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LEVEL

6



# Spanish

## Lower Intermediate



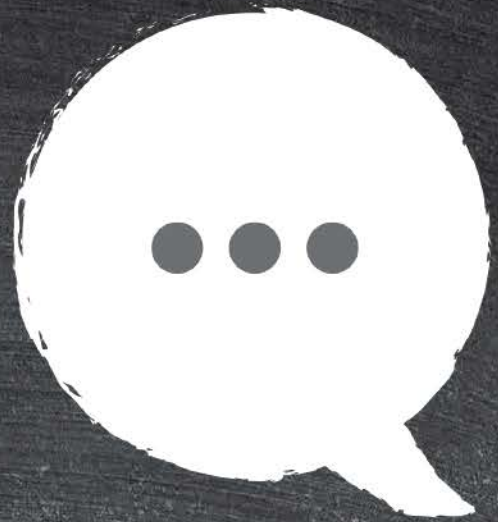
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## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #1 After a Spanish Dinner

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# 1

# MEXICAN SPANISH

1. JORGE: ¿Qué te trajo a esta ciudad, Alfredo?
2. ALFREDO: Fueron una serie de hechos. Primero que nada, la ciudad es bonita y tranquila. Segundo, tengo amistades que me ayudaron a adaptarme. Y tercero, el talento aquí es abundante.
3. ANDREA: ¿Te viniste a rodear de talento o viniste a contribuir más al talento?
4. ALFREDO: Depende con qué ojos me ves. En realidad pueden ser las dos cosas, ¿no crees?
5. JIMENA: Alfredo, conociéndote, viniste a rodearte de talento. Pero Andrea, es buena tu pregunta. Yo agregaría el hecho de que Alfredo recién se divorció.

# ENGLISH

1. JORGE: What brought you to this city, Alfredo?
2. ALFREDO: It was a series of reasons. First of all, the city is pretty and quiet. Second, I have friends that helped me adapt. And third, the talent here is abundant.
3. ANDREA: Did you come here to surround yourself with talent or did you come to contribute to the talent?
4. ALFREDO: It depends on how you see me. In reality, it could be both, don't you think?

CONT'D OVER

5. JIMENA: Alfredo, knowing you, you came to surround yourself with talent. But Andrea, it's a good question. I would add the fact that Alfredo just got divorced recently.

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
traer	to bring	verb	
primero (a)	first	adjective, adverb, pronoun	
segundo	second	adjective	masculine
tercero	third	adjective	
divorciarse	to get a divorce, to divorce oneself	verb	

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Ayer yo traje un diccionario a la clase.</p> <p>"Yesterday, I brought a dictionary to class."</p>	<p>Ve tú primero.</p> <p>"You go first."</p>
<p>El verbo 'dices' está en la segunda persona.</p> <p>"The verb &lt;i&gt;dices&lt;/i&gt; is in the second person."</p>	<p>El verbo 'llama' está en la tercera persona.</p> <p>"The verb &lt;i&gt;llama&lt;/i&gt; is in the third person."</p>

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Se divorció de su esposa hace tres meses.

"He got divorced from his wife three months ago."

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## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

**traer** ("to bring") Note that in the preterit tense the irregular stem **traj-** takes the alternate endings *-e*, *-iste*, *-o*, *-imos*, *-isteis*, and *-eron*.

**primero** ("first") This word is primarily adjectival, but it can also be a pronoun, and we can use it adverbially to list a series. Before masculine nouns, use the form **primer**.

**segundo** ("second") This word is primarily adjectival, but it can also be a pronoun, or we can use it adverbially when listing off a series.

**tercero** ("third") This word is primarily adjectival, but it can also be a pronoun, or we can use it adverbially to list a series. Before masculine nouns, use the form **tercer**.

**divorciarse** ("to get divorced") Literally, this means "to divorce oneself" and takes the preposition **de**, meaning "from."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Ordering Your Thoughts in a Series.**

*Fueron una serie de hechos. Primero que nada, la ciudad es bonita y tranquila. Segundo, tengo amistades que me ayudaron a adaptarme. Y tercero, el talento aquí es abundante.*  
"It was a series of reasons. First of all, the city is pretty and quiet. Second, I have friends that helped me adapt. And third, the talent here is abundant."

---

When writing or speaking in paragraphs, it is often useful to use adverbs to organize your thoughts into a series. In this lesson, Alfredo uses ordinal numbers to list three reasons why he moved to the city. Below are some additional options used to organize thoughts into a series.

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**Spanish**

**"English"**

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<i>Primero,...</i>	"First,..."
<i>Para empezar,...</i>	"To begin with,..."
<i>Segundo,...</i>	"Second,..."
<i>Tercero,...</i>	"Third,..."
<i>Pues,...</i>	"Then,..."
<i>Luego,...</i>	"Then,..."
<i>Entonces,...</i>	"Then,..."
<i>Por último,...</i>	"Finally,..."
<i>Finalmente,...</i>	"Finally,..."

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## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### After Dinner Spanish Conversation

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*La sobremesa* is the custom of staying at the table after the midday meal or after dinner to chat. This is common in many Spanish-speaking countries. It is often observed by families, and is an expectation when guests are invited to a meal. Often, hosts will offer coffee, tea, or dessert during this conversation; however, they often continue the conversation even if no beverage or dessert is involved.

For students of Spanish, *la sobremesa* is a prime opportunity to practice conversational Spanish (or at the very least, to hear it) in a relaxed, family setting.

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #2

## You're the One Who Pursued Me in Spanish, Right?

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# 2



## MEXICAN SPANISH

1. LUIS: ¿Qué tal este Jorge y Andrea? Se ve que se están llevando de poca.
2. JIMENA: ¡Lo sé! Sabía que esto iba a pasar. Qué buena onda, la verdad. A parte, como viven cerca es fácil que se vean seguido.
3. LUIS: Bueno, tú eres toda una cupida. Así me flechaste seguro, ¿verdad, chiquita?
4. JIMENA: Te dejé conquistarme, que es otra cosa. Te morías por estar conmigo. No te hagas.
5. LUIS: Uy sí... Eras tú la que no dejaba de hablarme y querer estar conmigo todo el día. Pero no te culpo, soy irresistible.
6. JIMENA: Ahora resulta que tú eres el exquisito. En fin. Después platicamos largo y tendido de quién conquistó a quién. Ahorita tenemos que asegurar que Andrea y Jorge se la pasen de lo mejor.
7. LUIS: Óyeme, si somos sus amigos, no un servicio de citas.

## ENGLISH

1. LUIS: How are Jorge and Andrea? Looks like they're getting along great.
2. JIMENA: I know! I knew this was going to happen. How awesome, really. Also, since they live near each other, it's easy for them to see each other often.

CONT'D OVER

3. LUIS: Well, you're quite the Cupid. That's how you hooked me for sure, right, baby?
4. JIMENA: I let you win me over, which is different. You were dying to be with me. Knock it off.
5. LUIS: Oh yeah. It was you who kept talking to me and kept wanting to be with me all the time. But I don't blame you—I'm irresistible.
6. JIMENA: Oh, so now YOU're the big catch. Anyway, later on we'll have a long and extended discussion about who won over whom. Right now we need to make sure Jorge and Andrea hit it off.
7. LUIS: Hey, we're their friends, not a dating service.

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class
llevarse de poca	to get along great, to hit it off	phrase
flechar	to hit with an arrow, to make someone fall in love	verb
No te hagas.	Knock it off.	phrase
culpar	to blame	verb
pasársela de lo mejor	to have a great time, to hit it off	verb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Se ve que Jorge y Andrea se están llevando de poca; no paran de sonreír.</p> <p>"You can tell that Jorge and Andrea are getting along great; they can't stop smiling."</p>	<p>Me flechó con su mirada y sus promesas de amor.</p> <p>"He won my heart with his looks and his promises of love."</p>
<p>No te hagas, bien sabes que ya pagué mi parte.</p> <p>"Knock it off, you know full well I already paid my part."</p>	<p>¡Me quieres! No te culpo, soy irresistible.</p> <p>"You love me! I don't blame you: I'm irresistible."</p>

Los niños se la pasaron de lo mejor en Euro Disney la semana pasada.

"The kids had a great time at Euro Disney last week."

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***llevarse de poca*** ("to get along great," "to hit it off")

*Llevar* means "to take" or "to carry." *Llevarse*, in the reciprocal form, means "to get along." *De poca* is an expression that means "very well" or "excellently."

### ***flechar*** ("to hit with an arrow" or "to make someone fall in love")

This is related to the noun *la flecha*, which means "arrow." Figuratively, this is a reference to Cupid, the Roman god of erotic love, who shot arrows at humans who would subsequently fall totally and suddenly in love.

### ***No te hagas***. ("Knock it off.")

We often use this expression of incredulity playfully, and it is similar to an American "shut up" or "quit kidding around!"

### ***culpar*** ("to blame")

This verb is related to the noun *la culpa*, meaning "to blame."

## ***pasarsela de lo mejor* ("to have a great time")**

*Pasar* literally means "to pass" or "to happen," but it can often also mean "to spend (time)."

The preposition phrase *de lo mejor* conveys a meaning of "wonderful" or "the best."

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is Using Subject Pronouns for Emphasis.**

***Eras tú la que no dejaba de hablarme...***

**"You were the one who couldn't stop talking to me..."**

---

In Spanish, as in English, subject pronouns are words that take the place of a full subject. Using pronouns saves a speaker from repeating a noun phrase every time it is the subject of a sentence. Subject pronouns in both languages take the person, number, and sometimes gender of the noun in question.

### **Subject Pronoun Formation**

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Here is a review of English subject pronouns:

#### **English subject pronouns:**

- First person singular: "I"
- Second person singular: "you"
- Third person singular: "he" (masculine), "she" (feminine), "it" (inanimate)
- First person plural: "we"
- Second person plural: "you," "you all," "you guys"

- Third person plural: "they"

Below is a list of the corresponding Spanish subject pronouns. Note that there are regional and register variations in Spanish that do not apply to English. Also note that as a rule, Spanish subject pronouns are never capitalized in the written form unless they begin a sentence, although some Spanish speakers prefer to capitalize the pronoun *usted*.

### **Spanish subject pronouns:**

- First person singular: *yo*
- Second person singular: *tú* (familiar), *usted* (formal), *vos* (familiar, Central and South America)
- Third person singular: *él* (masculine), *ella* (feminine)
- First person plural: *nosotros*, *nosotras* (feminine)
- Second person plural: *ustedes*, *vosotros* (familiar-Spain), *vosotras* (feminine familiar-Spain)
- Third person plural: *ellos*, *ellas* (feminine)

### **Subject Pronouns for Emphasis**

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Unlike in English, Spanish subject pronouns are not required to be present in a sentence, as the conjugation of the verb is enough to show the person and number of the subject. Instead, we use Spanish subject pronouns for emphasis; for example, to show a change in antecedent. Note that in English, we usually do this with emphatic stress.

### **For Example:**

1. *Estás loco.*  
"You are crazy."
2. *Tú estás loco.*  
"YOU are crazy."
3. *Son canadienses, pero ella es estadounidense.*  
"They are Canadian, but SHE is American."

## Subject "It"

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There is no subject pronoun in Spanish that corresponds to the English subject pronoun "it." For inanimate subjects in Spanish, do not use a subject pronoun.

### For Example:

1. *Son las tres.*  
"It is three o'clock."
2. *Hace mucho frío afuera.*  
"It is very cold outside."
3. *Es una historia muy triste.*  
"It's a very sad story."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Latin American Courtship

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Call it old fashioned, call it traditional, call it whatever you'd like. The fact is that courting in Latin American countries is alive and well. Below are just a few bullet points to consider:

- Women predominantly live with their family until marriage.
- Traditionally, a young man asks permission for a woman's hand in marriage from her father. In addition, the man's family often accompanies him.
- Attentiveness on both parts is a major contributor to a long-lasting courtship/relationship leading up to marriage.
- It is socially acceptable for a woman to date a man up to ten years her senior.

Although the time-to-boyfriend/girlfriend relationship tends to be shorter (leading to a history of many girlfriends or boyfriends), it is a sign of a more progressive society, albeit with many 'turnkey' traditions.

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #3

## Would You Miss Out on a Spanish Party Like This??

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# 3



## MEXICAN SPANISH

1. MANUEL: ¿Será aquí la fiesta? Según el taxista ésta es la dirección que le dimos. ¿Tocamos?
2. GUSTAVO: Preguntando se llega a Roma; claro. Y si no es pero hay fiesta nos hacemos los invitados de alguien más.
3. MANUEL: No no, hombre. Ni que tuvieramos quince años. Ya estamos maduros para andar haciendo ese tipo de cosas.
4. GUSTAVO: ¿Qué tiene? Mira, a esta edad tenemos más facilidad de armarnos una conversación chida. Neta. Aparte, traemos algo para la fiesta y eso siempre se aprecia.
5. MANUEL: Obvio. Aun así, tocamos, vemos si es aquí, y si no, preguntamos si saben dónde viven Luis y Jimena.

## ENGLISH

1. MANUEL: Is the party here? According to the taxi driver, this is the address that we told him. Do we knock?
2. GUSTAVO: Of course, you won't know unless you ask. And if it's not, but there's a party, we'll become somebody else's guests.
3. MANUEL: No no, dude. It's not like we're fifteen years old. We're too mature to be going around doing that type of thing.
4. GUSTAVO: What's wrong with it? Look, at this age we're more skilled at starting a good conversation. For real. Besides, we're bringing something to the party, and that's always appreciated.

CONT'D OVER

5. MANUEL: Obviously. Even so, we'll knock, see whether it's here, and if not, we'll ask if they know where Luis and Jimena live.

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
tocar	to touch, to play (an instrument), to knock	verb	
la dirección	the direction, address, management	noun	feminine
Preguntando se llega a Roma.	You'll never know unless you ask!	phrase	
ni que...	it's not as if..., there's no way...	phrase	
armar	to set up, to assemble	verb	

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Toqué la puerta, pero no contestaron.</p> <p>"I knocked, but they didn't answer."</p>	<p>Tocas muy bien la guitarra.</p> <p>"You play the guitar very well."</p>
<p>¿Oíga, usted sabe la dirección?</p> <p>"Excuse me, do you know the address?"</p>	<p>¿Cuál es tu dirección?</p> <p>"What's your address?"</p>

---

Preguntando se llega a Roma.  
"You'll never know unless you ask!"

¡Qué caro! Ni que fuera hecho de oro.  
"How expensive! It's not as if it were made out of gold."

---

Tengo que armar esta mesa antes de que llegue mi esposa.  
"I have to assemble this table before my wife shows up."

---

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***la dirección*** ("address," "direction")

This word can mean "address," "direction," or even "management," depending on the context.

