply add *-mente* to the end to construct the adverb.

### Some Masculine/Feminine Adjectives and Corresponding Adverbs:

<i>Spanish Adjective</i>	"English"	<i>Spanish Adverb</i>	"English"
<i>rápido/a</i>	"rapid"	<i>rápidamente</i>	"rapidly," "quickly"
<i>lento/a</i>	"slow"	<i>lentamente</i>	"slowly"
<i>obvio/a</i>	"obvious"	<i>obviamente</i>	"obviously"
<i>sincero/a</i>	"sincere"	<i>sinceramente</i>	"sincerely"

### Some Adjectives with Only One Form:

<i>Spanish Adjective</i>	"English"	<i>Spanish Adverb</i>	"English"
<i>feliz</i>	"happy"	<i>felizmente</i>	"happily"
<i>fácil</i>	"easy"	<i>fácilmente</i>	"easily"
<i>triste</i>	"sad"	<i>tristemente</i>	"sadly"

## Sample Sentences

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<i>Spanish</i>	"English"
<i>Yo manejaba rápidamente.</i>	"I was driving quickly."

<i>Sabemos precisamente lo que está pasando.</i>	"We know exactly what is happening."
<i>Ella habla inglés maravillosamente.</i>	"She speaks English beautifully."

## Notes

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

Adverbial phrases are also very common, and they often become necessary if the *-mente* ending with the adjective forms a compound that is disagreeable to the Spanish ear. When the adverb sounds strange, native speakers often form an adverbial phrase to replace it. They do this by using the word *con* ("with") and the noun that is the root of the adverb they are replacing.

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

1. **Adverb:** *Cumplió su trabajo **prudentemente**.*  
"He prudently finished his work."
2. **Adverbial phrase:** *Cumplió su trabajo **con prudencia**.*  
"He finished his work with prudence."



## Beginner Lesson S4

While You're Learning to Cook, I'm Going to Get Some Spanish Fast Food!

8

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## Formal Spanish

Fernanda Mmm, antes de que te pongas pesado, Sebastián, mejor voy a llamar a mi abuela para que veas que yo tengo razón.

Sebastián ¡uyy, si Amorcito!, ¡me parece una idea excelente!, Porque creo que tú no sabes hacer los chiles. La carne no puede estar cruda cuando la pones adentro de los chiles.

Fernanda ¿A sí?, ¿desde cuándo sabes cocinar?

Sebastián Pues la verdad, nunca he cocinado, pero, es lógico, ¿no crees?

Fernanda ¡Ya no te voy a cocinar nada, Sebastián! ¡Vamos a comprar comida rápida!

Sebastián ¡¡¡¡No!!!,no, mi vida, discúlpame, no es mi intención hacerte enojar.

Fernanda Está bien, mejor llamo a mi abuela, estoy segura que tengo razón

## English

Fernanda Mmm, before you get to be a pain, Sebastián, I'd better call my grandma so you can see that I'm right.

Sebastián Oh, my love, that sounds like an excellent idea because I don't think you know how to make the peppers. The meat can't be raw when you put it inside them.

Fernanda Oh yeah? Since when do you know how to cook?

Sebastián Well, the truth is, I've never cooked, but it's logical...don't you think?

Fernanda I'm not cooking anything for you, Sebastián! Let's go get some fast food!

Sebastián No!!! No, my love, forgive me, it's not my intention to make you mad.

Fernanda Okay, I had better call my grandma, I'm sure I'm right.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
pesado(-a)	heavy, annoying	adjective
llamar	to call	verb
parecer	to seem, to resemble	verb
cruda	raw	adjective
cuándo	when	interrogative adverb,

		exclamation, noun
enojar	to be angry	verb

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Esta mesa es muy pesada.*

*Tatiana llama a Melvin por teléfono todas las mañanas.*

*El cielo parece infinito.*

*No me gusta el ceviche, ¡es pescado crudo!*

*Cuándo llegó tu papá a Brazil*

*Yo siempre hago enojar a mi mamá.*

"This table is very heavy."

"Tatiana calls Melvin on the phone every morning."

"The sky seems infinite."

"I don't like *ceviche*; it's raw fish!"

"When did your father arrive in Brazil?"

"I always anger my mother."

## Grammar Points

**The Focus of This Lesson is *Conjunciones Adverbiales - Antes de que* ("Adverbial Conjunctions - Before")**

*Mmm, antes de que te pongas pesado, Sebastián, mejor voy a llamar a mi abuela para que veas que yo tengo razón.*

**"Mmm, before you get to be a pain, Sebastián, I'd better call my grandma so you can see that I'm right."**

What is an adverb? Let's think about it. It's a word that doesn't change forms. Its function is to complement the meaning of the verb, of an adjective, or of another adverb in a certain sequence. Okay. Got that down.

Now, what about a conjunction? What is this? A conjunction is a word that doesn't change forms and that triggers different types of subordinated clauses or that joins words or sequences that are syntactically equivalent.

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

### Formation

Of course, we cannot provide an exhaustive list of adverbial conjunctions, but we think you will find this useful as you begin to recognize these phrases in relation to the tense of the clause that they



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

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>a condición de que</i>	"on the condition that"
<i>a menos que</i>	"unless"
<i>a no ser que</i>	"unless"
<i>antes de que</i>	"before"
<i>con tal de que</i>	"provided that"
<i>en caso de que</i>	"in case"
<i>para que</i>	"so that"
<i>sin que</i>	"without"

## Sample Sentences

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Iré contigo a condición de que me invites un café.</i>	"I'll go with you on the condition that you buy me a coffee."
<i>A menos que me recojas no podré ir.</i>	"Unless you pick me up, I won't be able to go."
<i>No salgo esta noche a no ser que me llame María.</i>	"I'm not going out tonight, unless María calls me."
<i>Sal de mi vista antes de que llame a la policía.</i>	"Get out of my sight, before I call the police."
<i>Con tal de que me devuelves el auto a las cinco en punto, te lo presto.</i>	"I'll lend you my car as long as you bring it back at five on the dot."
<i>En el caso de que te olvides quien eres, mírate en el espejo.</i>	"In case you forget who you are, look at yourself in the mirror."
<i>Esperamos que estén aprendiendo mucho.</i>	"We hope that you're learning a lot."
<i>Sin que nadie se despertara, el ladrón entró y salió de la casa.</i>	"Without anyone waking up, the thief went in and out of the house."

## Notes

Let's take a closer look at how these adverbial conjunctions trigger a subordinate clause with a verb in the subjunctive mood. For example, *sal de mi vista antes de que llame a la policía* ("get out of my sight, before I call the police!").



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

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

### Related Expressions

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As we said, this list is not exhaustive. Here are some other adverbial conjunctions. All of the following are related to time:

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>a medida que</i>	"as"
<i>Cuando</i>	"when"
<i>dado que</i>	"granted that"
<i>después de que</i>	"as soon as"
<i>hasta que</i>	"until"
<i>luego que</i>	"as soon as"
<i>mientras</i>	"while"
<i>nada más que</i>	"as soon as"
<i>por más...que</i>	"however much"
<i>por mucho que</i>	"however much"
<i>siempre que</i>	"every time that"
<i>tan pronto como</i>	"as soon as"

## Cultural Insight

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### Latin American Gender Roles

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Gender roles are changing, albeit, ever so slowly. In today's Latin America, women are getting more and more education and their presence in the workplace is increasing as well. The younger generation is now accustomed to this. As a result, many young girls focus on their studies and professions more

than the traditional concerns of learning how to run a household. This has lead to some stress in relationships. Young women are pressured with expectations by their *suegras* (mothers-in-law) and by modern expectations. Fernanda's situation is not uncommon. The 'supermom' phenomenon has made its way south of the border.



## Beginner Lesson S4

Does Your Spanish Grandmother Always Know Best?

9

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## Formal Spanish

Abuela ¡¡¡¡Aló!!!  
Fernanda Abuelita, soy yo de Nuevo.  
Abuela hola Amor, ¿cómo te quedaron los chiles rellenos?  
Fernanda No están listos todavía, lo que pasa es que el incrédulo de mi novio, dice que yo no sé cómo hacer chiles rellenos. ¿Verdad que la carne se pone cruda, adentro del chile?  
Abuela ajaja, amor, ¡No me digas!, ¡estos hombres!, ¡ahhy!, ¡estos hombres!  
Fernandina, pero antes de poner la carne en los chiles, debes cocinar la carne en agua, y también debes asar los chiles, para poder quitar les las cáscara.  
Fernanda ¡ahhhh!, ya veo abue.

## English

Abuela Hello!!!  
Fernanda Grandma, it's me again.  
Abuela Hello, love, how did the "Chile Rellenos" turn out?  
Fernanda They're not ready yet, what's happening is that my disbelieving boyfriend says that I don't know how to make chile rellenos...I put the raw meat inside the chiles, right?  
Abuela Hahaha, love. No kidding! Those men! Ahh! Those men! Fernandita, but before you put the meat in the peppers, you must cook the meat in water and also grill the peppers so that you can take off the skin.  
Fernanda Ahhhh! I see, Granny.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
nuevo(-a)	new	adjective
listo(-a)	ready, intelligent	adjective
todavía	yet, still, nevertheless	adverb
incrédulo(-a)	disbelieving, skeptical, doubtful	adjective
asar	to fry, to roast	verb

cáscara	skin, peel	noun
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## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Este es el nuevo carro de Miguel.*

"This is Miguel's new car."

*Generalmente, yo estoy listo para ir al trabajo a las siete de la mañana.*

"Generally, I am ready to go to work at seven in the morning."

*Manuel está enfermo, todavía.*

"Manuel is still sick."

*Victor es muy incrédulo y no creyó la noticia.*

"Victor is very incredulous and he didn't believe the news."

*Mi tío asa la carne mejor que mi papá.*

"My uncle grills the meat better than my father."

*Me gustan las papas con cáscara.*

"I love potatoes with skins."

## Grammar Points

**The Focus of This Lesson is *Modo imperativo* ("Imperative Mood").**

***Debes cocinar la carne en agua, y también debes asar los chiles, para poder quitar les las cáscara.***

**"You must cook the meat in water and also grill the peppers so that you can take off the skin."**

We use the subjunctive form for verbs when we give negative commands. For regular verbs, conjugating in the subjunctive to give negative commands simply requires that we conjugate the stem of the verb in the *yo* ("I") form. Then we drop the *-o* and interchange the corresponding *-ar/-er* or *-ir* endings of the verb (*-as* or *-es* for the informal *tú* form). That is to say, we substitute *-a* for the endings of *-er/-ir* verbs to form the subjunctive. Likewise, we substitute *-e* for the endings of *-ar* verbs to form the subjunctive.

Irregular verbs follow a similar pattern. Generally, we must first conjugate the stem of the verb in the *yo* ("I") form. Then we substitute *-a* for the corresponding endings of *-er/-ir* verbs, and we do the opposite for *-ar* verbs. Observe the formations below to get a clear idea of how we do this.

### Formation

Here are the basic rules for giving negative commands:

**For *-ir/-er* Verbs:**

*No* + conjugated stem of *yo* form with the *-o* dropped + corresponding *-ar* ending as shown in the table below:

<b>Verb Ending</b>	<b>Corresponding Pronoun</b>
<i>-as</i>	<i>tú</i>
<i>-a</i>	<i>usted</i>
<i>-amos</i>	<i>nosotros</i>
<i>-an</i>	<i>ellos / ustedes</i>

**For Example:** *decir*, meaning "to say"

*no* + *dig* (drop the *-o*) + *-as*

<b>Construction</b>	<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>tú</i>	<i>no digas</i> <i>nada</i>	"Don't say anything."
<i>usted</i>	<i>no diga nada</i>	"Don't say anything."
<i>nosotros</i>	<i>no digamos</i> <i>nada</i>	"Don't say anything."
<i>ustedes</i>	<i>no digan</i> <i>nada</i>	"Don't say anything."