### ***tocar*** ("to touch," "to play (an instrument)," "to knock")

The primary meaning of this verb is "to touch," but depending on the context it can also mean "to play" an instrument or "to knock" on a door or on wood, depending on the context.

### ***Preguntando se llega a Roma.*** ("You won't know unless you ask.")

The saying literally means "One arrives in Rome by asking questions." In Spanish, it means that it is necessary to ask questions to achieve your goal. An alternate equivalent in English might be "there's no harm in asking."

### ***Ni que...*** ("It's not as if...")

This highly idiomatic phrase is often followed by the imperfect subjunctive to show that the speaker feels that the proposition is preposterous or impossible.

### ***armar*** ("to arm," "to set up," "to assemble")

This verb can mean "to arm" as in "to supply weapons" or "to assemble" (e.g., furniture, toys, etc.), depending on the context.

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Using the Future Tense for Speculation in the Present.**

**¿Será aquí la fiesta?**

**"Would the party be here?"**

---

Primarily, we use the future tense in Spanish to speak of actions in the future. We can, however, also use it for actions in the present when the speaker wishes to add an element of speculation to the statement or question.

**For Example:**

1. *¿Es aquí la fiesta?*  
"Is the party here?"
2. *¿Será aquí la fiesta?*  
"Would the party be here?" (speculative)
3. *El señor Olivas está en su oficina.*  
"Mr. Olivas is in his office."
4. *El señor Olivas estará en su oficina.*  
"Mr. Olivas is probably in his office." (speculative)

**Review: Future Tense Formation**

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To form the future tense for regular *-ar*, *-er*, and *-ir* verbs, add the following endings to the whole infinitive:

---

<b>Ending</b>	<b>Example with <i>Comer</i></b>	<b>"English Primary Meaning"</b>	<b>"English Secondary Meaning"</b>
-é	<i>comeré</i>	"I shall eat"	"I'm probably eating"
-ás	<i>comerás</i>	"you shall eat"	"you're probably eating"

---

-á	<i>comerá</i>	"he/she/it shall eat"	"he/she/it is probably eating"
-emos	<i>comeremos</i>	"we shall eat"	"we are probably eating"
-éis	<i>comeréis</i>	"you all shall eat"	"you all are probably eating"
-án	<i>comerán</i>	"you all shall eat," "they shall eat"	"you all are probably eating," "they are probably eating"

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Should You Bring a Hostess Gift to a Party in a Spanish-Speaking Country?

Have a bottle of wine lying around your home? How about a carafe of freshly made lemonade? Perhaps you overstocked on chips when hitting the big wholesale store? Well, all of these items (and then some) are great treats to bring to a dinner party, party, and/or child's birthday. It is a sign of gratitude in Spanish-speaking countries. More importantly, it can allow for the conversation to really flow after dinner. It's up to you to guess which item can do that.

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #4

## Making an Entrance at a Mexican Party

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# 4

## MEXICAN SPANISH

1. GUSTAVO: Hola Jimena. ¿Cómo están? Sabes, estábamos inseguros si era aquí la fiesta.
2. JIMENA: ¿De plano? Bueno, qué bueno que le atinaron.
3. MANUEL: ¿Cómo estás Jimena? Tu amigo Gustavo tiene unas ideas bastante locas. Quería quedarse aun si no fuese aquí.
4. JIMENA: Sí, no me extraña de Gustavo. Por eso es de mis amigos favoritos.
5. MANUEL: ¿Y yo dónde quedo? Qué mala onda. Sólo por eso me voy a tomar todo tu vino.
6. JIMENA: [Risas] Ok. Nada más no vayas a tirar una sola gota.

## ENGLISH

1. GUSTAVO: Hello, Jimena. How are you? You know, we weren't sure whether the party was here.
2. JIMENA: Really? It's good that you found the place.
3. MANUEL: How are you, Jimena? Your friend Gustavo has some rather crazy ideas. He wanted to stay even if it weren't here.
4. JIMENA: Yes, that doesn't surprise me about Gustavo. That's why he's one of my favorite friends.

CONT'D OVER

5. MANUEL: So where do I stand? So not cool. Just for that, I'm going to take away your wine.
6. JIMENA: Okay. Just don't waste a single drop of it.

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class
de plano	really, totally	phrase
atinar	to hit the target, to guess correctly	verb
extrañar	to surprise, to miss, to seem strange, to puzzle	verb
Qué mala onda.	So not cool.	phrase
tirar	to pull, to throw, to shoot	verb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>¿De plano nos vamos sin comer?</p> <p>"Are we really leaving without eating?"</p>	<p>Le atinaste al marcador final del juego.</p> <p>"You guessed the the final score of the game."</p>
<p>Me extraña que no me pueda acordar de su nombre.</p> <p>"It puzzles me that I can't remember her name."</p>	<p>Qué mala onda que no podremos ir.</p> <p>"It's so not cool that we won't be able to go."</p>



---

Debes tirar la basura en su lugar.

"You should put trash in its place."

---

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***de plano*** ("really, totally")

This is a colloquial expression.

### ***atinar*** ("to hit the target")

We often use this phrase in a figurative sense, in which case it means "to guess correctly."

### ***extrañar*** ("to surprise")

This verb can also mean "to miss," depending on the context.

### ***Qué mala onda.*** ("So not cool.")

This is primarily a Mexican expression. Literally, it is "what a bad wave," with *la onda* ("wave") more or less equivalent to the English word "vibe."

### ***tirar*** ("to throw")

In the context of this dialogue, we understand *tirar* to mean "to throw out," or in other words, "to waste."

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is the Imperfect Tense.**

***Sabes, estábamos inseguros si era aquí la fiesta.***

**"You know, we weren't sure whether the party was here."**

---

The dialogue in this lesson uses three examples of the imperfect tense:

1. ***Estábamos*** inseguros si ***era*** aquí la fiesta.
2. ***Quería*** quedarse aun si no fuese aquí.

Remember that we use the imperfect tense for past actions that were either continuous, repeated, or habitual. In all three cases above, the actions have the continuous aspect.

*Estábamos* represents the regular formation of *-ar* verbs in the imperfect:

**estar** ("to be") (regular *-ar* endings in **bold**)

---

<i>Estaba</i>	<b><i>estábamos</i></b>
<b><i>Estabas</i></b>	<b><i>estabais</i></b>
<i>estaba</i>	<b><i>estaban</i></b>

---

*Quería* represents the regular formation of *-er* and *-ir* verbs in the imperfect:

**querer** ("to want") (regular *-er* and *-ir* endings in **bold**)

---

<i>quería</i>	<b><i>queríamos</i></b>
<b><i>querías</i></b>	<b><i>queríais</i></b>
<i>quería</i>	<b><i>querían</i></b>

---

*Era* is the verb *ser* ("to be"). It is one of only three Spanish verbs that are irregular in the imperfect tense.

**ser** ("to be")

---

<i>era</i>	<b><i>éramos</i></b>
<b><i>eras</i></b>	<b><i>erais</i></b>
<i>era</i>	<b><i>eran</i></b>

---

The two other verbs that are irregular in the imperfect tense are *ir* ("to go") (*iba, ibas, iba...*) and *ver* ("to see") (*veía, veías, veía...*).

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

## Can You Quench Your Thirst at a Party in a Spanish-Speaking Country?

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First off, please don't believe drinking is the only thing guests do at a party in a Spanish-speaking country. There are other things to do-I just can't seem to think of anything at the moment. (I was at a party last night; that's probably why.) In all seriousness though, much fanfare can be made about the plethora of music playing, from internationally recognized pop music at the beginning of the party to much more regional, "folksy" music as the evening winds down. Of course, some parties, such as those in college or among a younger crowd, will have a more drink-driven theme, whereas parties involving a more mature, professional crowd will have stronger production value: snacks, dinner at times, and a wider variety of spirits and drinks, and maybe even a bartender! One thing is certain though: make sure you hydrate in advance of any party.

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## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #5 Give Me Your Best Recommendation in Spanish!

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# 5

## MEXICAN SPANISH

1. EVELYN: Buenas tardes, joven. ¿Me podría dar una sugerencia para ir a cenar por aquí cerca, por favor?
2. CONCIERGE: Hola. Con mucho gusto. Afortunadamente existen varias opciones por la zona. ¿Se le antoja un platillo en particular?
3. EVELYN: Pues, para empezar somos un grupo grande... unos diez. Entonces si es posible un lugar donde vamos a caber todos. Si usted estuviera a cargo de esta cena, ¿a dónde llevaría usted a estas diez personas?
4. CONCIERGE: Es buena pregunta. Tendría que decidir entre un restaurante italiano que suele recibir a grupos numerosos y otro restaurante argentino muy bonito pero un poco más caro.
5. EVELYN: Entonces me voy a decidir por el argentino. En cuanto al precio, como no voy a pagar, no debe ser un problema. [Risas.]

## ENGLISH

1. EVELYN: Good afternoon, sir. Could you suggest someplace for dinner around here, please?
2. CONCIERGE: Hello, it would be my pleasure. Fortunately, there are various options in the neighborhood. Are you craving a specific dish?
3. EVELYN: Well, to start with, we're a big group - around ten of us. So if it's possible, a place where we will all fit. If you were in charge of this dinner, where would you bring these ten people?

CONT'D OVER

4. **CONCIERGE:** That's a good question. You'd have to decide between an Italian restaurant that often takes big groups and another restaurant, Argentinian - very nice, but a little more expensive.
5. **EVELYN:** Then I'm going to go with Argentinian. In terms of price, since I'm not paying, it's not going to be a problem.

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
la sugerencia	suggestion	noun	feminine
antojarse	to seem appetizing to	verb	
caber	to fit	verb	
estar a cargo de	to be in charge of	phrase	
en cuanto a	as for, in terms of, regarding, when it comes to	phrase	

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Fue una sugerencia que nos permitió invertir con tranquilidad.</p> <p>"It was a suggestion that allowed us to invest with peace of mind."</p>	<p>Se le antojó un café por el frío.</p> <p>"Because of the cold, a coffee sounded good to him."</p>
<p>El sofá no cabe en la sala.</p> <p>"The sofa doesn't fit in the room."</p>	<p>No cabrá por la ventana.</p> <p>"It will not fit through the window."</p>

---

Estaré a cargo de juntar todo el dinero.

"I'll be in charge of getting all the money together."

---

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***la sugerencia*** ("suggestion")

This noun is related to the verb *sugerir*, meaning "to suggest."

### ***antojarse*** ("to give a craving to someone, to seem appetizing to")

Use this verb when a given food or drink is calling to you. It's difficult to translate directly into English; most often we translate it as "to feel like eating" a certain food or a certain food "sounds good to someone."

### ***caber*** ("to fit")

This verb usually refers to size and is very useful when talking about clothes or containers.

### ***estar a cargo de*** ("to be in charge of")

This phrase assigns responsibility or supervision for a task.

### ***en cuanto a*** ("as for, regarding, in terms of, as far as...is concerned")

We use this phrase to give the functional topic of a sentence.

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is Conditional Clauses for Hypothetical Situations in the Present.**

***Si usted estuviera a cargo de esta cena, ¿a dónde llevaría usted a estas diez personas?***

**"If you were in charge of this dinner, where would you take these ten people?"**

---

Conditional sentences are sometimes known as "if/then sentences" or *si* clauses. Although there are several possible combinations, the following three are commonly taught:

- Present situation: "If you **build** it (now), they **will come**."

- Hypothetical situation in the present: "If you **built** it (now), they **would come**."
- Hypothetical situation in the past: "If you **had built** it (in the past), they **would have come**."

This lesson focuses on the hypothetical situation in the present: "If you **built** it (now), they **would come**."

## Forming Conditional Clauses for Hypothetical Situations in the Present

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Conditional sentences are usually composed of a dependent clause (the "if" clause) plus an independent clause (the "then" clause). Although we can interchange the order of the dependent clause and independent clause, for the sake of visual consistency, we will list the dependent clause (the "if" clause) first in this grammar explanation.

Here's the formula for conditional sentences for hypothetical situations in the present:

- English: "If" + imperfect subjunctive, "then" + conditional.
- Spanish: *Si* + imperfect subjunctive, *entonces* + conditional.

Note: We usually omit the word *entonces* ("then") from the structure in written and spoken Spanish, in both the familiar and formal registers.

### For Example:

1. *Si ella te **quisiera**, te lo **diría**.*  
"If she **loved** you, she **would tell** you."
2. *Si **estudiaras** más, **sacarías** notas más altas.*  
"If you **studied** more, you **would get** better grades."



3. *Si él **llegase** ahora, yo **me iría** de aquí.*  
"If he **were to show up** now, I **would get out** of here."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Carnivorous Argentines

---

Argentinian cuisine is a meat lover's delight. Their *bife* ("steak") is world-renowned, especially when accompanied with some *chimichurri* (a non-spicy sauce made of olive oil, parsley, paprika, garlic, and salt). Absolutely delicious! Of course, some *empanadas* to start off with is *de riguer*. Perhaps you're craving one made with spinach and cheese or ground beef, or one with ham and cheese. All of this accompanied by a nice bottle of Argentinian malbec wine is the perfect meal.

If this doesn't get your appetite going, then I don't know what will.

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## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #6

## The Ultimate Spanish Showdown!

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Mexican Spanish
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

# 6

## MEXICAN SPANISH

1. ANTONIO: Gracias por sintonizar con nosotros. Estamos a punto de presenciar la pelea del año.
2. RAÚL: Efectivamente, Toño. Mateo Ortiz y Santiago Paéz son dos de los mejores boxeadores que existen dentro de su rama. ¿Cómo ves el combate de esta noche Toño?
3. ANTONIO: Será difícil para los dos. Han hecho carreras muy destacadas y hoy es el momento cuando podremos decir quién es el verdadero campeón después de la pelea. Raúl, ¿por quién te inclinas?
4. RAÚL: Voy a decir que Ortiz tiene una ventaja sobre Paéz, pero he visto a Paéz entrenar de forma excepcional para este momento. Pero lo que voy a hacer es escribir quién creo que ganará hoy en un papelito y al término, lo abres y se lo comunicas a nuestro público.
5. ANTONIO: Excelente idea. Yo también haré lo mismo.

## ENGLISH

1. ANTONIO: Thank you for tuning in with us. We are about to witness the fight of the year.
2. RAÚL: Absolutely, Toño. Mateo Ortiz and Santiago Paéz are two of the best boxers there are in their weight class. What's your take on the fight tonight, Toño?
3. ANTONIO: It will be hard for both of them. They've had outstanding careers and today is the moment when we'll be able to say who is the true champion after the fight. Raúl, who are you leaning toward?

CONT'D OVER

4. RAÚL: I'm going to say Ortiz has an advantage over Paéz, but I've seen Paéz training exceptionally well for this moment. But what I'm going to do is write down who I think will win today on a piece of paper, and at the finish, you open it and tell our audience.
5. ANTONIO: Excellent idea. I'll do the same as well.

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
la ventaja	advantage	noun	feminine
la rama	branch	noun	feminine
inclinarse	to lean toward, to be inclined	verb	
el público	audience, public, fans	noun	masculine
la carrera	career, race, track, course	noun	feminine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Una ventaja de hablar dos idiomas es que tienes más oportunidades de trabajo.</p> <p>"One advantage of speaking two languages is that you have more opportunities for work."</p>	<p>Física es una rama de la ciencia.</p> <p>"Physics is a branch of science."</p>
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<p>¿Ustedes se inclinan más a vacacionar en la playa o en una ciudad?</p> <p>"Are you all more inclined to vacation on the beach or in the city?"</p>	<p>El equipo de la capital tiene un público muy respetuoso.</p> <p>"The team from the capital city has very respectful fans."</p>
---	---

Trabajar en el gobierno es una carrera muy digna.

"Working for the government is a very worthy career."

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **la rama ("branch")**

This is literally the branch of a plant. Figuratively, we can use it as in English for a conceptual division (e.g., a branch of the government, a branch office, a branch of family tree, etc.).

### **la carrera ("career")**

This noun can also refer to a race or a course of study; the different meanings are based conceptually on the idea of a track that is followed.

### **inclinarse ("to be inclined")**

We use this verb literally "to lean" and figuratively "to be inclined" or "to have an inclination." It is often followed by the prepositions *a* or *por*.

### **el público ("audience," "fans")**

As a noun, this word refers to an audience or group of fans. There is also an adjective **público** ("public") (opposite of "private").

### **la ventaja ("advantage")**

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is Irregular Past Participles.**

***...pero he visto a Paéz entrenar de forma excepcional para este momento.***

**"...but I have seen Paéz training exceptionally well for this moment."**

Past participles are non-finite verb forms that we use to make compound tenses. In Spanish, we use the past participle with the auxiliary verb *haber* to make the compound tenses (*el pretérito perfecto, el pluscuamperfecto, etc.*). In addition, we often use the participle form when we derive adjectives from the verb.

Regular past participles end in *-ido* (for *-er* and *-ir* verbs) and *-ado* (for *-ar* verbs). There are, however, some irregular past participles. We have listed these in the table below:

<b>Spanish Verb</b>	<b>"English"</b>	<b>Past Participle</b>
<i>abrir</i>	"to open"	<i>abierto</i>
<i>absolver</i>	"to absolve"	<i>absuelto</i>
<i>cubrir</i>	"to cover"	<i>cubierto</i>
<i>decir</i>	"to say," "to tell"	<i>dicho</i>
<i>escribir</i>	"to write"	<i>escrito</i>
<i>freír</i>	"to fry"	<i>frito</i>
<i>hacer</i>	"to make," "to do"	<i>hecho</i>
<i>imprimir</i>	"to print"	<i>impreso</i>
<i>morir</i>	"to die"	<i>muerto</i>
<i>poner</i>	"to put"	<i>puesto</i>
<i>resolver</i>	"to resolve"	<i>resuelto</i>
<i>romper</i>	"to break"	<i>roto</i>
<i>satisfacer</i>	"to satisfy"	<i>satisfecho</i>
<i>ver</i>	"to see"	<i>visto</i>

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## Sample Sentences

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1. *Me hubieras dicho antes.*  
"You should have told me earlier."
2. *Se ha dicho que los elefantes tienen buena memoria.*  
"It's been said that the elephant has a good memory."
3. *Tenías que haber hecho una solicitud antes de hablar.*  
"You should have made a request before speaking."
4. *Hubieran frito las tortillas para los totopos.*  
"You all should have fried the tortillas for tortilla chips."
5. *Haber muerto por causas naturales fue como quiso dejarnos.*  
"The way he wanted to leave us was having died of natural causes."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Latin American Boxing as Poetry

---

I'm just going to come out and say it: Mexican and Puerto Rican boxers are the *creme de la creme* when it comes to Spanish-speaking countries. You all know it. I would even venture to say they are some of the best pugilists ever to enter the ring on an international level. I digress. Although a brutal sport, it has achieved a level of sophistication in its broadcasting, from the tuxedos to the intellectualization of the commentary (see above). I mention this observation because of the humble background many of these fighters and their families grow up in. It is surely an interesting dynamic created by an attempt to poeticize the sport.

Now, if you'd like, I'd be more than happy to debate this with you. Just let me know. FYI: I hail

from one of the two top boxing countries in Spanish Latin America.

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## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #7 I'm Quitting Smoking in Spanish!

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- 2 Mexican Spanish
- 2 English
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- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
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# 7

## MEXICAN SPANISH

1. BERNARDO: ¿Cuándo vas a dejar de fumar?
2. HELVIA: Llevo tiempo queriendo dejarlo, pero mi fuerza de voluntad es muy débil. Ayúdame, porfas.
3. BERNARDO: Lo haría pero después no quiero que mis esfuerzos sean en vano porque al final no me hiciste caso.
4. HELVIA: Te juro que ahora sí te hago caso. Sé las repercusiones de salud que tendré si sigo fumando.
5. BERNARDO: Sí, pero aún así, debes querer dejarlo por más de una sola razón. ¿Cómo te quieres ver en un mes?
6. HELVIA: Quiero poder correr cinco kilómetros con facilidad, sin parar.
7. BERNARDO: Es una buena meta a corto plazo. ¡Entonces empieza apagando ese cigarro que tienes en la mano!

## ENGLISH

1. BERNARDO: When are you going to quit smoking?
2. HELVIA: I've been wanting to quit for a while now, but my willpower is weak. Help me, please.
3. BERNARDO: I'll do it, but later. I don't want my efforts to be in vain because in the end you didn't listen to me.
4. HELVIA: I swear to you that this time I'll pay attention. I know the health repercussions that I'll have if I keep smoking.

CONT'D OVER

5. BERNARDO: Yes, but even so, you should want to quit for more than one reason. How do you want to look in a month?
6. HELVIA: I want to be able to run five kilometers easily without stopping.
7. BERNARDO: It's a good short-term goal. So let's start by putting out that cigarette that you have in your hand!

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
apagar	to turn off, to extinguish	verb	
porfas	please (casual variation of por favor)	interjection	
hacer caso	to obey	phrase	
la meta a corto plazo	short-term goal	phrase	feminine
el cigarro	cigarette	noun	masculine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Apaga el comal que se van a quemar los frijoles.</p> <p>"Turn off the griddle; the beans are going to burn."</p>	<p>Apaga la luz cuando salgas.</p> <p>"Turn off the light when you leave."</p>
<p>Pásame un vaso, porfas.</p> <p>"Pass me a glass, please."</p>	<p>Tenemos que hacerle caso al entrenador si queremos ganar.</p> <p>"We must pay attention to the coach if we want to win."</p>

<p>No le hagas caso. Ella está chiflada. "Pay no attention to her: she's nuts."</p>	<p>Correr medio maratón es una de mis metas a corto plazo. "Running a half-marathon is one of my short-term goals."</p>
<p>Me molesta el humo de cigarro. "Cigarette smoke bothers me."</p>	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **porfas ("please")**

This is a contraction of the polite interjection, *por favor* ("please"), which we use in very familiar situations. Another common variation is *porfa*.

### **hacer caso ("to pay attention")**

This phrase, like its English equivalent, is highly idiomatic. We almost always use it with an indirect object pronoun (i.e., *me* ("to me"); *te* ("to you"); *le* ("to him," "to her," "to it"); etc.).

### **meta a corto plazo ("short-term goal")**

The opposite of this phrase is *la meta a largo plazo* ("long-term goal").

### **apagar ("to turn off," "to extinguish")**

We can use this verb as "to turn off" for lights, electric appliances, or objects with motors, as well as "to extinguish" for fires or cigarettes.

### **el cigarro ("cigarette")**

The word for "cigar" is *el puro*.

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is the Present Participle.**

***Sé las repercusiones de salud que tendrá en mí si sigo fumando.***

**"I know the health repercussions that I'll have if I keep smoking."**

The *participio presente* ("present participle") is a non-finite form of the verb. When we use it with an auxiliary verb, it gives the sense of an action in progress, either progressing or repeating over time.

The present participle in Spanish carries either the *-ando* ending (for *-ar* verbs) or the *-iendo* ending (for *-er* and *-ir* verbs). See the Formation section below for a discussion of how the present participle is related to the infinitive.

The present participle can be preceded by the verb *estar* to form progressive tenses. We emphasize the progressive or repetitive aspect of the action in these tenses.

When we use the present tense of *estar*, we call this the present progressive.

### **For Example:**

1. *Se están besando.*  
"They are kissing."
2. *Tu papá te está llamando.*  
"Your dad is calling you."
3. *Me está golpeando.*  
"She's punching me."

We can place these same sentences in the past or the future, in which case we might label them past progressive and future progressive.

### **Past Progressive**

#### **For Example:**

1. *Se estaban besando.*  
"They were kissing."
2. *Tu papá te estaba llamando.*  
"Your dad was calling you."
3. *Me estaba golpeando.*  
"She was punching me."

### **Future Progressive**

#### **For Example:**

1. *Se estarán besando.*  
"They will be kissing."

2. *Tu papá te estará llamando.*  
"Your dad will be calling you."
3. *Me estará golpeando.*  
"She will be punching me."

Note that these constructions seem uncommon and unlikely; specific contexts necessitate these constructions.

### For Example:

1. *Vuelve a casa a las tres en punto, y yo en seguida le voy a decir la verdad. Ven tú a rescatarme a las tres y media, por que en aquel momento me estará golpeando.*  
"She gets home at three o'clock on the dot, and I'm going to tell her the truth right away. You come rescue me at three-thirty, because in that moment she will be punching me."

Note that we can use other auxiliary verbs with the present participle.

### For Example:

1. *No andes contando estas tonterías a tus amigos.*  
"Don't go around telling this crap to your friends."
2. *Y de aquel momento entonces la sigo amando.*  
"From that moment on, I've been loving her."
3. *Como no sabíamos qué hacer, continuábamos cantando hasta que llegaste.*  
"Since we didn't know what to do, we kept singing until you got here."
4. *Bajé corriendo las escaleras para saludarte.*  
"I ran down the stairs to greet you."

## Formation

---

The present participle in Spanish carries either the *-ando* ending (for *-ar* verbs) or the *-iendo* ending (for *-er* and *-ir* verbs).

<i>Infinitive</i>	"English"	<i>Present Participle</i>	"English"
<i>hablar</i>	"to speak"	<i>hablando</i>	"speaking"
<i>comer</i>	"to eat"	<i>comiendo</i>	"eating"
<i>escribir</i>	"to write"	<i>escribiendo</i>	"writing"

-er verbs whose stems end in a vowel use the suffix *-yendo* for the present participle. Note that this is only a spelling convention; acoustically *-yendo* and *-iendo* are identical.

<i>Infinitive</i>	"English"	<i>Present Participle</i>	"English"
<i>construir</i>	"to build"	<i>construyendo</i>	"building"
<i>oír</i>	"to hear"	<i>oyendo</i>	"hearing"
<i>fluir</i>	"to flow"	<i>fluyendo</i>	"flowing"

The past participle of *ir* ("to go") is *yendo* ("going").

### Note

The *participio presente* ("present participle") is also known in Spanish as *el gerundio*. It must be noted, however, that while the two are interchangeable in Spanish grammar, the English terms "present participle" and "gerund" refer to two distinct concepts in English grammar analysis.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Lighting Up in Spanish-Speaking Countries

The biggest contrast between the United States and the rest of the Spanish-speaking

countries [SSC] is the legal age to purchase cigarettes: in the United States, the age threshold is twenty-one years old, and in the SSC, the age threshold is eighteen years old. Because of this, there is a higher smoker population, and by consequence a smoking culture. However, many major cities in Latin America have now taken steps to ban smoking in public places, something unheard of just a few years ago. Buenos Aires and Mexico City are just two cities that have enacted laws prohibiting smoking in restaurants, bars, and other public venues.

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## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #8

## Will You Push Yourself to the Limit in Spanish?

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- 2 Mexican Spanish
- 2 English
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# 8

## MEXICAN SPANISH

1. JENNY: Ya me dieron ganas de entrarle a la competencia de Iron Man. Bueno en este caso, Iron Woman.
2. MALENA: ¿Y eso? Jamás pensé que te llamaría la atención hacer algo así, menos algo que requiere tanta disciplina física y mental.
3. JENNY: Por eso mismo. Es una razón muy buena para ponerme un reto y tratar de llevarlo a cabo.
4. MALENA: En ese caso, también me interesa. Sobre todo el cuerpo que tendré al final de todo. [Risas].
5. JENNY: Lo sé. Yo conozco a un conocido que ha hecho este tipo de competencias antes y me pondré en contacto con él para ver cuándo podemos empezar a entrenar.
6. MALENA: Perfecto. Y yo iré a ver trajes de baño para la competencia. [Risas].

## ENGLISH

1. JENNY: Now I feel like entering the Ironman competition. Well, in this case, Iron Woman.
2. MALENA: What is that about? I never thought doing something like that, much less something that requires so much physical and emotional discipline, would be appealing to you.
3. JENNY: That's exactly why. It's a very good reason to challenge myself and try to follow through to the end.
4. MALENA: I'm interested...especially in the body I'll have when it's all over. [laughter]

CONT'D OVER

5. JENNY: I know. I know someone who has done these kind of competitions before, and I'll get in contact with him to see when we can start to train.
6. MALENA: Perfect. And I'm going to look at bathing suits for the competition.  
[laughter]

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class
¿Y eso?	What's that about?/What for?	phrase
llamar la atención	to attract attention, to attract interest	phrase
poner un reto	to challenge	phrase
tratar de	to try	phrase
llevar a cabo	to carry out, to follow through until the end	phrase

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>¿Te vas a poner a dieta? ¿Y eso?</p> <p>"You're going on a diet? What's that about?"</p>	<p>Si quieres llamar la atención usa lentes rosas.</p> <p>"If you want to attract attention, wear pink glasses."</p>
<p>Siempre es importante ponerse un reto en la vida.</p> <p>"It's always important to challenge oneself in life."</p>	<p>Debemos tratar de ganar el concurso aun si vamos en tercer lugar.</p> <p>"We must try to win the competition even if we end up in third place."</p>

---

Necesitas llevar a cabo una dieta estricta para adelgazar.

"You need to follow through with a strict diet in order to slim down."

---

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***¿Y eso?*** ("Why is that? What's that about?")

This expression is a colloquial way to ask for further explanation. Literally, it means "and that?"

### ***llamar la atención*** ("to attract interest")

The meaning of this phrase varies widely according to the context. It usually means "to attract attention," but in certain contexts it can mean "to attract scrutiny" or even "to scold."

### ***poner un reto*** ("to challenge")

A synonym would be *desafiar*.