**For -ar Verbs:**

*No* + conjugated stem of *yo* form with the *-o* dropped + corresponding *-ir/-er* ending

<b>Verb Ending</b>	<b>Corresponding Pronoun</b>
<i>-es</i>	<i>tú</i>
<i>-e</i>	<i>usted</i>
<i>-emos</i>	<i>nosotros</i>
<i>-en</i>	<i>ellos / ustedes</i>

**Example:** *hablar* - "to speak"

*no* + *habl* (drop the *-o*) + *-es*

<b>Construction</b>	<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>tú</i>	<i>no hables</i>	"Don't speak."
<i>usted</i>	<i>no hable</i>	"Don't speak."
<i>nosotros</i>	<i>no hablemos</i>	"Don't speak."

<i>ustedes</i>	<i>no hablen</i>	"Don't speak."
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## Sample Sentences

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### Negative Commands for Regular Verbs:

<b>Conjugation</b>	<b>Infinitive</b>	<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
-ar	<i>cerrar</i> ("to close")	<i>No cierres la puerta.</i>	"Don't close the door." (* <i>tú</i> informal command)
-er	<i>comer</i> ("to eat")	<i>No comas la hamburguesa.</i>	"Don't eat the hamburger." (* <i>tú</i> informal command)
-ir	<i>escribir</i> ("to write")	<i>No escribas la carta.</i>	"Don't write the letter." (* <i>tú</i> informal command)

### Irregular Verbs:

<b>Infinitive</b>	<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>decir</i> ("to say")	<i>No digas nada.</i>	"Don't say anything." (* <i>tú</i> informal command)
<i>hacer</i> ("to do/to make")	<i>No hagas eso.</i>	"Don't do that." (* <i>tú</i> informal command)
<i>tener</i> ("to have")	<i>No tengas miedo.</i>	"Don't be scared."/"Don't have fear." (* <i>tú</i> informal command)

## Notes

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Note how we substitute *-a* for the endings of *-er/-ir* verbs. Likewise, we substitute *-e* into the endings of *-ar* verbs to form the subjunctive. Don't be discouraged if this is confusing at first. Mastering the use of the subjunctive and the imperative moods is one of the most difficult aspects of Spanish.





## Beginner Lesson S4

Can You Believe What's Before Your Eyes in Spanish?

10

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## Formal Spanish

Abuela: Hijita, puedes decirle a tu novio que la abuela cocina la carne primero, pero que la verdadera receta es poner la carne cruda.  
Fernanda: ajajaj, ¡Gracias Abue! ¡Que astuta eres!  
Sebastián: Y... ¿qué te dijo?  
Fernanda: que yo tengo razón, pero que ella lo hace de otra forma y el sabor es mucho mejor.  
Sebastián: ¡No puede ser!, tenías razón.  
Fernanda: así como lo oyes, ¡Yo tenía razón!

## English

Abuela: Honey, you can tell your boyfriend that your grandma cooks the meat first, but that the true recipe calls for putting in the meat raw.  
Fernanda: Hahaha, Thanks, Granny! You are so smart!!  
Sebastián: And... what did she say?  
Fernanda: That I'm right, but that she does it a different way and the flavor is much better.  
Sebastián: It can't be! You were right!  
Fernanda: Exactly what you heard! I was right!

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
primero(-a)	first	adjective, adverb, feminine noun
verdadero(-a)	true, real	adjective
astuto	astute, smart, intelligent	adjective
forma	way	noun
sabor	taste, flavor	noun
oír	to hear	verb

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Lola siempre es la primera de la clase.*

"Lola is always the first of the class."

*Mi hermana es muy astuta.*

"My sister is very intelligent."

*La mejor forma de perder peso es comiendo bien.*

"The best way to lose weight is to eat well."

*El sabor de esta sopa está un poco extraña.*

"The flavor of this soup is a little strange."

*En la montaña, tú puedes oír muchos sonidos interesantes.*

"In the mountain, you can hear a lot of interesting sounds."

## Grammar Points

**The Focus of This Lesson is *Exclamaciones* - ¡No puede ser! ("Exclamations - Impossible!").**

***No puede ser!, tenías razón.***

**"It can't be! You were right!"**

In today's lesson, we look at the combination of two words, *poder* ("to be able") and *ser* ("to be"), which make up one crucial phrase: *puede ser* ("it could be," "it is possible," "maybe," "perhaps").

We use this phrase to express potential or possibility. We can also express impossibility by adding the word *no*.

### For Example:

1. *¡no puede ser!*

"Impossible!" or "It can't be!"

### Formation

*Poder* ("to be able") and *ser* ("to be") make up these two phrases: *puede ser* ("it could be," "it is possible," "maybe," "perhaps") and *¡no puede ser!* ("Impossible!" or "It can't be!")

### Sample Sentences

Rodolfo: *¿Vamos al partido mañana?*

Alonso: *Puede ser.*

Rodolfo: *Pero Ronaldo no va a jugar.*

Alonso: *¡No puede ser! Juegan horrible sin él.*

Rodolfo: Wanna' go to the game tomorrow?

Alonso: Perhaps.

Rodolfo: But Ronaldo is not going to play.

Alonso: Impossible! They play horribly without him.

## Notes

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We can use the phrase *puede ser* ("it could be," "perhaps," "it is possible") just like the word *quizás* ("maybe").

## Cultural Insight

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### Chile Rellenos Latin American Style: Recipe for Success!

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Just in case you missed it!

#### 1. Roast the chiles\*

Roast and peel each chile and let them cool. \*If fresh chiles are unavailable, use canned whole green chiles.

#### 2. Remove the seeds

Insert a sharp knife into the top of the chile, just under the stem, and slice downward about halfway down the chile. Using a spoon or a knife, scrape the seeds and the white membrane out without tearing the chiles flesh.

#### 3. Stuff the chiles

Place a slice of cheese into the chile, but don't force it. If the cheese is too large, trim it down until it fits inside. Make sure the open edges of the chile still come together.

#### 4. Prepare the chiles

*This step is optional.* Place half of the flour on the bottom of a plate. Place the chiles on the flour and sprinkle the rest of the flour on top. Use your finger to make sure the entire chile is coated. Dust off remaining flour and set chiles aside. If you rinsed your chiles in water, this step is important for the

batter to stick.

## **5. Prepare batter**

For a simple batter, whip 3-6 egg whites until stiff. Slowly fold in yolks and a pinch of salt. Or use your favorite batter recipe.

## **6. Cook chiles**

One at a time, dip the stuffed chiles into the batter and then into the hot oil. Cook until batter is a crisp, golden brown.

## **7. Drain excess oil**

Remove chiles from the oil and drain on paper towels.

### **Tips:**

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1. Use cold eggs for the batter.
2. Test the oil with a drop of batter before putting a whole chile in. If the drop of batter sizzles and floats to the top, it's the right temperature. If it sinks, the oil is not hot enough.
3. The flour should be a very light coat. It helps the batter stick to the chile.
4. Monterey Jack and Queso Blanco work well for Chile Rellenos

### **What You Need:**

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- 6-12 large, roasted, and peeled chiles (Anaheim or Poblano work well)
- 3-6 large eggs (approximately 1 egg for 2 chiles)
- 1/4 cup flour (optional)
- Brick of cheese cut into 1/4 inch thick rectangles as long as the chile
- Deep fryer or a large pan with 2 inches of oil
- Pinch of salt
- Paper towels for draining



## Beginner Lesson S4

A Little Bit of This, and a Little Bit of That in Spanish

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## Formal Spanish

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Jorge                    Andrea, vamos al concierto de Vicente Fernández.  
Andrea                ¿Al concierto de quién?, nunca lo he oído.  
Jorge                    Pero Andrea, ¿en qué mundo vives?  
Andrea                En este, pero aún así no lo conozco.  
Jorge                    Es un cantante de rancheras.  
Andrea                ¿Rancheras?, jamás, no me gusta esa música.  
Jorge                    ¡Vamos!, no seas malita, hazlo por mí.

## English

---

Jorge                    Andrea, let's go to the Vicente Fernandez concert.  
Andrea                Whose concert? I've never heard him.  
Jorge                    But Andrea, what world do you live in?  
Andrea                In this one, but I still don't know him.  
Jorge                    He's a "rancheras" singer.  
Andrea                "Rancheras?" Never, I don't like that music.  
Jorge                    Come on! Don't be mean, do it for me.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
concierto	concert	noun
¿en que mundo vives?	In what world do you live in?	saying
cantante	singer	noun
ranchera	genre of Mexican music	noun
conocer	to know, to meet for the first time	verb
malita	mean	adjective

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*El concierto de Shakira es en el estadio.*

*Yo no sé en qué mundo vive mi mamá, siempre olvida todo.*

*Me gustan los cantantes latino americanos.*

*Alejandro Fernández, hijo de Vicente, canta rancheras.*

*Yo conozco a Charlie.*

*Silvia es muy malita, no quiere ayudarme a hacer la tarea.*

"The Shakira concert is in the stadium."

"I don't know what world my mom lives in; she always forgets everything."

"I like Latin American singers."

"Alejandro Fernández, Vicente's son, sings rancheras."

"I know Charlie."

"Silvia is very mean; she doesn't want to help me do the homework."

## Grammar Points

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Pronombres Demostrativos ("Demonstrative Pronouns").**

*jamás, no me gusta esa música.*

**"Never, I don't like that music."**

A pronoun refers to the noun, which it takes the place of. With pronouns, we can refer to words that we have previously mentioned 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 the speaker is talking to, and the thing the speaker is 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.

### Formation of Demonstrative Pronouns

Referring to something near the speaker and the person the speaker is talking to:

Construction	Spanish
Masculine singular	<i>este</i>
Feminine singular	<i>esta</i>
Neuter singular	<i>esto</i>
Masculine plural	<i>estos</i>
Feminine plural	<i>estas</i>

Referring to something near the person the speaker is talking to:

Construction	Spanish
--------------	---------



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Masculine singular	<i>ese</i>
Feminine singular	<i>esa</i>
Masculine plural	<i>esos</i>
Feminine plural	<i>esas</i>

Referring to something distant from the speaker and the person the speaker is talking to:

<b>Construction</b>	<b>Spanish</b>
Masculine singular	<i>aquel</i>
Feminine singular	<i>aquella</i>
Masculine plural	<i>aquellos</i>
Feminine plural	<i>aquellas</i>

## Sample Sentences

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<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<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 that's about two more hours to the south more."

## Notes

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Notice how demonstrative pronouns "demonstrate" the location of the thing the speaker is referring to in relation to the speaker and the person the speaker is talking to. Let's not forget that that the verb *mostrar*, which means "to show," is at the heart of the word *demonstrativo* ("demonstrative").

## Related Expressions

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

## Cultural Insight

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### **What IS That Fantastic Latin American Music You Are Listening to?!**

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The *ranchera* is a genre of the traditional music of Mexico. Although closely associated with the *mariachi* groups which evolved in Jalisco in the post-revolutionary period, *rancheras* are also played today by *norteño* (or *Conjunto*) or *banda* (or *Duranguense*) groups. Drawing on rural traditional folklore, the *ranchera* was conceived as a symbol of a new national consciousness in reaction to the aristocratic tastes of that era. Perhaps the greatest exponents of the *ranchera* have been José Alfredo Jiménez, Lola Beltrán, Vicente Fernández, Pedro Infante, Jorge Negrete, and Javier Solís. This style of music is popular throughout Latin America and the South Western United States.



## Beginner Lesson S4

Do Your Spanish Lessons Have You Singing Their Praises?!

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## Formal Spanish

---

Jorge                      Andrea, la música ranchera, es muy famosa.  
Andrea                    Pues aunque sea famosa, a mí no me gusta.  
Jorge                      Cómo puedes decir que no te gusta si nunca la has oído?  
Andrea                    Tienes la razón, nunca la he oído.  
Jorge                      escucha esta canción, si te gusta vamos al concierto, ¿está bien?  
Andrea                    mmm, ¡¡ me gusta!!, ¿De quién es la canción que estamos escuchando?  
Jorge                      De Vicente Fernández, como sí te gusta, ¡entonces vamos al concierto!