### ***tratar de*** ("to try, to attempt")

This phrase is always followed by an infinitive.

### ***llevar a cabo*** ("follow through," "carry through to the end")

Depending on the context, this phrase expresses the idea of following an action through to completion.

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is the Simple Future Tense.**

***Y yo iré a ver trajes de baño para la competencia.***

**"And I shall go look at bathing suits for the competition."**

---

*El tiempo futuro simple* ("the simple future tense") is one of three ways that we can express future actions in Spanish. (The other two are using the present tense with an adverb; e.g., *Mañana me voy* ("I'm leaving tomorrow"); or using the formula *ir a* + infinitive ("to be going to do something").

### **Regular Formation**

---

To form the simple future tense, add the future tense endings to the infinitive.

<b>Infinitive</b>	<b>Future Suffixes</b>	<b>Future Form</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>comer</i>	-é	<i>comeré</i>	"I will eat"
	-ás	<i>comerás</i>	"you will eat"
	-á	<i>comerá</i>	"he, she, it will eat"
	-emos	<i>comeremos</i>	"we will eat"
	-éis	<i>comeréis</i>	"you all will eat"
	-án	<i>comerán</i>	"they will eat"

### Irregular Formation

There are twelve common verbs that do not use the infinitive as a stem in the future tense. For these verbs, use the stem indicated below and then add the same future suffixes listed above.

<b>Infinitive</b>	<b>"English"</b>	<b>Future Stem</b>
<i>caber</i>	"to fit"	<i>cabr-</i>
<i>poner</i>	"to put," "to place"	<i>pondr-</i>
<i>decir</i>	"to say," "to tell"	<i>dir-</i>
<i>haber</i>	"to have" (auxiliary)	<i>habr-</i>
<i>salir</i>	"to go out," "to exit"	<i>saldr-</i>
<i>hacer</i>	"to do," "to make"	<i>har-</i>
<i>poder</i>	"to be able to," "can"	<i>podr-</i>
<i>tener</i>	"to have," "to own"	<i>tendr-</i>
<i>querer</i>	"to want," "to love"	<i>querr-</i>
<i>valer</i>	"to be worth," "to be worthy"	<i>valdr-</i>

<i>saber</i>	"to know"	<i>sabr-</i>
<i>venir</i>	"to come"	<i>vendr-</i>

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Testing Your Limits in Three Disciplines

---

Triathlons in Spanish-speaking countries have yet to garner full traction, yet there are now two official Ironman/Ironwoman races in Spanish-speaking countries: Ironman Lanzarote (Puerto del Carmen in the Canary Islands, Spain) and Ironman Cozumel (Cozumel Island, Mexico).

A common theme is that yes, they all take place on islands. And I can't blame the organizers: these places are beautiful. Now the relation between learning Spanish and triathlons may not be initially evident, but believe you me, if you train for one of these you could do so listening along to Spanish artists singing lots of music. And seeing your training will be lengthy, we want to believe your Spanish will be just as strong as your heart, legs, arms, and rest of your body.

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## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #9

## If You Could Learn Anything in Spanish, What Would It Be?

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- 2 English
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# 9

## FORMAL SPANISH

1. PROFESOR: Debo hacerles una pregunta... Si hubiera una crisis humanitaria en su país, ¿qué harían?
2. ABELARDO: Lo primero que haría es hablar a mi casa para saber si están bien mis papás. Luego vería la mejor forma de poder contribuir a la causa.
3. VALENTINA: Sí. Si fuera afectada mi ciudad o familia cercana incluso regresaría para ayudar.
4. PROFESOR: Recientemente hubo una catástrofe humanitaria causada por un terremoto. ¿Qué hicieron?
5. ABELARDO: Bueno, en ese caso, hice una donación de dinero a una de las organizaciones mejor establecidas para tratar con esa situación.
6. VALENTINA: Lo primero que hice fue saber de qué había más necesidad. Luego me puse en contacto con esa organización y doné ropa y comida para los damnificados.
7. PROFESOR: Me parece tan bueno eso. Y es que una ayuda, sin importar si es pequeña o grande tiene un impacto muy fuerte en reducir el sufrimiento.

## ENGLISH

1. PROF: I have to ask you all a question... If there were a humanitarian crisis in your country, what would you do?

CONT'D OVER



2. ABELARDO: The first thing I would do is call home to see whether my parents are okay. Then I would see the best way to contribute to the cause.
3. VALENTINA: Yes. If my city or close family were involved, I would even go home to help.
4. PROF: Recently there was a humanitarian crisis caused by an earthquake. What did you all do?
5. ABELARDO: Well, in that case, I made a donation of money to one of the best-established organizations to address that situation.
6. VALENTINA: The first thing I did was to find out what was most in need. Later I got in contact with that organization and I donated clothing and food to the victims.
7. PROF: To me, that seems so nice. Help, whether it's big or small, has a strong impact in reducing the suffering.

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
la crisis	crisis	noun	feminine
el terremoto	earthquake	noun	masculine
el damnificado	victim, injured party, stricken one	noun	masculine
la catástrofe	catastrophe	noun	feminine
saber	to know, to find out	verb	

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>La crisis económica del 2008 impactó a varias naciones.</p> <p>"The economic crisis of 2008 affected various nations."</p>	<p>El terremoto sólo causó daños menores.</p> <p>"The earthquake only caused minor damage."</p>
<p>Fueron miles de personas los damnificados del tsunami.</p> <p>"The victims of the tsunami were in the thousands."</p>	<p>Será una catástrofe si no se mejora el sistema financiero.</p> <p>"It will be a catastrophe if the financial system is not reformed."</p>
<p>Ayer supo la verdad.</p> <p>"Yesterday, she found out the truth."</p>	<p>Sabe hablar varios idiomas.</p> <p>"She can speak several languages."</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***la crisis*** ("crisis")

This word refers to crises in general, but in recent years, this word without further modification has come to refer to the recent global economic crisis.

### ***el terremoto*** ("earthquake")

Many Latin American countries are in seismic zones. Some synonyms are *el temblor* and *el sismo*.

### ***el damnificado*** ("victim," "injured party," "stricken one")

This noun is related to the rarely used verb *damnificar* ("to injure, to damage").

### ***la catástrofe*** ("catastrophe")

This noun, like *la crisis*, is a loan word from Greek.

### ***saber*** ("to know," "to find out")

When used as a mental activity, *saber* means "to know (information)." However, we translate it better as "to find out" when we use it as an action.

## GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson Is the Formation of the Conditional Tense.

*Si hubiera una crisis humanitaria en su país, ¿qué harían?*

"If there were a humanitarian crisis in your country, what would you do?"

We use *el tiempo condicional* ("the conditional tense") for potential actions taken under hypothetical circumstances. We most often translate it as the auxiliary verb "would" in English.

### Regular Formation

To form the conditional tense, add the conditional tense endings to the infinitive.

<i>Infinitive</i>	<i>Conditional Suffixes</i>	<i>Conditional</i>	<i>"English"</i>
<i>comer</i>	<i>-ía</i>	<i>comería</i>	"I would eat"
	<i>-ías</i>	<i>comerías</i>	"you would eat"
	<i>-ía</i>	<i>comería</i>	"he, she, it would eat"
	<i>-íamos</i>	<i>comeríamos</i>	"we would eat"
	<i>-íais</i>	<i>comeríais</i>	"you all would eat"
	<i>-ían</i>	<i>comerían</i>	"they would eat"

### Irregular Formation

There are twelve common verbs that do not use the infinitive as a stem in the conditional tense. For these verbs, use the stem indicated below, and then add the same conditional suffixes listed above. These are the same irregular stems as in the future tense.

<b>Infinitive</b>	<b>"English"</b>	<b><i>Future/Conditional Stem</i></b>
<i>caber</i>	"to fit"	<i>cabr-</i>
<i>poner</i>	"to put," "to place"	<i>pondr-</i>
<i>decir</i>	"to say," "to tell"	<i>dir-</i>
<i>haber</i>	"to have" (auxiliary)	<i>habr-</i>
<i>salir</i>	"to go out," "to exit"	<i>saldr-</i>
<i>hacer</i>	"to do," "to make"	<i>har-</i>
<i>poder</i>	"to be able to," "can"	<i>podr-</i>
<i>tener</i>	"to have, to own"	<i>tendr-</i>
<i>querer</i>	"to want," "to love"	<i>querr-</i>
<i>valer</i>	"to be worth," "to be worthy"	<i>valdr-</i>
<i>saber</i>	"to know"	<i>sabr-</i>
<i>venir</i>	"to come"	<i>vendr-</i>

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Shake, Rattle, and Roll in Latin America

Although almost every part of the world has experienced some sort of humanitarian crisis, Spanish-speaking countries (in Latin America) have experienced some of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded in history. Lives have been lost during each of these quakes. However, the humanitarian damage has been minimal; physical, structural damage to the cities' infrastructure has been more prevalent.

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #10 Have You Solved Your Spanish Dilemma?

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# 10

## INFORMAL SPANISH

1. MARGARITA: Creo que me van a despedir esta tarde. Lo presiento.
2. LEONARDO: Qué mala noticia. Pero para ser sincero, tus presentimientos siempre han estado equivocados.
3. MARGARITA: Tal vez, pero estos últimos meses no he trabajado como debería. Mi desempeño no ha sido el ideal.
4. LEONARDO: Eso sí. He tenido que asumir todo el trabajo que has dejado de hacer y llego bien tarde a casa. Si te despiden te reemplazarán con alguien que sí trabaja.
5. MARGARITA: ¡Qué malo! La otra es que si me despiden, te van a dar todo mi trabajo y llegarás todavía más tarde a casa.
6. LEONARDO: ¡Esto es un dilema que sólo a mí me afectará!

## ENGLISH

1. MARGARITA: I think they're going to fire me this afternoon. I can feel it.
2. LEONARDO: What bad news. But to be honest, your premonitions have always been wrong.
3. MARGARITA: Maybe, but these last few months I have not worked as I should. My performance has not been ideal.

CONT'D OVER

4. LEONARDO: That's true. I've had to assume all the work that you've stopped doing and I get home very late. If they fired you, they would replace you with someone who actually works.
5. MARGARITA: That's awful. The other thing is if they fire me, they're going to give you all my work and you'll get home even later.
6. LEONARDO: This is a dilemma that only affects me!

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
el dilema	dilemma	noun	masculine
presentir	to have a premonition, to have a feeling	verb	
el presentimiento	premonition	noun	masculine
el desempeño	performance	verb	
despedir	to say good-bye, to fire	verb	

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Un dilema de verdad no tiene salida.</p> <p>"A true dilemma doesn't have a way out."</p>	<p>Presiento que me va a ir bien en el examen.</p> <p>"I have a feeling that this test is going to go well."</p>
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Su presentimiento fue acertado desafortunadamente. "His premonition was right, unfortunately."	Se le va a aumentar el sueldo gracias a su desempeño. "They're going to give her a raise in salary thanks to her performance."
---	---

---

¿Cuántas personas despides al año?

"How many people per year do you fire?"

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## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

***presentir*** ("to have a premonition," "to have a feeling")

***el presentimiento*** ("premonition")

***despedir*** ("to say goodbye," "to fire")

***el desempeño*** ("performance")

***el dilema*** ("dilemma")

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is the Present Perfect.**

***Mi desempeño no ha sido el ideal.***

**"My performance hasn't been ideal."**

---

We refer to the present perfect in Spanish as *el tiempo pretérito perfecto*, but we often commonly refer to it as *el presente perfecto*. We form it with the present tense of the auxiliary verb *haber* ("to have") plus the past participle.

We use the present perfect to talk about past actions that are important or relevant in the present.



## For Example:

1. *¡Los Supersónicos han ganado el campeonato!*  
"The Supersonics have won the championship!"
2. *Ya he comido, gracias.*  
"I've already eaten, thank you."

In the first example, using the present perfect illustrates a past action (winning the championship) that is relevant in the present. In this case, such a sentence is delivering what linguists call "hot news"; it is relevant to the present in that the speaker feels like the breaking news is relevant in the present to the listeners.

In the second example, the present perfect illustrates a past action ("eating") that is relevant in the present. The listener can infer that in the present, the speaker is not hungry.

## Formation

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**Infinitive:** *contar*

**Participle:** *contado*

---

<b><i>Singular Spanish</i></b>	<b>"Singular English"</b>
<i>yo he contado</i>	"I have counted"
<i>tú has contado</i>	"you have counted"
<i>él ha contado</i>	"he has counted"
<i>ella ha contado</i>	"she has counted"
<i>usted ha contado</i>	"you have counted" (formal)
<i>ha contado</i>	"it has counted" (neuter)

---

<b>Plural Spanish</b>	<b>"Plural English"</b>
<i>nosotros hemos contado</i>	"we have counted"
<i>vosotros habéis contado</i>	"you all have counted" (informal)
<i>ellos han contado</i>	"they have counted" (masculine)
<i>ellas han contado</i>	"they have counted" (feminine)
<i>ustedes han contado</i>	"you all have counted" (formal)
<i>han contado</i>	"they have counted" (neuter)

**Infinitive: *correr***

**Participle: *corrido***

<b>Singular Spanish</b>	<b>"Singular English"</b>
<i>yo he corrido</i>	"I have run"
<i>tú has corrido</i>	"you have run"
<i>él ha corrido</i>	"he has run"
<i>ella ha corrido</i>	"she has run"
<i>usted ha corrido</i>	"you have run" (formal)
<i>ha corrido</i>	"it has run" (neuter)

<b>Plural Spanish</b>	<b>"Plural English"</b>
<i>nosotros hemos corrido</i>	"we have run"
<i>vosotros habéis corrido</i>	"you all have run" (informal)
<i>ellos han corrido</i>	"they have run" (masculine)

<i>ellas han corrido</i>	"they have run" (feminine)
<i>ustedes han corrido</i>	"you all have run" (formal)
<i>han corrido</i>	"they have run" (neuter)

**Infinitive: *dormir***

**Participle: *dormido***

<b><i>Singular Spanish</i></b>	<b>"Singular English"</b>
<i>yo he dormido</i>	"I have slept"
<i>tú has dormido</i>	"you have slept"
<i>él ha dormido</i>	"he has slept"
<i>ella ha dormido</i>	"she has slept"
<i>usted ha dormido</i>	"you have slept" (formal)
<i>ha dormido</i>	"it has slept" (neuter)

<b><i>Plural Spanish</i></b>	<b>"Plural English"</b>
<i>nosotros hemos dormido</i>	"we have slept"
<i>vosotros habéis dormido</i>	"you all have slept" (informal)
<i>ellos han dormido</i>	"they have slept" (masculine)
<i>ellas han dormido</i>	"they have slept" (feminine)
<i>ustedes han dormido</i>	"you all have slept" (formal)
<i>han dormido</i>	"they have slept" (neuter)

## Sample Sentences

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

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### **If You're Going to Lose Your Job, Lose It in Mexico.**

---

The process of being let go (i.e., fired) in Spanish-speaking countries can vary greatly. In the United States, if there is no employee-employer contract specifying this part of the employment cycle, the employee can claim unemployment benefits from the state in which he or she is working. In Mexico though, an employment contract is drawn up. Now there may be some basic differences based on the position and type of industry, but some matters will stay the same: in particular, severance. Should you be let go, a severance package is then put in place. This will include any vacation time remaining, a federally mandated *aguinaldo* (the equivalent of a Christmas bonus) composed of anywhere between two to eight weeks of paid salary, and also, based on your contract, anywhere from three months to even a year's worth of paid salary. The kicker here is that the more robust severance packages unfortunately come from government agencies. That is, the public sector pays better than the private sector. *¡Viva México!*

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #11

## You Just Landed in a Spanish Mess!

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# 11

## INFORMAL SPANISH

1. VANESSA: En verdad, amor, si tuvieras que escoger entre yo y tu mejor amiga, ¿a quién escogerías?
2. MAURO: No voy a caer en ese tipo de juegos. Me rehusó a responderte porque... ¡A ti!
3. VANESSA: ¿Porqué tardaste tanto? Te acabas de meter en un problema, y hay pocas opciones para salir de él.
4. MAURO: ¿Otra vez? Pero si sí te contesté. Y vino del corazón mi respuesta.
5. VANESSA: Puede ser, pero aun así te va a costar, cariño.
6. MAURO: Está bien. Le voy a hablar a mi abogado. Deberá preparar los documentos de divorcio.

## ENGLISH

1. VANESSA: Seriously, love, if you had to choose between me and your best friend, who would you choose?
2. MAURO: I'm not going to fall for this kind of game. I refuse to answer because...you!
3. VANESSA: Why did it take you so long? You just got yourself in trouble, and there are very few ways to get out of it.
4. MAURO: Again? But I did answer you! And my response came from the heart.

CONT'D OVER

5. VANESSA: That may be so, but it's still going to cost you, darling.
6. MAURO: That's fine. I'm going to talk to my lawyer. He'll have to prepare the divorce documents.

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
escoger	to choose, to pick	verb	
caer	to fall	verb	-
rehusar	to refuse, to reject	verb	
contestar	to answer	verb	
aun así	even so	phrase	

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Escoge cualquier camisa, yo te la pago.</p> <p>"Pick any shirt; I'll buy it for you."</p>	<p>¿Cuál te gustaría escoger? ¿El coche rojo o el azul?</p> <p>"Which car would you like to pick the red or the blue one?"</p>
<p>Me rompí la pierna cuando me caí de la escalera.</p> <p>"I broke my leg when I fell down the stairs."</p>	<p>Rehusamos el presupuesto que propusiste por cuestiones económicas.</p> <p>"We rejected the budget that you proposed due to economic reasons."</p>

---

Si alguien sabe la respuesta por favor contesten.  "If someone knows the response, please answer."	No viene, aun así hay una posibilidad que se presenten ya al final de la fiesta.  "He's not coming; even so, there's a possibility that they'll show up at the end of the party."
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## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***escoger*** ("to choose")

This verb is synonymous with *elegir* and *seleccionar*.

### ***caer*** ("to fall")

Literally, this verb refers to movement caused by gravity; however, in this lesson, we use it figuratively ("to fall for a joke," "to fall into a trap").

### ***rehusar*** ("to refuse")

In Latin America, the reflexive *rehusarse* is common.

### ***contestar*** ("to answer")

This verb is synonymous with *responder*.

### ***aun así*** ("even so")

Note that there is no accent on the word *aun*.

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is Describing Actions that Just Happened.**

***Te acabas de meter en un problema...***

**"You just got yourself in trouble."**

---

To express an action that happened in the immediate past, use the formula *acabar de + infinitive* ("to have just done something").



Conjugate *acabar* in the present tense to express that the action happened just prior to the present moment. Conjugate *acabar* in the imperfect tense to express that the action "had" just happened, just prior to a given moment in the past.

## Conjugation of Acabar

---

We conjugate the verb *acabar* regularly in the present, imperfect, and preterit tenses.

### Present Tense:

---

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>acabo de hacer algo</i>	"I just did something"
<i>acabas de hacer algo</i>	"you just did something" (familiar)
<i>acaba de hacer algo</i>	"he, she, it just did something"; "you just did something" (formal)
<i>acabamos de hacer algo</i>	"we just did something"
<i>acabais de hacer algo</i>	"you all just did something" (familiar, Spain)
<i>acaban de hacer algo</i>	"they/you all just did something"

---

### Imperfect Tense:

---

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>acababa de hacer algo</i>	"I had just done something"
<i>acababas de hacer algo</i>	"you had just done something" (familiar)
<i>acababa de hacer algo</i>	"he, she, it had just done something"; "you had just done something" (formal)
<i>acabábamos de hacer algo</i>	"we had just done something"

---

---

*acababais de hacer algo*

"you all had just done something" (familiar, Spain)

---

*acababan de hacer algo*

"they had just done something," "you all had just done something"

---

Note that when we use the preterit tense, the sense of the phrase is "to finish doing something."

### Preterit Tense:

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#### Spanish

#### "English"

---

*acabé de hacer algo*

"I finished doing something"

---

*acabaste de hacer algo*

"you finished doing something" (familiar)

---

*acabó de hacer algo*

"he, she, it finished doing something"; "you finished doing something" (formal)

---

*acabamos de hacer algo*

"we finished doing something"

---

*acabasteis de hacer algo*

"you all finished doing something" (familiar, Spain)

---

*acabaron de hacer algo*

"they finished doing something," "you all finished doing something"

---

### Sample Sentences

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1. *Acabo de lavar los platos, ahora le marco.*  
"I just finished doing the dishes. Now I'll call her."
2. *Acabamos de levantarnos, ¿y tú?*  
"We just got up; what about you?"

3. *Acabábamos de sentarnos para comer cuando sonó el teléfono.*  
"We had just sat down to eat when the telephone rang."
4. *Una vez que acabaron de limpiar el jardín se fueron a tomar un descanso.*  
"Once they finished cleaning the yard, they went to go take a break."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Getting Hitched in a Spanish-Speaking Country

---

The biggest difference in wedding ceremonies in Spanish-speaking countries and those celebrated in the United States is that churches in the former bestow upon newly minted marriages recognition from their church, and only their church. In the latter, the frocked have both church and state powers to recognize a marriage. Hence the words "*by the power invested in me by the state...*"

In Spanish-speaking countries, two wedding ceremonies take place: the religious and the civil. A representative of the city or state (e.g., judge, notary, etc.) usually conducts the civil ceremony. Of course, let's not forget the reception: always fun and always consisting of an open bar.

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## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #12

## Are You Bragging about Your Spanish Skills?

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# 12

## INFORMAL SPANISH

1. EZEQUIEL: Dime Fede, ¿hablas otro idioma aparte del español?
2. FEDERICO: Hablo inglés y portugués. Afortunadamente desde niño se me enseñó la importancia de hablar más de un idioma.
3. EZEQUIEL: Igual a mí, aunque yo sólo hablo inglés y español. Pero hoy día gracias a esto tengo un trabajo que me permite viajar mucho.
4. FEDERICO: ¿Para eso me preguntaste? ¿Para presumirme que viajas? No cambias Ezequiel. Siempre presumiendo.
5. EZEQUIEL: [Risas]. No es cuestión de presumir. Me interesa porque quisiera aprender otro idioma para viajar aún más.
6. FEDERICO: Te conozco. Pero por esta ocasión te creeré.

## ENGLISH

1. EZEQUIEL: Tell me, Fede, do you speak a language besides Spanish?
2. FEDERICO: I speak English and Portuguese. Fortunately, since I was a kid, I have been taught the importance of speaking more than one language.
3. EZEQUIEL: Me too, even though I only speak English and Spanish. But nowadays, thanks to this, I have a job that allows me to travel a lot.
4. FEDERICO: Why did you ask me? To show off that you travel? You don't change, Ezequiel. Always bragging.

CONT'D OVER

5. EZEQUIEL: It's not a matter of bragging. I'm interested because I'd like to learn another language in order to travel even more.
6. FEDERICO: I know you. But for now I'll believe you.

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class
hoy día	nowadays	phrase
desde niño	since I was was a child, since he was a child	phrase
quisiera	I would like, he would like	verb
presumir	to show off, to presume	verb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Hoy día hacemos más cosas en menos tiempo.</p> <p>"Nowadays, we do more things in less time."</p>	<p>Desde niño quiso ser actor.</p> <p>"He wanted to be an actor ever since he was a child."</p>
<p>Quisiera estar más involucrado con mi comunidad.</p> <p>"I would like to be more involved with my community."</p>	<p>Presumen mucho sin haber ganado nada aún.</p> <p>"They show off a lot even without having won anything."</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **hoy día ("nowadays")**

This adverbial phrase contrasts the present situation with a past situation. Some speakers use the variation *hoy en día* with the same meaning.

### **desde niño ("since I (he) was a child")**

We often use the adverb *desde* ("since") with a past stage of development. For example, *desde alumno* ("since I (he) was a student") and *desde cachorro* ("since he was a puppy").

### **quisiera ("I would like"; "he/she would like")**

Grammatically, this is the imperfect subjunctive of *querer* ("to like"). We use it where we would predict the conditional form *querría*, usually because it is easier to pronounce *quisiera* than *querría*.

### **presumir ("to show off," "to brag"; "to presume")**

Both meanings are possible in Spanish, depending on the context.

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is the Formation of the Verb *Querer* in the Imperfect Subjunctive.**

***Me interesa porque quisiera aprender otro idioma para viajar aún más.***

**"I'm interested because I'd like to learn another language in order to travel more."**

---

The verb form *quisiera* is the imperfect subjunctive of *querer* ("to want"). Besides being used where an imperfect subjunctive is expected to be used, the form *quisiera* is also very commonly found as a substitute for the conditional form *querría*. The reason most often given for this substitution is that *quisiera* is easier to pronounce than *querría*.

### **Conjugating *Querer* in the Imperfect Subjunctive**

---

The imperfect subjunctive uses the same stem as the third person plural form of the preterit tense, only without the *-ron* suffix.

**For Example:**

<i>Infinitive</i>	<b>"English"</b>	<i>Third Person Plural Preterit</i>	<i>Stem for Imperfect Subjunctive</i>
<i>comer</i>	"to eat"	<b><i>comieron</i></b>	<i>comie-</i>
<i>trabajar</i>	"to work"	<b><i>trabajaron</i></b>	<i>trabaja-</i>
<i>dormir</i>	"to sleep"	<b><i>durmieron</i></b>	<i>durmie-</i>
<i>querer</i>	"to want," "to love"	<b><i>quisieron</i></b>	<i>quisie-</i>

There are two sets of imperfect subjunctive suffixes that appear with the imperfect subjunctive stem we describe above. We can use either.

The *-ra* set:

<i>-ra</i>	<i>-ramos</i>
<i>-ras</i>	<i>-rais</i>
<i>-ra</i>	<i>-ran</i>

*Querer* in the *-ra* set:

<i>quisiera</i>	<i>quisiéramos</i>
<i>quisieras</i>	<i>quisierais</i>
<i>quisiera</i>	<i>quisieran</i>

The *-se* set:

<i>-se</i>	<i>-semos</i>
<i>-ses</i>	<i>-seis</i>



*Querer* in the -se set:

---

*quisiese*

*quisiésemos*

---

*quisieses*

*quisieseis*

---

*quisiese*

*quisiesen*

---

**Note:** In the first person plural *nosotros* form, we write an accent mark to indicate stress on the stem (and not the suffix). For example: *comiérá*mos, *comiése*mos; *trabajár*amos, *trabajá*semos; *dormiér*amos, *dormiése*mos; *quisiér*amos, *quisiése*mos.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Popular Foreign Languages Studied in the Spanish-Speaking World

---

Learning a second language in the Spanish-speaking world is almost always a given. Yet, second languages are related to the country's geographic location. For example, in the Spanish region of the Pyrenees, the second language taught would be French due to its proximity to France.

Countries bordering with Brazil will more than likely learn Portuguese. Further up the American continent, the second language taught is usually English due to many businesses based in the United States on top of it being a platform to securing a better-paying job.

Additionally, because these second languages are taught at a very early age, tendencies to learn a third language, albeit at a more basic level, focus on mostly other romance languages such as French, Italian, Portuguese, and...well, you'll just have to read the link below to find out which is the last one.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/508379/Romance-languages>

Oh, and one last thing: there are many regional dialects that are also part of the list of romance languages (e.g., Catalan, Neapolitan, Gallego, and Sardinian, to name a few).

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## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #13

# Who Are You Making Plans with in Spanish?

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Informal Spanish
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

# 13

## INFORMAL SPANISH

1. HOMERO: Ilse se acaba de ir a comer y no nos invitó.
2. ROGER: Bueno, ella se la pierde. Lo bueno es que tenemos con quién salir a comer. ¿Con quién quedaste?
3. HOMERO: Eh, bueno, tú y yo, ¿qué no?
4. ROGER: Homero, de las veinticuatro horas del día te veo ocho. Una tercera parte del día. Unos cuantos minutos alejados nos vendría muy bien. ¡Si por eso nos adoramos mi esposa y yo!
5. HOMERO: No me digas que tu también quedaste con alguien mas. No sé si sentirme halagado o incómodo por lo que acabas de decir.

## ENGLISH

1. HOMERO: Ilse just left to go eat and didn't invite us.
2. ROGER: Well, she's losing out. The good thing is that we have people to go out to eat with. Who did you make plans with?
3. HOMERO: Um, well, you and me. Right?
4. ROGER: Homero, out of twenty-four hours, I see you for eight; a third of the day. A few minutes away from each other would do us well. That's why my wife and I love each other so much.
5. HOMERO: Don't tell me you also agreed to meet up with someone else. I don't know whether I am flattered or uncomfortable because of what you just said.

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class
quedar	to stay (put), to remain, to be located, to arrange	verb
alejado	far away, distanced	adjective
halagado	flattered	adjective
tercero	third	adjective
incómodo	uncomfortable	adjective

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Mi madre quedó en venir a cenar mañana.</p> <p>"My mother arranged to come for dinner tomorrow."</p>	<p>Estamos muy alejados del escenario; vamos a acercarnos más.</p> <p>"We're very far away from the stage; let's get closer."</p>
<p>Me siento halagado de ser tu padrino de bodas.</p> <p>"I feel honored to be your best man."</p>	<p>El verbo 'llama' está en la tercera persona.</p> <p>"The verb &lt;i&gt;llama&lt;/i&gt; is in the third person."</p>

Si se sienten incómodos en la fiesta, nos vamos a otro lado.

"If you all feel uncomfortable at the party, we'll go somewhere else."