## English

---

Jorge                      Andrea, ranchera music is very famous.  
Andrea                    Well, even if it's famous, I don't like it.  
Jorge                      How can you say you don't like it if you've never heard it?  
Andrea                    You're right, I've never heard it.  
Jorge                      Listen to this song. If you like it, we'll go to the concert...okay?  
Andrea                    Mmm, I like it! Whose song are we listening to?  
Jorge                      Its Vicente Fernández...since you like it, we're going to the concert!!

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
aunque	although, even though	conjunction
cómo	how	interrogative adverb
nunca	never, ever	adverb
escuchar	to listen	verb
quién	who	pronoun
escuchando	listening	verb (gerund)

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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*Tendrás que venir aunque no quieras.  
¿Cómo se llama usted?*

"You'll have to come, even if you don't want to."  
"What's your name?" (formal)

*Nunca he estado en Europa.*

"I've never been to Europe."

*Todas las mañanas escucho el gallo cantar.*

"Every morning, I listen to the rooster sing."

*¿Quién es el padre de Mario?*

"Who is Mario's father?"

*María José y Armando están escuchando música.* "Maria Jose and Armando are listening to music."

## Grammar Points

**The Focus of This Lesson Is *Formación verbal - Gerundio (con el presente)* ("Verb Formation - Gerund (with the present).")**

*Mmm, ¡¡ me gusta!!*, *¿De quién es la canción que estamos escuchando?*

"Mmm, I like it! Whose song are we listening to?"

We know that *el gerundio* ("the gerund") functions as an adverb and we use it to express **simultaneous** or **continuous** action. We've also seen how this construction takes the *-ando* ending after the stem of regular *-ar* verbs, and the *-iendo* ending after the stem of regular *-er* and *-ir* verbs. We learned how to find the stem of a verb by simply removing the infinitive ending (e.g., *buscar*, *busc-*, *buscando*). However, we must make sure that we do not confuse the usage of the present + gerund with the present absolute. We know that we use the present absolute to express permanence, origin, and most importantly here, **generalization** and **habitual actions**. Let's compare the two verbal constructions to get a clearer picture of this.

### Formation

#### Singular

<i>Absolute Present</i>	"English"	<i>Present Gerund</i>	"English"
<i>yo busco</i>	"I look for"	<i>estoy buscando</i>	"I am looking for"
<i>tú buscas</i>	"you look for"	<i>estás buscando</i>	"you are looking for"
<i>él busca</i>	"he looks for"	<i>está buscando</i>	"he is looking for"
<i>ella busca</i>	"she looks for"	<i>está buscando</i>	"she is looking for"
<i>usted busca</i>	"you look for"	<i>está buscando</i>	"you are looking for"

## Plural

<i><b>Absolute Present</b></i>	<b>"English"</b>	<i><b>Present Gerund</b></i>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>nosotros buscamos</i>	"we look for"	<i>estamos buscando</i>	"we are looking for"
<i>vosotros buscáis</i>	"you all look for"	<i>estáis buscando</i>	"you all are looking for"
<i>ellos buscan</i>	"they look for"	<i>están buscando</i>	"they are looking for" - <i>masculine</i>
<i>ellas buscan</i>	"they look for"	<i>están buscando</i>	"they are looking for" - <i>feminine</i>
<i>ustedes buscan</i>	"you all look for"	<i>están buscando</i>	"you all are looking for"

## Sample Sentences

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<b>Construction</b>	<i><b>Spanish</b></i>	<b>"English"</b>
Absolute	<i>La señora busca el periódico.</i>	"The lady looks for the newspaper."
Gerund	<i>La señora está buscando el periódico.</i>	"The lady is looking for the newspaper."
Absolute	<i>Busco un departamento.</i>	"I look for an apartment."
Gerund	<i>Estoy buscando un departamento.</i>	"I'm looking for an apartment."

## Notes

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What we notice by comparing and contrasting the absolute present with the present + gerund verb constructions is that the latter is impersonal and expresses the **duration of the verbal action**. The present in general describes the action of the verb as simultaneous with the moment of speech. What the present + gerund construction does is stretch out the action of the verb so that this same action lasts for the duration of whatever is said about it.

## Cultural Insight

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### **Vicente Fernández**

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Vicente Fernández is a Mexican singer and actor. He is known as *El Idolo de Mexico* ("the idol of Mexico") and *El Rey* ("the King") throughout the Latin world. Vicente Fernandez, who started his career singing for tips on the street, has become a Mexican cultural icon, recording more than fifty albums and contributing to forty movies. He is the father of singer Alejandro Fernández. Although less well known to English-speaking audiences, he has consistently filled stadiums and venues throughout his more than thirty-five years of performing. His repertoire is pure ranchera, a style described by Daniel Chang of the Miami Herald as representing "the Mexico of old - a way of life romanticized by rural ranches, revolution, and philandering caballeros." He has sold over fifty million copies worldwide.



## Beginner Lesson S4

Can You Guess What's "Behind" Spanish Door Number Three?

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## Formal Spanish

---

Jorge: Buenas tardes, quiero comprar boletos para el concierto de Vicente.  
Vendedor: Caballero, aquí no los vendemos; nosotros vendemos boletos para el concierto de David Bisbal.  
Jorge: Disculpe, ¿usted sabe dónde los venden?  
Vendedor: No estoy seguro, pero creo que en la siguiente ventanilla. Pregunte.  
Jorge: Gracias por su tiempo. Voy a preguntar.

## English

---

Jorge: Good afternoon, I want to buy tickets for the Vicente concert.  
Vendedor: Sir, we don't sell them here, we sell the tickets for the David Bisbal concert.  
Jorge: I'm sorry; do you know where they are being sold?  
Vendedor: I'm not sure, but I think they're selling them at the next window, go ask.  
Jorge: Thank you for your time. I'm gonna go ask.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
comprar	to buy	verb
tiquetes	tickets	noun
vender	to sell	verb
seguro(-a)	sure, insurance	adjective, noun
siguiente	following	adjective
preguntar	to ask a question, to wonder	verb

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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*A mi mamá le encanta comprar zapatos.*

"My mother likes to buy shoes."

*Mi papá compró los tiquetes para el partido de*

"My father bought the tickets for the soccer game."

*fútbol.*

*Mi hermano vendió su carro.*

*Mi casa es un lugar muy seguro.*

*El siguiente mes voy de viaje a Madrid.*

*Vamos a preguntarle a él.*

"My brother sold his car."

"My house is a very safe place."

"Next month, I'm going on a trip to Madrid."

"We are going to ask him."

## Grammar Points

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**The Focus of This Lesson Is Preposiciones - de frente ("Prepositions: Straight Ahead")**

**No estoy seguro, pero creo que en la siguiente ventanilla los venden, pregunte.**

**"I'm not sure, but I think they're selling them at the next window, go ask."**

---

The expression *de frente* means "straight ahead." We call this a preposition of space. The preposition has the function of serving as the nexus of any syntactical element and its complement. What this "nexus" does is forms an unbreakable bond between the preposition and its complement, and this bond is syntactic and phonetic alike. That's to say that many times, a preposition and its complement sound as one single word.

We should study prepositions over time because there are many, many different usages and even these can vary from region to region.

Today, we'll look at some prepositions of space. Prepositions are indeclinable, which means that they have no grammatical inflections, meaning their form never changes. This characteristic makes them easy to remember.

That being said, the trick to using them is memorizing them and using them in the right word order. Below you will find an introductory list of spatial prepositions.

### Formation

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<b><i>Spanish</i></b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>de frente</i>	"straight ahead"
<i>atrás</i>	"behind"
<i>al costado de</i>	"next to"
<i>cerca de</i>	"near to"
<i>en</i>	"in," "on"
<i>la izquierda de</i>	"the left of"
<i>la derecha de</i>	"the right of"

<i>encima de</i>	"on top of"
<i>debajo</i>	"under"
<i>adentro</i>	"inside"

## Sample Sentences

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Para llegar a la casa de tía, tenemos que seguir de frente.</i>	"In order to reach my aunt's house, we've got to continue straight ahead."
<i>Lucía y Martín se sentaron en la parte de atrás para ver mejor la película.</i>	"Lucía and Martín sat in the back to see the movie better."
<i>El bar queda al costado de una farmacia.</i>	"The bar is next to a pharmacy."
<i>El baño está cerca de la cocina.</i>	"The bathroom is near the kitchen."
<i>Los libros están en la mesa.</i>	"The books are on the table."
<i>Mariana está en su cuarto.</i>	"Mariana is in her room."
<i>A la izquierda del parque, hay un café bonito.</i>	"To the left of the park, there's a nice cafe."
<i>Vivo a la derecha de la casa grande.</i>	"I live to the right of the big house."
<i>¿Por qué dejas tu ropa encima de la cama?</i>	"Why do you leave your clothes on top of the bed?"
<i>El gato duerme debajo el sofá.</i>	"The cat sleeps under the couch."
<i>Mi mamá se va adentro para contestar el teléfono.</i>	"My mom is going inside to answer the phone."

## Notes

Observe how the preposition *de* ("of, from") plays a part in multiple prepositional phrases. Prepositions in general, have rich polysemy. What this means is that they have multiple meanings. As you continue your Spanish studies, you will begin to recognize prepositional phrases, or in other words, you'll begin to identify the tendency of certain syntactic elements we use jointly. For example, the prepositional phrase *de aquí para allá* ("back and forth") is so tightly fused syntactically and phonetically that it practically exists as a single entity.

## Related Expressions

The most important prepositions are *a*, *de*, *en*, *para*, and *por*. We use these in a great many

prepositional phrases, and therefore, it is a good idea to become accustomed to seeing them and to expect them to add different shades of meaning when we use them in conjunction with other elements.

## Cultural Insight

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David Bisbal is a Latin Grammy-winning Spanish pop singer. He gained fame as a runner up on the interactive reality television show Operación Triunfo produced by TJ Hall. He has since released three studio albums, all of which topped the Spanish Albums Chart, in addition to a number of live albums. He has also toured throughout Europe and Latin America becoming a crossover international artist. Bisbal signed a contract with Vale Music Record label and released his first album recorded in Miami under the title "Corazón Latino" with Kike Santander. The album became 7 times platinum by summer 2002 after having topped the Spanish charts. The first from the album, called Ave Maria had a phenomenal success. After winning the Latin Grammys, the album became platinum (over 1 million sales).



## Beginner Lesson S4

"There Will Be" a Tomorrow in Spanish, Right?

14

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## Formal Spanish

---

Vendedor            ¿Sí señor?  
Jorge                Hola, ¿ustedes venden los tiquetes para el concierto de Vicente?  
Vendedor           Así es amigo, pero se acaban de llevar los dos últimos.  
Jorge                Pero mañana habrá más tiquetes, ¿verdad?  
Vendedor           No señor, se agotaron, no hay más tiquetes en venta.  
Jorge                ¡Qué lástima!, ¿ahora que hago?

## English

---

Salesman            Yes sir?  
Jorge                Hello, do you sell tickets for the Vicente concert?  
Salesman            That's right friend, but they just took the last two.  
Jorge                But there'll be more tickets tomorrow...right?  
Salesman            No sir, they're sold out; there are no more tickets for sale.  
Jorge                What a pity! Now what do I do?

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
acabar	to finish	verb
último(-a)	last	adjective
llevar	to take	verb
haber	to have, there to be	verb
agotar	to exhaust, to wear out, to use up	verb
¡qué lástima!	what a pity, what a shame	expression

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*María y Javier acaban de venir de la tienda.*  
*Estos son los últimos minutos de la clase.*  
*¿Comida para llevar?*  
*Mañana habrá conciertos en el parque.*

"Maria and Javier just came from the store."  
"These are the last minutes of class."  
"Food to go?"  
"Tomorrow, there will be a concert in the park."