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***quedar*** ("to make plans," "to agree upon something")

The literal translation is "to remain," but in a social sense, this verb often refers to making arrangements or settling on plans.

### ***alejado*** ("far away," "remote")

This adjective is related to the adverb ***lejos*** ("far away").

### **halagado ("flattered")**

This adjective is the past participle of the verb **halagar** ("to flatter").

### **tercero ("third")**

This is the full form; when preceding a masculine noun directly, the abbreviated form is **tercer**. The feminine form in all cases is **tercera**.

### **incómodo ("uncomfortable")**

The opposite of this adjective is **cómodo** ("comfortable").

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is Interrogative Pronouns.**

#### **¿Con quién quedaste?**

**"Who did you make arrangements with?"**

---

Interrogative pronouns function as variables in a non-yes/no question; they take the place of the noun or phrase that we are inquiring about. In English, we often refer to interrogative pronouns as the "wh-" words:

1. "Who?"
2. "What?"
3. "Which?"
4. "When?"
5. "Where?"
6. "Why?"
7. "How?"
8. "How much?" "How many?"

These are the interrogative pronouns in Spanish:

1. *quién, quiénes* ("who/whom")  
We use this question word when the answer to the question is a person. Note the plural form *quíenes*.

2. *qué* ("what")  
This is the all-purpose question word; the answer may be an object, idea, concept, organization, or anything not human.
3. *dónde* ("where")  
We use this question word when the answer to the question is a place.
4. *cuándo* ("when")  
We use this question word when the answer is a moment in time.
5. *cuál, cuáles* ("which," "which one," "which ones")  
We use this question word for options when we have defined possible options.
6. *cómo* ("how")  
We use this question word when the answer to the question is a manner.
7. *cuánto, cuánta, cuántos, cuántas* ("how much," "how many")  
We use these question words when the answer to the question is a quantity. For neuter concepts, use the masculine *cuánto*. When referring to a specific noun, this word will agree in person and number with the noun in question.

## Using Interrogative Pronouns with Prepositions

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In Spanish, a preposition always precedes the interrogative pronoun if that interrogative pronoun is the object of a preposition. In Spanish, it is impossible to "strand" a preposition at the end of a sentence, very unlike colloquial English, where this stranding is often the norm.

### For Example:

1. *¿Con quién vas?*  
"Who are you going with?"
2. *¿Para qué sirve esta cosita?*  
"What is this thing for?"
3. *¿En frente de cuál estatua me pongo?*  
"Which statue should I stand in front of?"

## Using Interrogative Pronouns as Relative Pronouns

---

When we use interrogatives as relative pronouns in an indefinite sense, as is the case in indirect questions, we use a written accent.

**For Example:**

1. *No sabe qué hacer.*  
"He doesn't know what to do."
2. *Luego te cuento quién me pidió la mano en matrimonio.*  
"I'll tell you later who asked for my hand in marriage."
3. *No me importa nada cómo se siente aquel hombrecito.*  
"I don't care at all how that little man feels."

When we use interrogatives as relative pronouns in the definite sense (i.e., the speaker has the specific antecedent in mind), we do not use a written accent.

**For Example:**

1. *Llevo el sueter que me compró mi mamá.*  
"I'm wearing the sweater my mama bought me."
2. *El carnicero, quien me conocía desde niño, me regaló unas chuletas.*  
"The butcher, who has known me since childhood, gave me some pork chops for free."
3. *Nunca va a hacerlo como tú lo acabas de describir.*  
"He's never going to do it the way you just described."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### I Can Really Watch Soccer While I Work in Latin America?

---

Because many of the Spanish-speaking countries are huge soccer (a.k.a. *fútbol*) fans, lunch during summer tournaments—except in South America because it's winter—may take just a little bit longer, at least during the first stages of a tournament such as the World Cup, the *Copa América*, or the Euro Cup. In fact, some companies might set up common areas with televisions to broadcast their national team's game. Just don't expect to open up a tab.



## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #14

## Am I Losing My Spanish-Speaking Mind?

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- 2 Informal Spanish
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
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- 6 Cultural Insight

# 14

## INFORMAL SPANISH

1. GINA: ¿Dónde carajos están mis llaves?
2. PEPE: Busca en tu bolsa. El otro día encontré la licuadora ahí.
3. GINA: No estoy para bromas en este momento. Ya voy tarde al trabajo.
4. PEPE: Mejor dicho, ni te has ido. Llévate mi auto si gustas. Yo me quedo a buscarlas.
5. GINA: Gracias, pero necesito las llaves para abrir la tienda. He buscado en todos lados y nada.
6. PEPE: De seguro las dejaste en tu auto anoche que llegaste.
7. GINA: ... ¡Sí, ahí están! No sé qué haría sin ti.
8. PEPE: Es pregunta retórica, creo.

## ENGLISH

1. GINA: Where the hell are my keys?
2. PEPE: Look in your bag. The other day I found the blender in there.
3. GINA: I'm not in the mood for jokes right now. I'm late for work.
4. PEPE: In other words, you haven't even left. Take my car if you want. I'll stay and look for them.

CONT'D OVER

5. GINA: Thanks, but I need the keys to open the store. I've looked everywhere...and nothing.
6. PEPE: You probably left them in your car when you arrived last night.
7. GINA: ...Yes, there they are. I don't know what I would do without you.
8. PEPE: That's a rhetorical question, I think.

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
buscar	to seek, to look for	verb	
broma	joke, prank	noun	feminine
mejor dicho	in other words	phrase	
en todos lados	everywhere	phrase	

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>¡Busquemos un nuevo restaurante!</p> <p>"Let's look for a new restaurant!"</p>	<p>Tu hermano siempre está haciendo sus bromas, pero no las encuentro nada graciosas.</p> <p>"Your brother is always doing pranks, but I don't find them funny."</p>
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En Japón el sushi se compra en todos lados.

"In Japan, sushi can be bought everywhere."

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **buscar** ("to seek," "to look for")

Note that this verb takes a direct object; there is no preposition between **buscar** and the object you are searching for.

### **la broma** ("joke")

This noun refers to pulling a prank or fooling around. For comedic jokes with a punch line, use **el chiste** ("joke").

### **mejor dicho** ("rather," "to put it better")

We use this transition to rephrase something in order to clarify it.

### **en todos lados** ("everywhere")

This is an idiomatic phrase meaning "everywhere."

## GRAMMAR

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

***De seguro las dejaste en tu auto anoche que llegaste.***

**"You probably left them in your car last night when you arrived."**

---

The preterit tense expresses simple actions in the past.

#### **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 of the Preterit (Regular Verbs)**

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Note that the suffixes for *-ir* and *-er* verbs are identical.

#### **Terminar**

<b>Spanish Singular</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)

<b>Spanish Plural</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<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**

<b>Spanish Singular</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<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)

<b>Spanish Plural</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<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**

<b>Spanish Singular</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<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)

<b>Spanish Plural</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)

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

## The Latin American Sense of Time

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Tardiness: bad planning or just different planning? Well, in speaking for my people (*Mejicanos*), we are known worldwide for arriving just a *wee* bit late to almost any event. Even our own marriage. To what do we attribute this um, well, disregard for punctuality? It might be because *everyone* is almost always the same way. But please, do not let this be a habit you pick up while visiting Mexico or any other Spanish-speaking country that happens to take punctuality lightly. I've learned that being on time is a great trait to have, regardless of where I've been. Especially if you're on vacationing on a beach and wake up late for the seven o'clock a.m. breakfast buffet!

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #15 After Time Passes, Making a Fresh Start in Spanish

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- 2 English
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# 15



## INFORMAL SPANISH

1. ILSE: Sé que te debo una disculpa. Y te la debí pedir hace tiempo. Mi dilema fue en no saber si la aceptarías.
2. JACOBO: Somos mejores amigos desde hace mucho tiempo. Claro, me dolió mucho lo que pasó y sobre todo el distanciamiento.
3. ILSE: Sí. Fue un error que se fue haciendo aún más grande al pasar el tiempo.
4. JACOBO: Y yo también debí decirte algo. Pero no saber qué pasó me hizo pensarla dos veces.
5. ILSE: ¿Entonces aceptas mis disculpas?
6. JACOBO: Claro. Pero ahora sí no me dejes esperando en el altar como las otras tres veces.

## ENGLISH

1. ILES: I know I owe you an apology. And I've owed it to you for a long time. My dilemma was in not knowing whether you'd accept it.
2. JACOBO: We've been best friends for a long time. Of course, what happened hurt me a lot, especially the growing apart.
3. ILSE: Yes. It was a mistake that got bigger as time passed.
4. JACOBO: And I should have said something to you as well. But not knowing what happened made me think twice about it.
5. ILSE: So, do you accept my apology?

CONT'D OVER

6. JACOBO: Of course. But this time you're not going to leave me waiting at the altar like the last three times.

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
la disculpa	apology, forgiveness	noun	feminine
doler	to hurt, to cause pain	verb	
el distanciamiento	emotional distance, drifting apart	noun	masculine
pensar dos veces	to reconsider, to think it over	phrase	

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Debo pedirte una disculpa por no haberte felicitado.</p> <p>"I should ask your forgiveness for not having congratulated you."</p>	<p>Las inyecciones por lo general duelen poco.</p> <p>"Generally, injections cause little pain."</p>
<p>Desde que te mudaste ha habido un distanciamiento entre los dos.</p> <p>"Since you moved, there's been a distancing between us."</p>	<p>No sé si ir; la voy a pensar dos veces.</p> <p>"I don't know if I should go; I'm going to think it over."</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **la disculpa** ("apology," "forgiveness")

This noun usually means "apology." However, we more appropriately translate the phrase **pedir disculpas** as "to apologize" or "to ask for forgiveness."

**doler** ("to hurt," "to cause pain")

This verb is almost always accompanied by an indirect object pronoun.

**el distanciamiento** ("emotional distance")

Unlike the measurable, physical distance conveyed by the noun **la distancia**, **el distanciamiento** refers to a "more spiritual or emotional lack of closeness, a rift, or a schism."

**pensar dos veces** ("to reconsider," "to think it over")

Literally, we translate this phrase as "to think two times."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Using *Al* with the Infinitive to Indicate Subsequent Actions.**

***Fue un error que se fue haciendo aún más grande al pasar el tiempo.***

**"It was a mistake that got even bigger when time passed."**

---

In Spanish, we use the formula *al* + infinitive to express an action that happened immediately before another action.

**For Example:**

1. *Al llegar a casa todos fuimos directo a las habitaciones y nos dormimos.*

"Upon arriving at home, we all went straight to our rooms and went to sleep."

"When we got home, we all went straight to our rooms and went to sleep."

Note that we can translate this into English as an "upon..." phrase; in colloquial speech, however, it's more likely for us to translate it as a "when..." clause.

### Formation

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To express subsequent actions with this formula, simply add *al* before an infinitive.

**For Example:**

1. *al comer*  
"upon eating"

2. *al llegar*  
"upon arriving"

3. *al terminar*  
"upon finishing"

1. *¿Sientes alegría al ganar un premio?*  
"Do you feel joy when you win a prize?"
2. *Al comer mucho me da mucho sueño.*  
"When I eat a lot, it makes me very sleepy."
3. *¿Quieres descansar al terminar el proyecto?*  
"Do you want to rest once you finish this project?"
4. *Reviso mi correo al levantarme.*  
"I check my mail when I wake up."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Saying I Do in Latin America

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Normally, weddings in Latin America usually take place as scheduled—a runaway bride or groom is a rare occurrence. There's too much at stake, socially, economically, and if there are brothers on either side, physically. Just kidding...for the most part. Anyway, what I'd like to share today is that there is still a strong tradition of asking the bride's parents for the bride's hand in marriage. Both families will usually gather at the bride's home and will go through the formality of mingling among each other and getting to know the other side's family. Another thing to consider is the fact that both groom and bride tend to live with their parents until they get married.

That surely helps with saving some rent money that the couple can put toward a nice honeymoon.

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #16

## Give It to Me Straight in Spanish!

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# 16

## INFORMAL SPANISH

1. BRENDA: Se nos casa para el siguiente año. Es tan afortunada. Su novio es divino.
2. GERARDO: Lo conocí hace unos dos años. Parece ser un buen tipo.
3. BRENDA: ¿Sólo parece? De todos los que le he conocido a mi hija éste es el mejor sin duda alguna.
4. GERARDO: Bueno, si tú dices. Pero debes conocer a todas las ex-novias del novio porque es importante tener una perspectiva completa.
5. BRENDA: No necesariamente. De eso se debe haber encargado mi hija tiempo atrás.
6. GERARDO: Wow, no sabía que era tan abierta tu hija. Con razón hay tanta buena química entre los dos.

## ENGLISH

1. BRENDA: They're getting married next year. She's so lucky. Her boyfriend is divine.
2. GERARDO: I met him two years ago. He seems to be a nice guy.
3. BRENDA: Seems to be? Of all the ones I've met, this one is the best to my daughter, without a doubt.
4. GERARDO: Well, if you say so. But you have to meet all the boyfriend's ex-girlfriends because it's important to have a complete perspective.

CONT'D OVER

5. BRENDA: Not necessarily. My daughter must have taken care of that a while ago.
6. GERARDO: Wow, I didn't know your daughter was so open. No wonder there's such good chemistry between the two of them.

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
el tipo	type, kind, guy	noun	masculine
tiempo atrás	a while ago	phrase	
abierto	open	adjective	masculine
con razón	no wonder	phrase	

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Hay que ser muy atrevido para ese tipo de trabajo.</p> <p>"You have to be really daring for that line of work."</p>	<p>No tengo paciencia por ese tipo de burocracia.</p> <p>"I don't have patience for that kind of bureaucracy."</p>
<p>¿Conocés a ese tipo que está por ahí? Porque hace un rato que te está mirando...</p> <p>"Do you know that guy over there? Because he's been looking at you for a while now...."</p>	<p>Te debí hacer caso tiempo atrás.</p> <p>"I should have paid attention to you a while ago."</p>

<p>Alma no es tan abierta a comer platillos exóticos.</p> <p>"Alma is not that open to eating exotic dishes."</p>	<p>Con razón ganaron; jugaron contra diez jugadores casi todo el partido.</p> <p>"No wonder they won: they played against ten players for almost the whole game."</p>
---	---

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***el tipo*** ("type," "kind"; "guy")

This noun usually refers to a type, kind, or class of things. We can also use it to refer to a guy. For a woman, we use the feminine form, ***la tipa***.

### ***tiempo atrás*** ("a while ago")

This is an idiomatic expression; literally, the words are ***el tiempo*** ("time") and ***atrás*** ("behind," "back").

### ***abierto*** ("open")

This is the irregular past participle of the verb ***abrir*** ("to open"). Note that in this lesson, we use it to mean "open-minded."

### ***Con razón*** ("no wonder")

We use this idiomatic expression when a speaker realizes the motivation of another action. Literally, it means "with reason."

## GRAMMAR

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

***Se nos casa para la siguiente año.***

**"They're getting married next year."**

Indirect object pronouns are the pronouns we use to signal the beneficiary of an action. In English, they often appear as phrases that begin with the prepositions "to" or "for."

### **For Example:**



1. "She gave that money to me."
2. "He dedicated the book to his mother."
3. "We baked a cake for you."
4. "I told him nothing but the truth."

In the examples above, the indirect object is the beneficiary of the action, whereas the direct object is the victim of the action. In the first example, "the money" is the direct object of the verb "gave"; that is, the money is the thing that's being given. The indirect object, the beneficiary, is "to me."

Note also that in the final example, "him" is an indirect object, even though it is not marked with the prepositions "to" or "for." However, "nothing but the truth" is the direct object (the victim of "told"; the thing that got told), and "him" is the indirect object, or the beneficiary of the action. The sentence will retain the same meaning when reworked as "I told nothing but the truth to him."

Certain verbs require indirect objects for semantic reasons, and in Spanish the indirect object pronouns will always appear, even when the full nominal form of the indirect object is present in the sentence.

### **For Example:**

1. *dar* ("to give") as well as semantically similar verbs like *regalar* ("to give as a gift"), *devolver* ("to return (an object)")
2. *decir* ("to say," "to tell"), as well as semantically similar verbs like *informar* ("to inform"), *denunciar* ("to report") (e.g., a criminal)
3. *gustar* ("to give pleasure to," "to like") as well as similar verbs expressing likes and dislikes such as *encantar* ("to be enchanting to," "to love") and *dar asco* ("to be gross to")

## **Formation**

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The indirect object pronouns in Spanish are:

- *me* ("to me," "for me")
- *te* ("to you," "for you") (familiar register)
- *le* ("to him," "for him"; "to her," "for her"; "to it," "for it"; "to you," "for you") (formal register)
- *nos* ("to us," "for us")
- *os* ("to you all," "for you all") (familiar register, Spain)
- *les* ("to them," "for them"; "to you all," "for you all")

In double object pronoun situations where *le* or *les* precedes the direct object pronouns *lo*, *la*, *los*, or *las*, we express the indirect object as *se*.

- *se* ("to him," "for him"; "to her," "for her"; "to it," "for it"; "to them," "for them"; "to you all," "for you all")

Remember that we usually find indirect object pronouns before the conjugated verb, except when suffixed to directive commands. Also, indirect object pronouns may be suffixed to infinitives and present participles when necessary.

### Sample Sentences

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1. *Me dio un lápiz y una hoja de papel.*  
"She gave me a pencil and a sheet of paper."

2. *Dinos la verdad.*  
"Tell us the truth."
3. *No se lo vamos a regalar.*  
"We're not going to give it to him as a gift."
4. *A ella le encantan las ostras.*  
"She loves oysters."
5. *Me trae una cerveza, por favor.*  
"Will you bring me a beer, please?"
6. *Quiero invitar les a mis papás.*  
"I want to treat my parents."
7. *A mi hermana le compré una computadora nueva.*  
"I bought a new computer for my sister."

## Indirect Object Pronouns That Reflect Surprise

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In today's lesson we see the following sentence: *Se nos casa para el siguiente año.*

The standard English translation does not include an indirect object: "They're getting married next year." A more grammatically accurate translation, however, might be "They're getting married on us next year." In this case, the indirect object *nos* ("on us") is not literally the beneficiary of the action "getting married"; instead, it reflects that the people in question are being affected indirectly by the action of marriage. In this case, it shows that the action is surprising to them: that it's happening faster than expected.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### The importance of parental blessings

---

Nothing says marriage like a mother's acceptance. That could be said of almost all *madres* in Spanish speaking countries. Yes, there is that saying: if you're daughter's soon-to-be groom is just what you were expecting for her, then the road leading to that person may have not been all that smooth. Actually, I just made that up.

In any event, the run-up to the wedding will involve many tasks, parties, arguments (between the couple), and of course, arranging who will foot the majority of the bill. Custom has it that the bride's parents will usually pay for the bulk of the wedding (i.e. reception, church fees, etc.), and the groom will cover the wedding dress, rings, and possibly even the honeymoon. Notice there is not much mention of the *groom's* parents. Unless of course we have a shotgun wedding... Actually there are quite a few of those in Spanish-speaking countries due mostly in part to the country's strong Catholic traditions.

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## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #17

# Did You Come Here Just to Give Me a Hard Time in Spanish?

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Informal Spanish
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar

# 17

## INFORMAL SPANISH

1. GONZALO: Perdón, pero estás sentada en mi lugar.
2. BELÉN: Creo que te equivocas; cuando llegué este lugar estaba vacío. Y el cantinero no me dijo nada.
3. GONZALO: No es su trabajo decirte algo. Toma tu orden y ya. De los lugares yo me encargo. Fui al baño. Por eso digo que éste es mi lugar.
4. BELÉN: Pues tardaste bastante porque llevo aquí más de veinte minutos. ¿Andas malo de la panza?
5. GONZALO: Eh... Estuve en una llamada de trabajo. Por eso me tardé. ¡Pero no me cambies el tema! O bueno, ¿está libre este asiento a tu lado?
6. BELÉN: Ay, mi amor. Te sonrojaste cuando te pregunté si andabas mal de la panza. Dame un beso y siéntate; ya quiero pedir algo de tomar.

## ENGLISH

1. GONZALO: Excuse me, but you're sitting in my seat.
2. BELÉN: I think you're mistaken; when I arrived, this seat was empty. And the bartender didn't say anything to me.
3. GONZALO: It's not the bartender's job to say something to you. He takes your order and that's it. I'm the one in charge of seating. I went to the bathroom. That's why I'm saying this is my seat.

CONT'D OVER

4. **BELÉN:** Well you took long enough, because I've been here for twenty minutes. Does your tummy hurt?
5. **GONZALO:** Um...I was on a work call. That's why it took so long. But don't change the subject. Or else, is the seat next to you free?
6. **BELÉN:** Oh, my dear, you blushed when I asked if your tummy hurt. Give me a kiss and sit down; I want to order something to drink already.

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
lugar	place	noun	masculine
panza	stomach, belly, tummy	feminine noun	
sonrojar	to blush	verb	
el cantinero	bartender	noun	masculine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

Me encanta ese lugar. "I like that place."	¡Qué gran panza! "What a big stomach!"
Me sonrojé de vergüenza cuando todos me miraron. "I blushed out of embarrassment when everyone looked at me."	Los cantineros de brooklyn son muy serviciales. "Brooklyn bartenders are very attentive."

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***el lugar*** ("place")

In this dialogue, we understand that by ***lugar***, the speakers are referring to a "seat."

### ***el cantinero*** ("bartender")

We may also refer to this person as ***el barman*** or ***el camarero***.

### ***la panza*** ("tummy," "belly," "gut")

This is the colloquial word for "stomach." It often refers to a belly that protrudes.

### ***sonrojar*** ("to blush")

This verb refers to the physical reaction of embarrassment. A synonym is ***enrojecer***.

## GRAMMAR

**The focus of this lesson is irregular verbs in the preterit tense.**

***Y el cantinero no me dijo nada.***

**"And the bartender didn't say anything of me."**

---

The preterit tense expresses an action completed prior to the moment of speech or another action.

The vast majority of verbs in the preterit tense are conjugated regularly. Some are highly irregular; **ir** and **ser** share the same preterit forms (fui, fuiste, fue, fuimos, fuisteis, fueron).

**Dar** and **ver** have special forms, as they are one-syllable verbs (di, diste, dio, dimos, disteis, dieron; vi, viste, vio, vimos, visteis, vieron)

Many irregulars, in contrast, are not terribly irregular; in fact, they share a special set of endings (-i, -iste, -ió, -imos, -isteis, -ieron). This set of verbs is notable for their irregular stems:

- andar, anduv-
- conducir, \*conduj-
- decir, \*dij-



- estar, estuv-
- hacer, hic-
- poner, pus-
- poder, pud-
- querer, quis-
- saber, sup-
- tener, tuv-
- traer, \*tra-
- venir, vin-

\* these verbs use the -jeron suffix in the third person plural.

## Formation

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### **Hacer**

#### **Spanish Singular / "English"**

*yo hice* / "I did/made"

*tú hiciste* / "you did/made" (familiar)

*él hizo* / "he did/made"

*ella hizo* / "she did/made"

*usted hizo* / “you did/made” (formal)

### **Spanish Plural / “English”**

*nosotros hicimos* / “we did/made”

*vosotros hicisteis* / “you all did/made” (familiar, Spain)

*ellos hicieron* / “they did/made”

*ellas hicieron* / “they did/made” (feminine)

*ustedes hicieron* / “you all did/made”

### **Venir**

#### **Spanish Singular / “English”**

*yo vine* / “I came”

*tú viniste* / “you came” (familiar)

*él vino* / “he came”

*ella vino* / “she came”

*usted vino* / “you came” (formal)

#### **Spanish Plural / “English”**

*nosotros vinimos* / “we came”

*vosotros vinisteis* / “you all came” (familiar, Spain)

*ellos vinieron* / “they came”

*ellas vinieron* / “they came” (feminine)

*ustedes vinieron* / “you all came”

### **Sample Sentences**

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1. *Hice lo que pude.*  
“I did what I could.”
2. *Vinieron a la casa a las dos de la mañana.*  
“They came home at two in the morning.”
3. *Fuiste al cine sin invitarme.*  
“You went to the theater without inviting me.”

4. *Fue un día maravilloso.*  
"It was a wonderful day."

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #18

## Repeat This Spanish after Me!

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Formal Spanish
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar

# 18

## FORMAL SPANISH

1. SAÚL: Joven, le pido un salero por favor.
2. JOVEN: Claro que sí. Aunque sí me permite, la comida viene muy bien condimentada.
3. SAÚL: Gracias por la información. Sólo tráigame el salero. Yo sabré que hacer.
4. JOVEN: No se lo dije para molestarle. Es que ya me han dicho otros clientes que la comida no requiere sal.
5. SAÚL: Independientemente si ese es el caso, le reitero, tráigame la sal y listo.
6. JOVEN: Pero señor, ¿aún quiere la sal con todo esto que le acabo de decir?
7. SAÚL: El salero es para echarle al limón. Lo acompañaré con el tequila que pedí.
8. JOVEN: Claro que sí. Se lo traigo enseguida.

## ENGLISH

1. SAÚL: Waiter, could you bring a salt shaker, please.
2. WAITER: Of course. Although, if you don't mind my saying, the food is very well seasoned.

CONT'D OVER

3. SAÚL: Thank you for the information. Just bring me the salt shaker. I'll take it from there.
4. WAITER: I didn't say it to irritate you. It's just that other customers have already told me that the food doesn't require salt.
5. SAÚL: Even if this is the case, I repeat, bring me the salt and we're all set.
6. WAITER: But sir, you still want salt with everything that I just told you?
7. SAÚL: The salt is to add to the lime. I will have it with the tequila that I ordered.
8. WAITER: Of course, sir. I'll bring it to you right away.

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
enseguida	right away	adverb	
el salero	salt shaker	noun	masculine
el limón	lime	noun	masculine
reiterar	to reiterate	verb	
el tequila	tequila	noun	masculine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Te tomás un cafecito y enseguida te sentís mejor.</p> <p>"You have a little coffee and you'll feel better right away."</p>	<p>Pásale el salero por favor.</p> <p>"Please pass her the salt shaker."</p>
<p>¿Quién gusta limón con su agua mineral?</p> <p>"Who wants lime with their mineral water?"</p>	<p>Queremos reiterarte nuestro apoyo incondicional.</p> <p>"We want to reiterate to you our unconditional support."</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***el salero*** ("salt shaker")

This is the container for ***la sal*** ("salt"). We can refer to the "pepper shaker" as ***el pimentero***.

### ***el limón*** ("lime")

This noun refers to the sour green citrus so important in Mexican cuisine.

### ***reiterar*** ("to reiterate")

This verb is a very close cognate to the English verb "reiterate."

### ***el tequila*** ("tequila")

This noun is the famous Mexican liquor, traditionally made of agave. Despite the ending of the word, it is masculine.

### ***enseguida*** ("at once," "right away")

This adverb is related to the verb ***seguir*** ("to follow").

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Directive Commands in the Formal Register.**

***Sólo tráigame el salero.***

**"Just bring me the salt shaker."**

For grammatical imperatives in the formal register (i.e., *usted, ustedes*), use the corresponding subjunctive form. This is true of both directive and prohibitive commands.

There is a formula for deducing the imperative form:

1. Find the *yo* form of the present indicative.

**For Example:**

1. *comer*("to eat")> *como*("I eat")
2. *escribir*("to write")>*escribo*("I write")
3. *decir*("to say," "to tell")>*digo*("I say," "I tell")

2. For *-ar* verbs, use the *-e/-en* suffixes; for *-ir* and *-er* verbs, use the *-a/-an* suffixes.

**For Example:**

1. *comer* ("to eat") > *como* ("I eat") > *¡Coma!* ("Eat!") or *¡Coman!* (plural)
2. *escribir* ("to write") > *escribo* ("I write") > *¡Escriba!* ("Write!") or *¡Escriban!* (plural)
3. *decir* ("to say," "to tell") > *digo* ("I say," "I tell") > *¡Diga!* ("Say!," "Tell!") or *¡Digan!* (plural)

## Formation

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For examples of formal register commands, see the sample sentences below.

When the direct object and the indirect object are part of a prohibitive command sentence, we use standard pronoun order: pronouns precede the conjugated verb, the indirect object appears in the first position, and the direct object appears in the second position. This is the same order as in declarative sentences.

**For Example:**

1. *No se lo diga.*  
"Do not tell it to him."



For directive commands, we suffix the direct and indirect object pronouns to the command itself. We write an accent to preserve the original tonic stress.

**For Example:**

1. *Dígaselo.*  
"Tell it to him."

**Sample Sentences**

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1. *Llámeme cuando hayas terminado.*  
"Call me when you're finished."
2. *Tráigame una cerveza, por favor.*  
"Please bring me a beer."
3. *No me repita esas mentiras.*  
"Don't repeat those lies to me."
4. *Apúrense que lo van a perder todo.*  
"Hurry up or you all are going to miss the whole thing."