*Ya se agotó mi paciencia.*

"I've run out of patience."

*No puedo ir a la fiesta ¡qué lástima!*

"I can't go to the party, what a shame."

## Grammar Points

---

**The Focus of This Lesson Is *Uso Verbal - Terciopersonales 3* ("Usage of Impersonal Verbs Part 3").**

*Pero mañana habrá más tiquetes, ¿verdad?*

**"But there'll be more tickets tomorrow...right?"**

---

We have seen that the verb *haber* has two main functions. Its first function is as the auxiliary verb we use for all the compound verb tenses (e.g., "you have said," "she had called," etc.). It also expresses the existence of things, people, actions, and events (e.g., "there is a book," "there are four people at the table").

When we use *haber* as a verb of existence (also called an "impersonal verb," or in Spanish, *un verbo terciopersonal*), we always conjugate it to the **third person singular**. This can be confusing since we have stressed the importance of agreement in so many other places. However, with this verb, the noun may be in the plural even though the verb is in the singular.

Moreover, let us not confuse person with tense. Even though we always conjugate *haber* to the third person singular, when we use it as a verb of existence, we can conjugate it to different tenses. Let's look at how we conjugate it to the future tense of the indicative mood.

### Formation

---

The verb form in the future tense is *habrá*. In English, we will translate this as "there" + "will be." Let's take a closer look at how we form this:

**Infinitive form:** *haber*

**Stem + ending:** *hab-* + *-er*

**Future ending:** *-á*

In order to form the future, we'll drop the vowel of the infinitive ending, *-e-*, and then add the future ending after the *-r-*:

***hab-*** + ***-r-*** + ***-á*** = ***habrá***

Remember that this is the third person singular of the future tense in the indicative mood, and we will use it whether the noun is singular or plural.

## Sample Sentences

---

<b><i>Spanish</i></b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Habr� una gran fiesta.</i>	"There will be a big party."
<i>Habr� muchos taxis.</i>	"There will be many taxis."
<i>Habr� un profesor.</i>	"There will be one professor."
<i>Habr� muchos estudiantes.</i>	"There will be many students."

## Cultural Insight

---

### Ranchera or Mariachi?

---

Mariachi is a type of musical genre from Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. Usually a mariachi consists of at least three violins, two trumpets, one Spanish guitar, one *vihuela* (a high-pitched, five-string guitar), one *guitarr n* (a small-scaled acoustic bass), and occasionally, a harp. They dress in silver studded *charro* outfits with wide-brimmed hats. The original mariachis were Mexican street musicians or *buskers*. Many mariachis are professional entertainers doing paid gigs in the mainstream entertainment industry. Professionals are normally skilled at more than one instrument, and they also sing. They sometimes accompany *ranchera* singers such as Vicente Fernandez or even pop star Luis Miguel. Although *ranchera* singers dress in a *traje de charro* ("Charro suit"), they are not mariachis.





## Beginner Lesson S4

You're Going to be in Trouble with Your Spanish Significant Other!

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## Formal Spanish

---

Revendedor      Eh, ¡disculpe!, escuché que quería tiquetes para el concierto de Vicente Fernández.

Jorge              Sí, pero ya se acabaron.

Revendedor      ¿Y cuantas entradas necesita?

Jorge              La de mi novia y la mía.

Revendedor      Pues yo tengo dos entradas extra, ¿las quiere?

Jorge              ¡Claro!, pero ¿cuánto me van a costar?

Revendedor      Bueno recuerde que ya se agotaron, entonces van a ser un poco más caros.

## English

---

Revendedor      Ummmm, excuse me! I heard you wanted tickets for the Vicente Fernandez concert.

Jorge              Yes, but they're sold out.

Revendedor      And how many tickets do you need?

Jorge              My girlfriend's and mine.

Revendedor      Well I have two extra tickets, do you want them?

Jorge              Of course! But how much are they going to cost me?

Revendedor      Well, remember that they're sold out, so they're going to be a bit more expensive.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
cuánto(-a)	how much, how many	adjective, pronoun, adverb
novio(-a)	boyfriend, girlfriend	noun
costar	to cost, to be difficult, hard	verb
recordar	to remember	verb
caro(-a)	expensive	adjective
pues	so, so then	conjunction, pause-word

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*¿Cuántos libros quiere llevar?*

*Mi novia es muy guapa*

*El libro costó quince mil colones.*

*Yo nunca recuerdo los nombres de las personas.*

*Ayer Mónica se compró unos aretes muy caros.*

*Pues yo no veo el problema.*

"How many books do you want to take?"

"My girlfriend is very beautiful."

"The book costs 15,000 colones."

"I never remember people's names."

"Yesterday, Monica bought really expensive earrings."

"So I do not see the problem."

## Grammar Points

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Perífrasis - Ir a + infinitivo ('Periphrasis: 'Going to' + infinitive').**

**¡Claro!, pero ¿cuánto me van a costar?**

**Of course! But how much are they going to cost me?**

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 we will carry out.

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

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

### Formation

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

<b><i>Present Tense</i></b>	<b><i>Imperfect Past Tense</i></b>
yo voy a...	yo iba a...
tú vas a...	tú ibas a...
él va a...	él iba a...
ella va a...	ella iba a...

<i>usted va a...</i>	<i>usted iba a...</i>
<i>nosotros vamos a...</i>	<i>nosotros íbamos a...</i>
<i>vosotros vais a...</i>	<i>vosotros ibais a...</i>
<i>ellos/ellas van a...</i>	<i>ellos/ellas iban a...</i>
<i>ustedes van a...</i>	<i>ustedes iban a...</i>

## Sample Sentences

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 with the following use of the absolute future:

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 the present tense and the imperfect past tense conjugations of the verb *ir* ("to go"):

<i>Present Tense</i>	<b>"English"</b>	<i>Imperfect Past Tense</i>	<b>"English"</b>
<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 a 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"	<i>Vosotros ibais a comer algo.</i>	"You all were going to eat"

	something."		something."
<i>Ellos van a correr.</i>	"They are going to run."	<i>Ellos iban a correr</i>	"They were going to run."

## Notes

---

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.

## Related Expressions

---

There are many different kinds of periphrastic constructions in Spanish. For example, we can say *estoy por llegar*, which means "I am about to arrive" or *este concept puede ser difícil*, which means "this concept can be difficult."

## Cultural Insight

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### Cheap Tickets, or BIG Trouble?

---

Ticket scalpers are present at all major events. If you are a tourist, scalpers will try to approach you. Take a word of advice from experience; do not buy any of these tickets. Usually they are counterfeit and there will be no way for you to know. In addition, if you approach a ticket counter with counterfeit tickets they may detain you. You have no proof that you are not the one that made the counterfeit tickets. A better bet is always to buy tickets officially and through a legitimate vender.



## Beginner Lesson S4

I Haven't Mastered Spanish... Yet!

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## Formal Spanish

---

Andrés                      Prima, ya casi terminamos las compras, sólo me falta algo, un diccionario.  
Ana                          Mira, ahí hay una Librería, vamos y lo compramos.  
Andrés                      ¡Qué buena suerte! Entremos.  
Ana                          Andrés qué tipo de diccionario necesitas.  
Andrés                      Un diccionario de español.  
Ana                          No los veo, pregúntale a ese muchacho que está en la caja.

## English

---

Andrés                      Cousin, we're almost done with the shopping. I'm only missing one thing, a dictionary.  
Ana                          Look, here is a bookstore. Let's go and buy it.  
Andrés                      What luck!! Let's go in.  
Ana                          Andrés, what kind of dictionary do you need?  
Andrés                      A Spanish dictionary.  
Ana                          I don't see them. Ask that guy at the cash register.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
primo(-a)	cousin	noun
suerte	luck, sort	noun
librería	bookstore, bookcase	noun
necesitar	to need	verb
muchacho(-a)	young man, young girl	noun
caja	box, register	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Mi prima vino a visitarme ayer.*                      "My cousin came to visit me yesterday."  
*María se ganó la lotería... ¡Qué buena suerte!*                      "María won the lottery; what good luck!"  
*Me encantan los librerías en los Estados Unidos.*                      "I love the bookstores in the United States."

*Todas la mañanas necesito tomar un café.*

*El muchacho es muy guapo.*

*Hay que pagar el la caja.*

"Every morning, I need to drink coffee."

"The young man is very handsome."

"One has to pay at the register."

## Grammar Points

---

**The Focus of This Lesson Is *Me falta algo* ("I'm missing something").**

***Prima, ya casi terminamos las compras, sólo me falta algo, un diccionario.***

**"Cousin, we're almost done with the shopping. I'm only missing one thing, a dictionary."**

---

Today's topic is the verb *faltar* ("to lack," "to be missing"). We often use this verb with indirect object pronouns, much the same way as *gustarse* ("to be pleasing to oneself") and *dolerse* ("to hurt oneself"). Recall that the personal pronouns we use are *me*, *te*, *le*, *nos*, *os*, and *les*.

We must translate the verb *faltar* ("to lack") figuratively to get the desired meaning in the context where we are using it.

There is one thing to note about the verb *faltar* ("to lack") when combined with a direct object pronoun. You must conjugate the verb *faltar* according to what it is that is lacking, not according to who is lacking that thing. We see the same issue with verbs like *gustar* ("to be pleasing"). See the Grammar Bank item *gustar* for further information.

### Formation

---

#### Singular

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>me falta</i>	"I lack"
<i>te falta</i>	"you lack"
<i>le falta</i>	"he/she lacks"
<i>nos falta</i>	"we lack"
<i>os falta</i>	"you all lack"
<i>les falta</i>	"they lack"

#### Plural

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>me faltan</i>	"I lack"
<i>te faltan</i>	"you lack"





<i>le faltan</i>	"he/she lacks"
<i>nos faltan</i>	"we lack"
<i>os faltan</i>	"you all lack"
<i>les faltan</i>	"they lack"

## Sample Sentences

---

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Me falta cenar.</i>	"I haven't eaten dinner yet."
<i>Te faltan treinta pesos para comprar la entrada.</i>	"You need thirty pesos to buy the ticket."
<i>¿Le falta algo, señor?</i>	"Do you need something, sir?"
<i>Les faltan materiales para acabar con la construcción.</i>	"They lack/need materials to finish construction."

## Notes

---

You must conjugate the verb *faltar* according to what it is that is lacking, not according to who is lacking that thing. We see the same issue with verbs like *gustar* ("to be pleasing"). See the Grammar Bank item *gustar* for further information.

## Cultural Insight

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### Literacy in Latin America

---

Those used to the giant bookstores of the United States and Europe will be highly disappointed in Central America. Children, for the most part, are not raised with a sense that reading is an important part of life. Generally speaking, countries may have a high literacy rate but the ability to read does not automatically bestow a love of reading and literature. This is not the case for the entirety of Latin

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America. Columbia, Mexico, Peru, and Argentina are countries that have a rich literary tradition. Authors such as Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Isabell Allende are world renowned, winning multiple awards and honors bestowed upon them.



## Beginner Lesson S4

What Is the Object of Your Spanish Desire?

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## Formal Spanish

---

Andrés: Hola, amigo, busco un diccionario de español.  
Cajero: ¡Buenas!, disculpe, pero yo soy el cajero, no sé dónde están los diccionarios.  
Ana: ¿no sabe?, entonces ¿quién sabe?  
Cajero: Pregúntele al vendedor que está al costado de las escaleras.  
Andrés: Hola, disculpe, estoy buscando un diccionario de español.  
Vendedor: Lo siento señor, no lo puedo ayudar, yo soy el encargado de los libros de texto, no de los diccionarios.

## English

---

Andrés: Hello, friend, I'm looking for a Spanish dictionary.  
Cajero: Hello! Excuse me, but I'm the cashier; I don't know where the dictionaries are.  
Ana: You don't know? Then who does?  
Cajero: Ask the salesman who is at the side of the stairs.  
Andrés: Hello, excuse me; I'm looking for a Spanish dictionary.  
Vendedor: I'm sorry sir, I can't help you. I'm in charge of the textbooks, not the dictionaries.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
costado	side	noun
escaleras	stairs	noun
encargado(-a)	responsible (for), in charge (of)	adjective
texto	text	noun
libro	book	noun
sentirse	to feel	reflexive verb

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*La librería está al costado sur de la iglesia católica.*

"The bookstore is on the south side of the Catholic church."

*Luis se cayó en la escaleras.*

"Luis fell on the stairs."

*Mario es el encargado de la tienda.*

"Mario is responsible for the store."

*Estoy leyendo un texto muy interesante de Edgar Allan Poe.*

"I am reading a very interesting text by Edgar Allan Poe."

*Mi padre lee muchos libros.*

"My father reads many books."

*Hoy no voy a ir a trabajar, me siento enfermo.*

"I'm not going to work today: I feel sick."

## Grammar Points

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is Direct Object Pronouns.**

*Lo siento señor, no lo puedo ayudar, yo soy el encargado de los libros de texto, no de los diccionarios.*

**"I'm sorry sir, I can't help you: I'm in charge of the textbooks, not the dictionaries."**

Direct objects receive the action directly from the verb. For example, "I see Miguel." Here, "Miguel" is the direct object. He is what I see. When we replace a direct object with a pronoun, we call it a direct object pronoun. We use these once we have mentioned the direct object in order to avoid redundancy or cacophony (a harsh or discordant sound). Because both people and things can be the direct object of a verb, we must use gender and number to indicate the object to which each direct object pronoun refers. The typical word order with direct object pronouns is **subject + direct object pronoun + verb**, except when we use an infinitive or gerund, in which case we **suffix** or attach the direct object pronoun to the end of the infinitive or gerund.

### **For Example:**

1. *Iba a llamar te*

2. *Estoy llamándo te*

Notice the accent that we add to the vowel of the gerund ending when it receives a suffixed pronoun.

### **Formation**

#### **For People:**

Person	Singular	Plural

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First	<i>me</i>	<i>nos</i>
Second	<i>te</i>	<i>os</i>
Third	<i>lo</i> (masculine), <i>la</i> (feminine)	<i>los</i> (masculine), <i>las</i> (feminine)

## For Things:

<b>Gender</b>	<b><i>Singular</i></b>	<b><i>Plural</i></b>
Masculine	<i>lo</i>	<i>los</i>
Feminine	<i>la</i>	<i>las</i>

## Sample Sentences

---

<b><i>Spanish</i></b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Yo <b>te</b> ví en el restaurante.</i>	"I saw <b>you</b> in the restaurant."
<i>Ella quiere verlo más tarde.</i>	"She wants to see <b>him</b> later."
<i>A él le gusta la sopa. Siempre <b>la</b> come.</i>	"He likes the soup. He always eats <b>it</b> ."
<i>Nos llamaron ayer.</i>	"They called <b>us</b> yesterday."
<i>Estaré buscandote en Skype.</i>	"I'll be looking for <b>you</b> on Skype."
<i>No he visto la película todavía. ¿Dónde <b>la</b> viste?</i>	"I haven't seen the movie yet. Where did you see <b>it</b> ?"

## Notes

---

Because direct object pronouns replace nouns, it's indispensable to know the number and gender of these nouns in order to be conscious of what the pronouns are referring to. Of course, context helps quite a bit with this. Nevertheless, we note that *lo*, for example, could mean "him" or "you" in the masculine formal or "it" if the noun is a masculine singular thing. *La* could mean "her" or "you" in the feminine formal or "it" if the noun is a feminine singular thing. *Los* could mean "them" in the masculine plural persons or things or "you all" in the masculine or neuter plural formal. Finally, *las* could mean "them" in the feminine plural persons or things or "you all" in the feminine or neuter plural formal. So, you can see that it's a good idea to learn the number and gender of nouns at the same time as you learn their meanings. It makes the whole thing a lot easier!

## Related Expressions

---

While studying this topic, it will also be a good idea to make sure that you understand how to use

indirect object pronouns such as *me*, *te*, *le*, *nos*, *os*, and *les*. Also, for an even deeper understanding of the topic, we recommend that you learn how to use direct and indirect object pronouns in the same phrase. For example, *¿cuándo vas a entregárnoslo?* ("When are you going to deliver it to us?")

## Cultural Insight

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### **Aggressive Spanish Sales Tactics**

---

Customer service in Latin America may be different than what you are used to. The focus on the customer is not the be-all and end-all as it is in the United States. Clerks will not be overly anxious to help you, and when they are, they will be overly anxious. Stores pay clerks based on commission, and that practice leads to very overbearing sales people. In Costa Rica, for example, you cannot walk down the street without being bombarded by offers and calls to enter the stores. This may be a bit disconcerting at first and you may not feel comfortable entering stores. If you are the type of person who is not comfortable being followed around while shopping, do not take things personally. The clerks are following you not to prevent theft but to gain their commission.



## Beginner Lesson S4

There Are Many Reasons for You to Learn Spanish!

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## Formal Spanish

---

Viejita                    Ahí que muchachos estos, nunca saben nada, mi hijito, yo vi los diccionarios en el primer piso, si quiere lo ayudo.

Andrés                    Ahyy, señora, muchísimas gracias.

Ana                        ¡Los vendedores de esta librería no saben nada!

Viejita                    Tiene toda la razón mi hijita, por eso los clientes se van enojados. Aquí están los diccionarios, Hay muchos tipos de diccionarios, ¿qué tipo de diccionario buscas?

Andrés                    Uno de español.

## English

---

Viejita                    Ohhhh, these guys, they never know anything... My boy, I saw the dictionaries on the first floor. If you want, I can help you.

Andrés                    Oh, ma'am, thank you so much!

Ana                        The salesmen in this bookstore don't know anything!

Viejita                    You're right. You're completely right. Honey, that is why the clients leave angry. Here are the dictionaries. There are many kinds of dictionaries; what kind are you looking for?

Andrés                    One in Spanish.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
ayudar	to help	verb
piso	floor	noun
razón	reason	feminine noun
cliente(-a)	customer	noun
enojado(-a)	angry	adjective
tipo(-a)	kind, type	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Yo siempre trato de ayudar a mis amigos.*

"I always try to help my friends."

*Se cayó en el piso.*

"She fell on the floor."

*Hay muchas razones.*

"There are many reasons."

*Mi papá es cliente de este restaurante.*

"My father is a customer of this restaurant."

*Mi papá está enojado conmigo.*

"My father is angry with me."

*¿Qué tipo de música le gusta escuchar?*

"What type of music do you like to listen to?"

## Grammar Points

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is Impersonal Verb Usage - *haber* ("to have"): Part 4.**

*Hay muchos tipos de diccionarios, ¿qué tipo de diccionario buscas?*

"There are many kinds of dictionaries; what kind are you looking for?"

The verb *haber* can be either a verb of existence or an auxiliary verb in the compound tense. Our concern here is with it as a verb of existence. In the present tense, we saw that this verb does not change form when the noun that it refers to is in the singular or plural. We also saw that the same thing occurs when we use it in the future tense. When we use *haber* as a verb of existence, it is impersonal and ALWAYS takes the third person singular form.

### Formation

The verb form for the present tense is *hay*. In English, we translate this as "there" + "is" for singular and "there" + "are" for plural. The verb forms in the future tense are *habrá* in the singular and *habrán* in the plural. In English, we translate this as "there" + "will be."

#### Singular

Construction	Spanish	"English"
Present	<i>hay</i>	"there is"
Future	<i>habrá</i>	"there will be"

#### Plural

Construction	Spanish	"English"
Present	<i>hay</i>	"there are"
Future	<i>habrá</i>	"there will be"

### Sample Sentences

Spanish	"English"

<i>Hay comida en la mesa.</i>	"There is food on the table."
<i>Habr� comida en la mesa.</i>	"There will be food on the table."
<i>Hay nubes en el cielo.</i>	"There are clouds in the sky."
<i>Habr� nubes en el cielo.</i>	"There will be clouds in the sky."
<i>Hay siete personas en la sala.</i>	"There are seven people in the living room."
<i>Habr� siete personas en la sala.</i>	"There will be seven people in the living room."

## Notes

Notice that when we use the verb *haber* as a verb of existence, we always use the third person singular (i.e., the impersonal). Thus, we see that we use *hay* in the present tense to mean "there is," "there are," and we use *habr * in the future tense to mean "there will be."

Because we are used to making sure that verbs agree with their subjects in number, this can be tricky. If the noun is plural and the verb of existence is still singular, the nouns and verbs may appear not to agree even though this is grammatically correct (e.g., *habr  muchas personas*).

## Related Expressions

Aside from using *haber* as a verb of existence, we can also use it to express obligation. In a very emphatic way, we can use it in the present tense of the indicative mood along with the preposition *de* and then a verb in the infinitive.

### For Example:

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>has de viajar</i>	"you must travel"
<i>hemos de hablar</i>	"we must speak"
<i>han de regresar</i>	"they must return"

This phrase is very, very emphatic and we often replace it with the construction *tener que* + infinitive.

### For Example:

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i> tienes que viajar</i>	"you have to travel"
<i> tenemos que hablar</i>	"we have to talk"
<i> tienen que regresar</i>	"they have to return"



## Cultural Insight

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### **Does the Customer Come First in Latin America?**

---

While job security and service are important in the United States, employees in many countries in Latin America are not culturally inclined to deem these two factors of great importance. In many Latin American countries, an environment of nepotism is the norm. Family members and friends are usually placed in positions that are completely secure, and as a result, productivity suffers. This is true in many government bureaucracies as well. The idea of customer service is uniquely North American. Latin American nations neither practice nor preach the creation of the voluntary illusion of complete servitude to the customer. The cultural code does not place primacy on the customer; this does lead to frustration on the part of customers (usually North American) who are used to such a paradigm.



## Beginner Lesson S4

No Matter What You Do, Don't Stop Studying Spanish!

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## Formal Spanish

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Viejita                   ahhh, ¡estás aprendiendo español! ¡Que bueno!  
Andrés                  Sí señora, estoy en este país sólo para eso.  
Ana                     Él es mi primo Andrés, es de Carolina del Norte, en Estados Unidos.  
Viejita                  Mucho gusto, yo soy Andrea, Yo soy profesora de español.  
Andrés                 ¿En serio?, ¡que casualidad!  
Viejita                  Yo no creo en las casualidades, todo pasa por una razón.

## English

---

Viejita                   Ahhh, you're learning Spanish! How great!  
Andrés                  Yes ma'am, I'm in this country only for that reason.  
Ana                     He is my cousin Andrés from North Carolina in the United States.  
Viejita                  Nice to meet you. I am Andrea; I am a Spanish teacher.  
Andrés                 Really? What a coincidence!  
Viejita                  I don't believe in coincidences; everything happens for a reason.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
aprender	to learn	verb
profesor(-ra)	teacher, professor	noun
casualidad	chance	noun
creer	to believe, to think	verb
pasar	to pass, to go by, to come by, to come	verb
todo pasa por una razón.	everything happens for a reason	elocution

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Aprendimos hablar español.*  
*Soy profesor.*

"We learned to speak Spanish."  
"I am a teacher."

*La casualidad hizo que nos encontráramos.*

*Creo que te puedo ayudar.*

*Yo paso mucho tiempo con mi familia.*

*Creo que todo pasa por una razón.*

"Chance brought us together."

"I think that I can help you."

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

"I believe that everything happens for a reason."

## Grammar Points

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

*Yo no creo en las casualidades, todo pasa por una razón.*

**"I don't believe in coincidences; everything happens for a reason."**

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*.

### Formation

Since all prepositions are invariable (i.e., they never change forms), we're focusing here on the usage instead of the formation. The seven usages of the preposition *por* are as follows:

Usage	Spanish Example	"English Example"
<b>Cause:</b> Expresses the cause of an action	<i>Por haber llovido mucho, el partido fue cancelado.</i>	"Because of it having rained so much, the game was canceled."
<b>Time and Place:</b> It vaguely expresses local and temporal relationships	<i>entrar por la puerta</i>	"to enter <b>through</b> the door"
<b>Agent of the Passive:</b> Introduces the agent of a passive action	<i>Él ha sido arrestado por la policía.</i>	"He has been arrested <b>by</b> the police."
<b>Medium:</b> Expresses the medium through which an action is carried out	<i>hablar por teléfono</i>	"to talk <b>by</b> phone"
<b>Mode:</b> Forms adverbial and conjunctive phrases	<i>por fin</i>	" <b>at last</b> "
<b>Substitution / Equivalence:</b> Expresses	<i>Trabaja por tu padre hoy día.</i>	"Work <b>in place of</b> your father today."

that an action is carried out by a subject on behalf of someone else		
<b>Used in Formulas of Judgement / Exclamation:</b>	<i>¡Por el amor de Dios!</i>	<b>"For</b> the love of God!"

## Notes

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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 of 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 the following context:

1. *Trabajo para mi familia.*

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

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

## Related Expressions

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Prepositions are important because they allow us to form complex expressions and help describe the verbal action (what's carrying out and receiving the action). Since there are few hard rules for when to use a given preposition, it's important to learn to recognize these in speech. It is much easier to learn prepositions by listening to native speakers using them than it is to memorize their usages, which in a word means that you've got to apply what you learn.

## Cultural Insight

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### Where You Should Study Spanish as a Second Language





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Learning Spanish as a second language is a booming business in Latin America. Many countries have schools with programs that partner with universities in the United States and Europe. Countries with a stable government and safe reputation are the most popular. For example, Costa Rica leads as a popular Spanish learning destination. Countries such as Columbia, Nicaragua, and Peru have schools popping up as well, but in general, these countries are working against a historical instability that makes them a less attractive destination for foreigners to travel to. If you are looking for a program to learn Spanish outside the United States, check out the forum where there are links that provide valuable information on this topic.



## Beginner Lesson S4

You Found a Spanish Tutor a While Ago, But Should You Find Another?

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## Formal Spanish

---

Ana: Eso es verdad, nosotros estamos buscando una profesora de español, para Andrés.  
Andrés: Sí necesito clases, por favor, ayúdeme.  
Andrea: Pero yo ya estoy retirada.  
Ana: Usted es muy amable, eso es lo que busca Andrés, una persona amable y paciente.  
Andrés: Ana dice la verdad, necesito una persona con mucha paciencia. Y creo que no habrá una profesora como usted doña Andrea.  
Andrea: Me convencieron Chicos, te voy a enseñar, después de todo, no es casualidad de nuestros nombres empiecen con A.

## English

---

Ana: That's true, we're looking for a Spanish teacher for Andrés.  
Andrés: Yes, I need classes. Please help me.  
Andrea: But I'm already retired.  
Ana: You are very kind. That is what Andrés is looking for - a kind and patient person.  
Andrés: Ana is telling the truth; I need a person with a lot of patience. And I don't think there will be a teacher like you, Mrs. Andrea.  
Andrea: You've convinced me, kids. I will teach you; after all, it's not a coincidence that our names both start with A.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
retirada	retired	adjective
amable	kind	adjective
paciente	patient	adjective
convencer	to convince	verb
enseñar	to teach	verb
clases	classes	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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*Ella está retirada.*

"She is retired."

*Ella es una persona amable.*

"She is a kind person."

*Tengo una madre muy paciente.*

"I have a very patient mother."

*Lo convencí para que me dejara ir a la fiesta.*

"I convinced him to let me go to the party."

*No sabes dónde queda el café, no te preocupes, yo te enseño.*

"You don't know where the cafe is? Don't worry; I'll show you."

*Mañana voy a tener clases de baile.*

"Tomorrow, I am going to have dance classes."

## Grammar Points

---

**The Focus of This Lesson Is the Preterit Tense.**

*Pero yo ya estoy retirada.*

**"But I'm already retired."**

---

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

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**Terminar**

**Singular**

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>yo terminé</i>	"I finished"
<i>tú terminaste</i>	"you finished"

<i>él terminó</i>	"he finished"
<i>ella terminó</i>	"she finished"
<i>usted terminó</i>	"you finished" (formal)

## Plural

<i>Spanish</i>	"English"
<i>nosotros terminamos</i>	"we finished"??
<i>vosotros terminasteis</i>	"you all finished" (informal)
<i>ellos terminaron</i>	"they finished" (masculine)?
<i>ellas terminaron</i>	"they finished" (feminine)
<i>ustedes terminaron</i>	"you all finished" (formal)

## Aprender

### Singular

<i>Spanish</i>	"English"
<i>yo aprendí</i>	"I learned"??
<i>tú aprendiste</i>	"you learned"
<i>él aprendió</i>	"he learned"
<i>ella aprendió</i>	"she learned"
<i>usted aprendió</i>	"you learned" (formal)

### Plural

<i>Spanish</i>	"English"
<i>nosotros aprendimos</i>	"we learned"??
<i>vosotros aprendisteis</i>	"you all learned" (informal)
<i>ellos aprendieron</i>	"they learned" (masculine)?
<i>ellas aprendieron</i>	"they learned" (feminine)??
<i>ustedes aprendieron</i>	"you all learned" (formal)

## Decidir

### Singular

<i>Spanish</i>	"English"
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<i>yo decidí</i>	"I decided" ??
<i>tú decidiste</i>	"you decided" ??
<i>él decidió</i>	"he decided" ?
<i>ella decidió</i>	"she decided"
<i>usted decidió</i>	"you decided" (formal)

## Singular

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>nosotros decidimos</i>	"we decided"*??
<i>vosotros decidisteis</i>	"you all decided" (informal)
<i>ellos decidieron</i>	"they decided" (masculine)?
<i>ellas decidieron</i>	"they decided" (feminine)
<i>ustedes decidieron</i>	"you all decided" (formal)

## Sample Sentences

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<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?"

## Notes

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

### For Example:

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Terminamos el trabajo ayer.</i>	"We finished the job yesterday."
<i>Terminamos el trabajo a las seis de la tarde.</i>	"We finish the job at six o'clock 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.

## Related Expressions

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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," that *contuve* means "I contained," and that *sostuve* means "I sustained."

## Cultural Insight

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### Can You Find a Bilingual Spanish Teacher in Latin America?

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Spanish teachers are everywhere in Latin America. A Spanish teacher who also speaks English is a little harder to find. There are thoughts that when learning a new language it is better to have a teacher speak to you completely in said language from the beginning of instruction. Some feel it is better to have a teacher who understands your native language so that he or she may answer some of the questions you might have. A mix of both ideas seems to be the best.

To master any language, that language must have an everyday presence in your life. This enables one's brain to accumulate information slowly and process it correctly. Conversational study is more important than grammar and structure in the beginning. With a firm conversational grasp, information from the textbooks provided for you will make sense. Focus first on making mistakes in conversation. After that, use textbooks and grammatical information to fill in the blanks.



## Beginner Lesson S4

What Would You Rather Do than Learn Spanish?

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## Formal Spanish

Mónica: Hola Mamá, mira Carlos vino a cenar con nosotros.  
Suegra: ¡No me digás!, hola Carlitos, ¿cómo estás? Saluda a tu suegro.  
Suegro: Hola Carlos, pase adelante.  
Carlos: gracias, muy amables.  
Suegra: Carlitos antes de comer, ¡vamos a rezar!  
Suegro: Mónica, creo que Carlos debería ir con nosotros a misa el domingo, así se acostumbra a nuestras tradiciones.  
Mónica: Bueno Papá, Carlos y yo lo vamos a hablar y después te doy una respuesta, por ahora, mejor comamos.

## English

Mónica: Hi, Mom. Look, Carlos came to have dinner with us.  
Suegra: You don't say! Hello, Carlitos. How are you? Say hello to your father-in-law.  
Suegro: Hello, Carlos, come on in.  
Carlos: Thank you, you're very kind.  
Suegra: Carlitos, before we eat, let's pray!  
Suegro: Mónica, I believe Carlos should go with us to mass on Sunday; that way, he can get used to our traditions.  
Mónica: Okay, Dad. Carlos and I will talk about it and then I'll give you an answer. For now, we'd better eat.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
cenar	to have supper or dinner	verb
suegro(-a)	father-in-law, mother-in-law	noun
adelante	forward	adverb
rezar	to pray	verb
misa	mass	noun
respuesta	answer, response, reply	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Generalmente ceno a las siete de la noche.*

"Generally, I eat dinner at seven in the evening."

*¿Qué dice tu futura suegra respecto al embarazo?*

"What does your future mother-in-law have to say about the pregnancy?"

*¡Buenos días, pase adelante!*

"Good morning, come right in!"

*Mi madre reza cada día para mi alma.*

"My mother prays every day for my soul."

*¿Va a ir a la misa esta domingo?*

"Are you going to go to the mass on Sunday?"

*Los estudiantes que no tienen respuestas tienen tareas.*

"Students who don't have answers have homework."

## Grammar Points

---

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Forming the Simple Conditional Tense.**

*Carlos y yo lo vamos a hablar y después te doy una respuesta, por ahora, mejor comamos.*

**"Carlos and I will talk about it and then I'll give you an answer. For now, we'd better eat."**

---

We form the conditional tense with the endings *-ía*, *-ías*, and *-ía* in the singular and with *-íamos*, *-íais*, and *-ían* in the plural for all regular *-ar*, *-er*, and *-ir* verbs. We use the conditional to:

1. express a future time in the past
2. indicate a conjecture or possibility
3. show the softening of a statement
4. talk about something hypothetical

We generally translate the conditional tense with the infinitive verb following the modal verb "would" or "could." Thus, *yo pensaría* means "I would think" or "I could think." Let's consider the formation of the conditional tense.

### Formation

---

<i>Spanish Singular</i>	<b>"English"</b>	<i>Spanish Plural</i>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>yo hablaría</i>	"I would speak"	<i>nosotros</i> <i>hablaríamos</i>	"we would speak"
<i>tú hablarías</i>	"you would"	<i>vosotros</i>	"you all would"

	speak "	<i>hablaríais</i>	speak " - <i>informal</i>
<i>él hablaría</i>	"he would speak"	<i>ellos hablarían</i>	"they would speak" - <i>masculine</i>
<i>ella hablaría</i>	"she would speak"	<i>ellas hablarían</i>	"they would speak" - <i>feminine</i>
<i>usted hablaría</i>	"you would speak" - <i>formal</i>	<i>ustedes hablarían</i>	"you all would speak" - <i>formal</i>
<i>hablaría</i>	"it would speak" - <i>neuter</i>	<i>hablarían</i>	"they would speak" - <i>neuter</i>

<i>Spanish Singular</i>	"English"	<i>Spanish Plural</i>	"English"
<i>yo volvería</i>	"I would return"	<i>nosotros volveríamos</i>	"we would return"
<i>tú volverías</i>	"you would return"	<i>vosotros volveríais</i>	"you all would return" - <i>informal</i>
<i>él volvería</i>	"he would return"	<i>ellos volverían</i>	"they would return" - <i>masculine</i>
<i>ella volvería</i>	"she would return"	<i>ellas volverían</i>	"they would return" - <i>feminine</i>
<i>usted volvería</i>	"you would return" - <i>formal</i>	<i>ustedes volverían</i>	"you all would return" - <i>formal</i>
<i>volvería</i>	"it would return" - <i>neuter</i>	<i>volverían</i>	"they would return" - <i>neuter</i>

<i>Spanish Singular</i>	"English"	<i>Spanish Plural</i>	"English"
<i>yo sufriría</i>	"I suffer"	<i>nosotros sufriríamos</i>	"we would suffer"
<i>tú sufrirías</i>	"you suffer"	<i>vosotros sufriríais</i>	"you all would suffer" - <i>informal</i>
<i>él sufriría</i>	"he suffers"	<i>ellos sufrirían</i>	"they would suffer" - <i>masculine</i>
<i>ella sufriría</i>	"she suffers"	<i>ellas sufrirían</i>	"they would suffer" - <i>feminine</i>
<i>usted sufriría</i>	"you suffer" - <i>formal</i>	<i>ustedes sufrirían</i>	"you all would suffer" - <i>formal</i>
<i>sufriría</i>	"it suffers" - <i>neuter</i>	<i>sufrirían</i>	"they would suffer" - <i>neuter</i>

## Sample Sentences

---

<i>Spanish</i>	<i>"English"</i>
<i>Yo volvería temprano. Te prometo.</i>	"I would return early. I promise."
<i>Nosotros hablaríamos contigo.</i>	"We would talk with you."
<i>¿Hablaríais con él?</i>	"Could you all speak to him?"
<i>Sufrirían por mucho tiempo.</i>	"They would suffer for a long time."

## Notes

---

The conditional tense is a future tense. Clearly, it is not the absolute future (e.g., *hablarás*, meaning "you will speak"), but it expresses future time within certain conditions. Think of the difference between saying "I would drink some wine" and "I will drink some wine." The first, which is the conditional, expresses a hypothesis (e.g., "I would drink some wine, **if you would pour me a glass.**") When the conditional expresses a hypothesis, it's contained in the consequent clause of the conditional statement. In the antecedent clause, which is the "if" clause, we often use a verb form in the subjunctive mood, which we'll look at in a future lesson.

## Cultural Insight

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### Want to Go on a First Date with My Family?

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The concept of family is very important in Latin America. The Spanish-speaking world is still a stronghold of the Roman Catholic church. As a result, views of relationships in Latin America tend to be a little more traditional than those in the United States or Europe. In Latin America, dating sometimes begins with watching television under the watchful eyes of the family. When a relationship becomes a bit more serious, it is not common for a couple to live together before they get married. This traditional view results in children living with their parents until very late in life. If a woman is unmarried at twenty-five, she will most likely still be living with her parents. The stigma that is attached to this in the United States does not exist in Latin America. A young man is also not expected to leave his parents' house until the time of his marriage.

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## Beginner Lesson S4

You HAVE to Listen to This Spanish Lesson!

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## Formal Spanish

---

Carlos: Amor, ¿tengo que ir a la iglesia con tu familia?  
Mónica: Sí amor, ya hablamos de esto, y tú lo prometiste.  
Carlos: Pero No me gustan las iglesias, además no entiendo nada de lo que dicen, hablan muy rápido.  
Mónica: Carlos Mis padres son muy religiosos, y ellos creen que debes de ir con nosotros todos los domingos.  
Carlos: ¿Todos los domingos?, ¿estás loca?  
Mónica: Bueno Amor, vamos hoy y después veremos. ¿Está bien?  
Carlos: Lo hago por ti, sólo por ti.

## English

---

Carlos: Honey, do I have to go to mass with your family?  
Mónica: Yes, honey, we talked about this, and you promised.  
Carlos: But I don't like churches. Also, I don't understand anything they say; they speak so fast.  
Mónica: Carlos, my parents are very religious, and they believe you should go with us every Sunday.  
Carlos: Every Sunday? Are you crazy?  
Mónica: Well, love, let's go today and then we'll see. Okay?  
Carlos: I'll do it for you, only for you.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
iglesia	church	feminine noun
prometer	to promise	verb
además	moreover, and yet	adverb
deber	should, ought to, duty	auxiliary verb
religiosos	religious	adjective
después	after	adverb, adjective

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

<i>La campana de la iglesia siempre dobla en punto.</i>	"The church bell always tolls on time."
<i>Mi papá me prometió venir temprano hoy.</i>	"My father promised me to come early today."
<i>Ana María es una mujer muy guapa y además es amable.</i>	"Ana María is a beautiful woman and also kind."
<i>Carlos debería de estudiar más para el examen.</i>	"Carlos should have studied more for the test."
<i>Me gustan las imágenes religiosas.</i>	"I like religious images."
<i>Después del almuerzo, regreso al trabajo.</i>	"After lunch, I go back to work."

---

## Grammar Points

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### **The Focus of This Lesson Is Periphrasis - Obligations.**

*Amor, ¿tengo que ir a la iglesia con tu familia?*

"Honey, do I have to go to mass with your family?"

---

In Spanish, we can express obligation either personally or impersonally. One of the ways to express obligation is to use the verb *tener* ("to have").

Think of this formation along the same lines that we express obligation in English.

### **For Example:**

1. *Tengo que estudiar.*  
"I HAVE to study."

We can also express impersonal obligation with the verb *haber*, using it as a verb of existence in a periphrastic construction. When we say something like *hay que pagar* ("one must pay"), we are expressing an impersonal obligation because we do not specify the particular person who must pay.

### **Formation**



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## Personal Obligation:

***tener + que + infinitivo del verbo***

("to have" + "to" + "infinitive of verb")

## Impersonal Obligation:

***hay + que + infinitivo del verbo***

("one must" + "infinitive of verb")

## Sample Sentences

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### Personal

<b><i>Spanish</i></b>	<b><i>"English"</i></b>
<i>Yo tengo que salir.</i>	"I have to go out."
<i>Tú tienes que descansar.</i>	"You have to rest."
<i>Él tiene que leer su libro.</i>	"He has to read his book."
<i>Tenemos que comprar leche.</i>	"We have to buy milk."
<i>Ellos tienen que practicar.</i>	"They have to practice."
<i>Ustedes tienen que dormir.</i>	"You all have to sleep."

### Impersonal

<b><i>Spanish</i></b>	<b><i>"English"</i></b>
<i>Hay que tener paciencia.</i>	"One must have patience."
<i>Hay que estudiar para graduarse.</i>	"One must study in order to graduate."

## Notes

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\*When talking about past obligation, we conjugate the verb *tener* ("to have") in the imperfect past tense. The structure is the same: for example, *Yo tengo que estudiar* ("I have to study.") becomes *Yo tenía que estudiar* ("I had to study.").

Also, there is no direct way to translate impersonal expressions of obligation, since the verb *haber* usually means "there is" or "there are." Often, when we translate impersonal expressions of obligation from Spanish to English, they become personal.

## Related Expressions

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There are lots of periphrastic constructions in Spanish, and you can check out more of them here in the Grammar Bank and also by listening to related lessons listed below.



## Beginner Lesson S4

Have You Lost Your Spanish Mind?

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## Formal Spanish

---

Mónica: Amor ya llegué, ¿estás listo?  
Carlos: Hola amor estoy en mi dormitorio, ven  
Mónica: Carlos, ¡no puedes ir a la iglesia en pantalones cortos y sandalias!  
Carlos: ¿Por qué no?, hoy hace mucho calor, no me voy a poner mi traje entero.  
Mónica: Ya hablamos de esto, acordamos que te ibas a poner el pantalón de vestir con una camisa de manga larga.  
Carlos: ¡NO! manga larga con este calor, ¡voy a sudar como chancho!  
Mónica: ¡¡Amor, lo prometiste!!

## English

---

Mónica: Honey, I'm here. Are you ready?  
Carlos: Hi, Honey. I'm in my bedroom, come...  
Mónica: Carlos, you can't go to church in shorts and sandals!  
Carlos: Why not? It's hot today; I'm not going to wear my suit.  
Mónica: We talked about this; we agreed that you were going to wear your dress pants with a long sleeve shirt.  
Carlos: NO! Long sleeves in this heat, I'm going to sweat like a pig!  
Mónica: Honey, you promised!

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
dormitorio	bedroom	noun
corto	short, small, meager	adjective
sandalia	sandal	noun
chancho	pig	noun
sudar	to sweat	verb
llegar	to arrive	verb

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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*Yo duermo en el dormitorio más grande de la casa.*

"I sleep in the biggest bedroom in the house."

*Yo puedo correr, pero sólo distancias cortas.*

"I can run, but only short distances."

*Lucía perdió sus sandalias en la playa.*

"Lucía lost her sandals on the beach."

*Para el cumpleaños de Alejandra, van a preparar chanco al horno.*

"For Alejandra's birthday, they're going to prepare roasted pork."

*Sudaban a chorros.*

"They were running with sweat."

*¿A qué hora piensas en llegar?*

"What time are you thinking of arriving?"

## Grammar Points

### The Focus of This Lesson Is Possessive Adjectives and Pronouns.

*¿Por qué no?, hoy hace mucho calor, no me voy a poner mi traje entero.*

"Why not? It's hot today; I'm not going to wear my suit."

Possessive adjectives show possession and we make them agree with the nouns to which they refer simply by modifying their endings. The noun determines the endings of both possessive adjectives and adverbs. Possessive pronouns, on the other hand, actually replace the noun to which they refer, while they maintain the number and gender of that noun. We are talking about the difference between *mi* ("my") and *mío* ("mine") and between *tu* ("you") and *tuyo* ("yours").

### Formation

#### Possessive Adjectives versus Possessive Pronouns

The table below demonstrates how Spanish pronouns change in their possessive adjective forms and possessive pronoun forms.

Pronoun ("English")	Possessive Adjective	"English"	Possessive Pronoun	"English"
yo ("I")	<i>mí, mis</i>	"my"	<i>mío, -a, míos, -as</i>	"mine"
tú ("you") - informal	<i>tu, tus</i>	"your"	<i>tuyo, -a, tuyos, -as</i>	"yours"
él ("he")	<i>su, sus</i>	"his"	<i>suyo, -a, suyos, -as</i>	"his"
ella ("she")	<i>su, sus</i>	"her"	<i>suyo, -a, suyos, -as</i>	"hers"
usted ("you") - formal	<i>su, sus</i>	"your"	<i>suyo, -a, suyos, -as</i>	"yours"

<i>formal</i>			-as	
<i>nosotros</i> ("we")	<i>nuestro, -a,</i> <i>nuestros, -as</i>	"our"	<i>nuestro, -a,</i> <i>nuestros, -as</i>	"ours"
<i>vosotros</i> ("you all") - <i>informal</i>	<i>vuestro, -a,</i> <i>vuestros, -as</i>	"your"	<i>vuestro, -a,</i> <i>vuestros, -as</i>	"yours"
<i>ellos</i> ("they") - <i>masculine</i>	<i>su, sus</i>	"their"	<i>suyo, -a, suyos,</i> <i>-as</i>	"theirs"
<i>ellas</i> ("they") - <i>feminine</i>	<i>su, sus</i>	"their"	<i>suyo, -a, suyos,</i> <i>-as</i>	"theirs"
<i>ustedes</i> ("you all") - <i>formal</i>	<i>su, sus</i>	"your"	<i>suyo, -a, suyos,</i> <i>-as</i>	"yours"

## Sample Sentences

Spanish	"English"
<i>Me gusta <b>tu</b> gorro, pero más me gusta <b>el mío</b>.</i>	"I like <b>your</b> hat, but I like <b>mine</b> more."
<i><b>Nuestras</b> playas en el Perú son diferentes a las <b>vuestras</b> en España.</i>	" <b>Our</b> beaches in Peru are different from <b>yours</b> in Spain."
<i><b>Mi</b> país está muy lejos, pero el <b>tuyo</b> está más lejos todavía.</i>	" <b>My</b> country is very far, but <b>yours</b> is further still."

## Notes

Notice that we use the forms *su, sus, suyos, and suyas* in multiple cases. Remember that these kinds of constructions will always have either a noun or a pronoun, which means that the sentences will contain some kind of contextual reference. Possessive pronouns and adjectives are common in both Latin American as well as peninsular Spanish.

## Cultural Insight

### Should You Dress to Impress in Latin America?

Casual dress is a North American phenomenon. Generally speaking, countries in Latin America still hold formal dress in high regard (depending on the situation, of course). Costa Rica, for example, is famous for its beaches, surfing, and overall laid-back lifestyle. That does not mean that its residents don't expect formal dress. In fact, Latin Americans quite despise the stereotypical longhaired, unbathed gringo. Those of you who wish to travel and dress without a care in the world will do fine on vacation, but if your plan is to become a resident and gain employment, a haircut, clean shave, and a nicely pressed suit will go a long way. In my experience, with the stereotype present, employers will be quite impressed if one shows up at an interview sharply dressed. "Dress to impress" is a saying that Latin Americans take very seriously.



## Beginner Lesson S4

Obviously, You're Making a Spanish Fashion Statement

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## Formal Spanish

---

Suegro	¡¡¡¡que bonito que se ve el pantalón de vestir con las sandalias, Carlitos!!!
Suegra	Danilo, recuerda que los turistas no están acostumbrados a los calores que hace en los países latinoamericanos.
Suegro	Sí, pero no creo que al padre le guste mucho esa moda.
Suegra	Ni cuenta se va a dar, vas a ver.
Mónica	Amor, tranquilo, ignóralos, ¡por favor!
Carlos	Sólo por ti, sólo para que veas cuanto te amo.
Mónica	sí amor yo sé, va a ser solamente una hora, te lo prometo.

## English

---

Suegro	Your dress pants look great with your sandals, Carlos!
Suegra	Danilo, remember that tourists aren't used to the heat in Latin American countries.
Suegro	Yes, but I don't think the priest will be fond of this style.
Suegra	He won't even notice.
Mónica	Honey, relax. Ignore them, please!
Carlos	Only for you, just so you see how much I love you.
Mónica	Yes, my love, I know. It'll only be an hour. I promise.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
turista	tourist	noun
acostumbrar	to be in the habit of, to become accustomed	verb
calor	heat, hot	noun, adjective
moda	fashion, craze	noun
ignorar	to ignore	verb
prometer	to promise	verb

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*El turista compró una camiseta en la tienda.*

"The tourist bought a shirt at the store."

*Acostumbró a su hija a dormir la siesta.*

"She got her daughter used to taking a nap."

*Hace calor.*

"It's hot out."

*No sé casi nada de la moda, por eso me visto así.*

"I don't know hardly anything about fashion; that's why I dress like this."

*¡No me ignores!*

"Don't ignore me!"

*Mi papá me prometió venir temprano hoy.*

"My father promised me to come early today."

## Grammar Points

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is Forming Adverbs.**

*Sí amor yo sé, va a ser solamente una hora, te lo prometo.*

**"Yes, my love, I know. It'll only be an hour. I promise."**

Here, we are looking at *la formación de los adverbios* ("the formation of adverbs"). Adverbs serve as modifiers of:

1. a verb
2. an adjective
3. another adverb
4. a preposition
5. a phrase
6. a clause
7. a sentence

They express some relation of manner of:

1. quality
2. place
3. time
4. degree
5. number
6. cause
7. opposition
8. affirmation
9. denial

## Formation

We may form adverbs in Spanish by adding the ending *-mente* to the feminine form of practically any adjective. If the adjective has only one form rather than both masculine and feminine forms, the same rule applies. Simply add *-mente* to the end to construct the adverb.

### Some Masculine/Feminine Adjectives and Corresponding Adverbs:

<i>Spanish Adjective</i>	"English"	<i>Spanish Adverb</i>	"English"
<i>rápido/a</i>	"rapid"	<i>rápidamente</i>	"rapidly," "quickly"
<i>lento/a</i>	"slow"	<i>lentamente</i>	"slowly"
<i>obvio/a</i>	"obvious"	<i>obviamente</i>	"obviously"
<i>sincero/a</i>	"sincere"	<i>sinceramente</i>	"sincerely"

### Some Adjectives with Only One Form:

<i>Spanish Adjective</i>	"English"	<i>Spanish Adverb</i>	"English"
<i>feliz</i>	"happy"	<i>felizmente</i>	"happily"
<i>fácil</i>	"easy"	<i>fácilmente</i>	"easily"
<i>triste</i>	"sad"	<i>tristemente</i>	"sadly"

## Sample Sentences

<i>Spanish</i>	"English"
<i>Yo manejaba rápidamente.</i>	"I was driving quickly."
<i>Sabemos precisamente lo que está pasando.</i>	"We know exactly what is happening."
<i>Ella habla inglés maravillosamente.</i>	"She speaks English beautifully."

## Notes

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

Adverbial phrases are also very common, and they often become necessary if the *-mente* ending with the adjective forms a compound that is disagreeable to the Spanish ear. When the adverb sounds strange, native speakers often form an adverbial phrase to replace it. They do this by using the word

*con* ("with") and the noun that is the root of the adverb they are replacing.

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

1. **Adverb:** *Cumplió su trabajo **prudentamente**.*  
"He prudently finished his work."
2. **Adverbial phrase:** *Cumplió su trabajo **con prudencia**.*  
"He finished his work with prudence."

## Cultural Insight

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### Father-Daughter Relationships in Latin America

---

There are many stereotypes concerning Latin American males. But one of the truest stereotypes is the overprotective Latin American father. While it is an unfortunate fact that more and more women are growing up without a male in the household, those who do have their fathers present are usually treated as princesses. With that said, the phenomenon of "daddy's girl" is alive and well in many households. In many traditional families, a father will expect his daughter to follow his rules. When she becomes of age for dating (for the father, the later the better), he will expect to meet each young man his daughter goes out with. The machismo mold holds in many cases, and the father may try to intimidate every young man. The father will most likely accept, albeit begrudgingly, a young man who stands up to this intimidation. If you find yourself dating a Latina, take this into account. A man wants someone worthy of his daughter, as most fathers should.



## Beginner Lesson S4

Don't You Dare Say Anything Negative in Spanish!

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## Formal Spanish

Suegro	Mirá Carlos, ese que está allá, es el padre Juan, te lo voy a presentar, no le digás que sos Ateo.
Suegra	Eso es muy importante, no le digás que no crees en Dios, que va a decir él si se entera que mi futuro nuero es ateo.
Mónica	¡Ya!, déjenlo en paz, ¡por favor!
Suegro	Padre Juan, Padre Juan, este es mi futuro nuero Carlitos.
Padre Juan	¡Mucho gusto hijo!, ¡Lindas sandalias!
Carlos	¡Gracias! ¡Su majestad!
Mónica	m,m,m ¡Carlos!, disculpe Padrecito, Carlos está aprendiendo español, no lo domina todavía.

## English

Suegro	Look Carlos, that man over there is Father Juan. I'm going to introduce you. Don't tell him you're atheist.
Suegra	That is very important. Don't tell him you don't believe in God. What are they going to say if they find out our future son-in-law is atheist?
Mónica	That's it! Leave him alone. Please!
Suegro	Father Juan, Father Juan, this is my future son-in-law, Carlitos.
Padre Juan	Nice to meet you, son! Nice sandals!!
Carlos	Thank you! Your majesty!
Mónica	Mmm Carlos! Excuse us, Father, Carlos is learning Spanish; he hasn't mastered it yet.

## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class
ateo	atheist	noun
enterar	to find out	verb
verno	son-in-law	noun
dejar	to let, to leave	verb
majestad	majesty	noun
dominar	to master	verb

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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<i>En mi familia no creemos en dios, somos ateos.</i>	"We don't believe in God in my family: we are atheists."
<i>Manuel se enteró d ela verdad.</i>	"Manuel found out the truth."
<i>Yo quiero a mi yerno como a un hijo.</i>	"I love my son-in-law like a son."
<i>¡Déjame en paz!</i>	"Leave me in peace!"
<i>Les presento a su majestad el Rey Luis V.</i>	"I present to you his majesty, King Luis the Fifth."
<i>Yo no domino las reglas de gramática del español.</i>	"I haven't mastered the rules of Spanish grammar."

## Grammar Points

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**The Focus of This Lesson Is *Modo Imperativo* ("Imperative Mood").**

*¡Ya!, déjenlo en paz, ¡por favor!*

"That's it! Leave him alone. Please!"

---

We use the subjunctive form for verbs when we give negative commands. For regular verbs, conjugating in the subjunctive to give negative commands simply requires that we conjugate the stem of the verb in the *yo* ("I") form. Then we drop the *-o* and interchange the corresponding *-ar/-er* or *-ir* endings of the verb (*-as* or *-es* for the informal *tú* form). That is to say, we substitute *-a* for the endings of *-er/-ir* verbs to form the subjunctive. Likewise, we substitute *-e* for the endings of *-ar* verbs to form the subjunctive.

Irregular verbs follow a similar pattern. Generally, we must first conjugate the stem of the verb in the *yo* ("I") form. Then we substitute *-a* for the corresponding endings of *-er/-ir* verbs, and we do the opposite for *-ar* verbs. Observe the formations below to get a clear idea of how we do this.

### Formation

---

Here are the basic rules for giving negative commands:

#### For *-ir/-er* Verbs:

*No* + conjugated stem of *yo* form with the *-o* dropped + corresponding *-ar* ending as shown in the table below:

<i>Verb Ending</i>	<i>Corresponding Pronoun</i>
--------------------	------------------------------

-as	tú
-a	usted
-amos	nosotros
-an	ellos / ustedes

**For Example:** *decir*, meaning "to say"

*no + dig* (drop the -o) + -as

<b>Construction</b>	<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
tú	<i>no digas</i> <i>nada</i>	"Don't say anything."
usted	<i>no diga nada</i>	"Don't say anything."
nosotros	<i>no digamos</i> <i>nada</i>	"Don't say anything."
ustedes	<i>no digan</i> <i>nada</i>	"Don't say anything."

**For -ar Verbs:**

*No + conjugated stem of yo form with the -o dropped + corresponding -ir/-er ending*

<b>Verb Ending</b>	<b>Corresponding Pronoun</b>
-es	tú
-e	usted
-emos	nosotros
-en	ellos / ustedes

**Example:** *hablar* - "to speak"

*no + habl* (drop the -o) + -es

<b>Construction</b>	<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
tú	<i>no hables</i>	"Don't speak."
usted	<i>no hable</i>	"Don't speak."
nosotros	<i>no hablemos</i>	"Don't speak."
ustedes	<i>no hablen</i>	"Don't speak."



## Sample Sentences

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### Negative Commands for Regular Verbs:

Conjugation	Infinitive	Spanish	"English"
-ar	cerrar ("to close")	No cierres la puerta.	"Don't close the door." (*tú informal command)
-er	comer ("to eat")	No comas la hamburguesa.	"Don't eat the hamburger." (*tú informal command)
-ir	escribir ("to write")	No escribas la carta.	"Don't write the letter." (*tú informal command)

### Irregular Verbs:

Infinitive	Spanish	"English"
decir ("to say")	No digas nada.	"Don't say anything." (*tú informal command)
hacer ("to do/to make")	No hagas eso.	"Don't do that." (*tú informal command)
tener ("to have")	No tengas miedo.	"Don't be scared."/"Don't have fear."(*tú informal command)

## Notes

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Note how we substitute *-a* for the endings of *-er/-ir* verbs. Likewise, we substitute *-e* into the endings of *-ar* verbs to form the subjunctive. Don't be discouraged if this is confusing at first. Mastering the use of the subjunctive and the imperative moods is one of the most difficult aspects of Spanish.

## Cultural Insight

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### Latin American Religious Preferences

---

Latin America is one of the last remaining strongholds of the Roman Catholic Church. While this religion's share of followers has declined in recent years, Roman Catholicism is still the official religion of many countries. This is a result of the Spanish conquest. Conquistadors claimed lands in the New World for the King of Spain as well as the Catholic Church. The native populations were forced to convert. Towns from Mexico to Chile were organized by a central square: at the head of this square was the local church.

Today, many countries throughout the region do not recognize marriages made outside of the Church. The debate over gay marriage is nonexistent: there is no controversy. Abortion is also illegal in many of these countries.

In the last couple of decades, other denominations, including Protestant, Pentecostal, and Jehovah's Witnesses, have gained ground. However, religions that are not Christian in nature do not have a very large presence in any country, although Jewish temples and mosques are present in some countries that have a large multicultural population.

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