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #19 You're Not the Object of My Spanish Affection

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Informal Spanish
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar

# # 19

## INFORMAL SPANISH

1. ULISES: Ya deja de mandarme videos a mi correo. Se van a dar cuenta los supervisores.
2. VICENTE: Hombre, no pasa nada. Al cabo los videos son chuscos. Incluso en algunos que he enviado he copiado a nuestro jefe.
3. ULISES: Estás loco. Luego se va a dar cuenta que no estamos trabajando. Y luego estoy por pedir mi aumento de salario la siguiente semana.
4. VICENTE: Ah, pues menciónale el video. Verás que se va a reír mucho y así conseguirás ese aumento que buscas.
5. ULISES: ¿Siempre se te ocurren estas ideas tan brillantes o son esporádicas?
6. VICENTE: Depende del nivel de inspiración. Casi siempre se me ocurren.
7. ULISES: Avísame cuando te lleguen estas ideas para jamás hacerte caso.

## ENGLISH

1. ULISES: Stop sending me videos by e-mail. The supervisors are going to find out.
2. VICENTE: Dude, it's no big deal. Anyway, the videos are funny. For some of them, I've even cc'd our boss.
3. ULISES: You're crazy. He's going to figure out that we're not working. And I'm about to ask for a raise next week.

CONT'D OVER

4. VICENTE: Oh, then mention the video. You'll see that he'll laugh and that's how you'll get the raise you're looking for.
5. ULISES: Do these brilliant ideas occur to you all the time or sporadically?
6. VICENTE: Depends on my level of inspiration. They almost always occur to me.
7. ULISES: Let me know when they come to you so that I know not to pay any attention to you.

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
darse cuenta	to realize, to find out	phrase	
No pasa nada.	It's not a big deal./It's okay.	expression	
chusco	funny	adjective	
el aumento	augmentation, pay raise	noun	masculine
hacer caso	to obey	phrase	

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Te darás cuenta del tamaño de la casa al entrar.</p> <p>"You realize how big the house is when you enter."</p>	<p>Acabo de darme cuenta que no estaré disponible a esa hora.</p> <p>"I've just realized that I won't be available at that time."</p>
---	---

<p>Espero que te des cuenta de lo que hiciste.</p> <p>"I hope that you realize what you did."</p>	<p>No te preocupes, no pasa nada.</p> <p>"Don't worry, nothing's wrong."</p>
<p>Hace tiempo no nos reimos por lo chusco de la situación.</p> <p>"It's been a while since we've laughed at how funny the situation is."</p>	<p>Ya se aproxima el aumento anual de salario.</p> <p>"The annual pay raise is coming up."</p>
<p>Tenemos que hacerle caso al entrenador si queremos ganar.</p> <p>"We must pay attention to the coach if we want to win."</p>	<p>No le hagas caso. Ella está chiflada.</p> <p>"Pay no attention to her: she's nuts."</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***darse cuenta*** ("to realize," "to find out")

This phrase is an idiom that means "to realize" or "to find out". *Darse* is the reflexive form of the verb *dar*, "to give", and *cuenta* literally means "account".

### ***No pasa nada.*** ("Don't worry about it. It's not a big deal.")

This phrase literally translates to "Nothing's going to happen."

### ***chusco*** ("funny")

Some synonyms for this adjective are *chistoso*, *gracioso*, and *cómico*. Depending on the region and the context, however, this adjective may also mean "tacky" or "crude."

### ***el aumento*** ("pay raise")

Literally, this noun means "an *augmentation*" or "*increase*."

### ***hacer caso*** ("to pay attention," "to be mindful")

*Hacer caso* is a phrase that means "to pay attention" or "to be mindful". We almost always use this expression with an indirect object pronoun.

## GRAMMAR

**The focus of this lesson is object pronoun placement.**

***Luego se va a dar cuenta que no estamos trabajando.***

**"He's going to realize that we're not working."**

---

When object pronouns are associated with verbs, they may appear as suffixes to a present participle or an infinitive.

**For Example:**

1. *haciéndolo* (present participle)  
"doing it"
2. *hacerlo* (infinitive)  
"to do it"
3. *dádoselo* (present participle)  
"giving it to her"
4. *dárselo* (infinitive)  
"to give it to her"
5. *acostándome* (present participle)  
"putting myself to bed"
6. *acostarme* (infinitive)  
"to put myself to bed"

When they appear in a sentence, however, they most often appear before the conjugated verb.

**For Example:**

1. *Lo hago yo.*  
"I'm doing it."
2. *Ellos se lo dieron.*  
"They gave it to her."
3. *No me acuesto hasta las once.*  
"I don't go to bed until eleven o'clock."

There are some sentence constructions where both options (suffixation and preceding the conjugated verb) are available. In fact, this can happen with any verb which is commonly followed by a present participle or infinitive (regardless of whether or not there is a preposition between them).

Some constructions in which this can take place are:

- periphrastic future (**ir a + infinitive**)
- progressive tenses
- modal verbs (e.g, **poder, querer, deber**)
- actions that modify other actions (e.g., *empezar a* ("to begin"), *dejar de* ("to quit"), *terminar de* ("to stop"), *aprender a* ("to learn to"), *olvidarse de* ("to forget to"))

## Formation

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In situations where it is possible to put the object pronoun before or after the verb, the speaker may choose freely to put it in either spot. There is no difference in meaning; however, in colloquial speech it may be more statistically common to place the pronoun before the conjugated verb.

In the sample sentences below, you can see how the object pronouns can come before after the noun.

1. *Me la voy a comer.*  
"I'm going to eat it up."  
*Voy a comérmela.*  
"I'm going to eat it up."
  
2. *Ya lo estamos haciendo.*  
"We're doing it now."  
*Ya estamos haciéndolo.*  
"We're doing it now."
  
3. *No lo quiere creer.*  
"She doesn't want to believe it."  
*No quiere creerlo.*  
"She doesn't want to believe it."
  
4. *Empezó a regañarlos a las seis.*  
"He started scolding them at six o'clock."  
*Los empezó a regañar a las seis.*  
"He started scolding them at six o'clock."



## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #20

## Imagining a Perfect Future With Spanish

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Informal Spanish
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

# # 20

## INFORMAL SPANISH

1. DANIEL: No quiero ni voy a salir con tu amiga. Y menos en una cita a ciegas.
2. SUSANA: Dale, hombre. Es muy buena persona. Te va a caer bien.
3. DANIEL: Puede ser pero no quiero conocer a alguien en este momento. Al menos no en el sentido que tú quieres presentármela.
4. SUSANA: ¿Ah sí? Explícame por favor en qué sentido crees que te la quiero presentar. Recuerda que sólo estás pensando en ti. No sabes cómo se siente mi amiga al respecto.
5. DANIEL: En ese caso muéstrame fotos de tu amiga. Digo, habrás hecho lo mismo con ella. Y si sí, también quiero ver las fotos más que le mostraste.
6. SUSANA: Claro que no, 'Narciso'. Si muestro fotos ya no será una cita a ciegas.
7. DANIEL: Amiga, a veces pienso que terminare soltero por el resto de mi vida.
8. SUSANA: Amigo, para como vas, deberías pensar en eso más seguido.

## ENGLISH

1. DANIEL: I don't want to and I won't go out with your friend. And certainly not on a blind date.
2. SUSANA: Come on, man. She's a really good person. You'll get along with her.

CONT'D OVER

3. DANIEL: That could be, but I don't want to meet anybody right now. At least not in the way you want to introduce her to me.
4. SUSANA: Oh yeah? Please tell me in what way you think I want to introduce her to you. Remember that you're thinking only about yourself. You don't know how my friend feels.
5. DANIEL: In that case, show me pictures of your friend. I mean, you might have done the same with her. And if so, I also want to see the pictures of me you showed her.
6. SUSANA: Of course not, narcissist. If I show you guys pictures, it won't be a blind date!
7. DANIEL: Man, sometimes I think I'll end up single for the rest of my life.
8. SUSANA: Friend, the way you've been behaving, you should think about this more often.

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
cita a ciegas	blind date		
caerse bien	to get along		
sentido	sense, meaning, point	noun	masculine
soltero	single	adjective	
presentar	to introduce	verb	
explicar	to explain	verb	

creer	to believe, to think	verb
recordar	remember	verb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>No quiero tener nunca más una cita a ciegas.</p> <p>"I don't want to go on a blind date ever again."</p>	<p>Estoy segura de que mi prima y tú se van a caer bien.</p> <p>"I'm sure that you and my cousin will get along."</p>
<p>No tiene ningún sentido seguir con esta relación.</p> <p>"There is no point in continuing with this relationship."</p>	<p>Mi hermano es soltero, no está casado todavía.</p> <p>"My brother is single; he is not married yet."</p>
<p>Te presento a mi hermano Pedro.</p> <p>I introduce you to my brother Pedro.</p>	<p>Yo le expliqué matemática a Jorge.</p> <p>"I explained math to George."</p>
<p>Creo que te puedo ayudar.</p> <p>"I think that I can help you."</p>	<p>La mujer recordó el número.</p> <p>"The woman remembered the number."</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***cita a ciegas*** ("blind date")

*Cita* by itself means "appointment," and *ciegas* means "blind." When we put the two together, it refers to a blind date, where two people that don't know each other go out on a date.

### ***caerse bien*** ("to get along," "to like someone")

*Caerse* is the reflexive form of the verb *caer*. The most common translation for *caerse* is "to fall," but in the dialogue it takes on a different meaning. When talking about people, *caerse* is used to describe the impression someone gets from another person because of his or her personality.

### ***sentido* ("sense, meaning, way", "sensitive")**

There are many ways to translate *sentido*, but in the dialogue it means "way." The most common translation in most cases is either "make sense" or when a person gets mad very easily.

### ***soltero* ("single")**

*Soltero* is used when talking about a person that is not married. In a lot of cases *soltero* is also used to say that someone doesn't have a girlfriend or boyfriend.

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is the Future Perfect Tense.**

***Digo, habrás hecho lo mismo con ella.***

**"I mean, you might have done the same thing with her."**

---

In this lesson, you'll learn the future perfect verb tense, which uses the verb *haber* in the future. The future perfect tense is a compound tense that we form with the auxiliary verb *haber* + the past participle of the verb that we will be conjugating. We translate the auxiliary verb *haber* as "to have." We use the future perfect tense to talk about an action or event that will take place sometime in the future before another occurrence. We can also use the future tense in Spanish to indicate likelihood or supposition, so in this case we would translate it as "would have" or "might have." We form this tense the same way as in English.

Let's look at the different conjugations of the future tense of *haber* + past participle using the verb *ir* ("to go"):

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<b><i>Spanish</i></b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>yo habré ido</i>	"I will have gone"
<i>tu habrás ido</i>	"you will have gone"
<i>el habrá ido</i>	"he will have gone"

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<i>ella habrá ido</i>	"she will have gone"
<i>nosotros habremos ido</i>	"we will have gone"
<i>vosotros habréis ido</i>	"you all will have gone"
<i>ellos/ellas habrán ido</i>	"they will have gone"

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### Examples from This Dialogue

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1. *Digo, **habrás hecho** lo mismo con ella.*  
"I mean, you might have done the same thing with her."

### Sample Sentences

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1. ***Habré hablado** con ella antes de ir a la fiesta.*  
"I will have talked to her before going to the party."
2. *Si defendemos nuestros derechos, **habremos ganado** en el futuro.*  
"If we defend our rights, we will have gained in the future."
3. ***Habrás terminado** antes de ir al trabajo.*  
"You will have finished before going to work."
4. ***Habré dormido** veinte horas para cuando llegues.*  
"I will have slept twenty hours by the time you arrive."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Blind Dates in Latin America

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Blind dates are not as common in Latin America as in other countries, but they are becoming more common than before. In Spanish-speaking countries, it is more likely to meet people

through friends, or at reunions or parties. Latin Americans are known for having huge circles of friends—if you are looking to meet someone special, why don't you try asking a Latin American friend to introduce you?

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #21 You'd Better Listen To This Spanish Lesson!

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- 2 Informal Spanish
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
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# # 21



## INFORMAL SPANISH

1. LUCRECIA: Cambia la estación. Pasan puros anuncios y casi nada de música.
2. ROMA: Es la única disponible. Aparte, no es cierto que pasan puros anuncios. Y la música es muy buena.
3. LUCRECIA: Tenemos gustos diferentes en cuanto a música. Mejor le apagamos y disfrutamos del silencio.
4. ROMA: Ay sí, como tu vienes de copilota y no corres el peligro de quedarte dormida manejando...
5. LUCRECIA: Entonces mejor hacemos lo siguiente: yo manejo y tu te duermes un ratito. Así manejas el último tramo del recorrido.
6. ROMA: Claro que no, porque luego pones tu música y no me dejará dormir.
7. LUCRECIA: Apagué la música desde que empezamos esta conversación y ni cuenta te diste.

## ENGLISH

1. LUCRECIA: Change the station. They play only commercials and almost no music at all.
2. ROMA: It's the only one available. Besides, that's not true that they only play commercials. And the music is very good.
3. LUCRECIA: We have different tastes when it comes to music. It's better we just turn it off and enjoy the silence.

CONT'D OVER

4. ROMA: Oh yes, because you're riding shotgun and don't run the risk of falling asleep while driving...
5. LUCRECIA: Then it's better we do the following...I drive and you sleep a little bit. Then you drive the last stretch of the trip.
6. ROMA: No way, because then you'll put on your music, and it won't let me sleep.
7. LUCRECIA: I turned the music off since we started this conversation, and you didn't even notice!

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
manejar	to drive, to operate, to manage	verb	
disponible	available	adjective	masculine - feminine
casi	almost, nearly	adverb	
tramo	section, stretch		
anuncio	announcement, advertisement	noun	masculine
copilota	riding shotgun		
estación	station	noun	feminine
recorrido	route, path, trip		
un rato	a moment		
puro	pure, only		

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Si manejabas a la playa, te acompañaría.</p> <p>"If you drove to the beach, I would join you."</p>	<p>El producto estará disponible en tres colores y formas diferentes.</p> <p>"The product is going to be available in three different colors and shapes."</p>
<p>Tenemos bolsas de papel y bolsas de plástico disponibles, ¿Cuál prefieres?</p> <p>"We have paper bags and plastic bags available, which one do you prefer?"</p>	<p>Acabo de darme cuenta que no estaré disponible a esa hora.</p> <p>"I've just realized that I won't be available at that time."</p>
<p>Manuel es muy buen jugador, casi nunca falla.</p> <p>"Manuel is a very good player, he almost never fails."</p>	<p>Maneja con cuidado que éste es un tramo peligroso.</p> <p>"Drive safely because this is a dangerous section."</p>
<p>¿Has escuchado los nuevos anuncios de la radio? ¡Son pésimos!</p> <p>"Have you heard the new ads on the radio? They're horrible!"</p>	<p>Puedes dormir mientras estás de copilota.</p> <p>"You can sleep while you are riding shotgun."</p>
<p>Me encanta escuchar la música de esta estación.</p> <p>"I love to listen to the music of this station."</p>	<p>Por fin llegamos al final de nuestro recorrido.</p> <p>"We finally arrived at the end of our trip."</p>

---

¿Me disculpas un rato?

"Would you excuse me for a moment?"

En este canal pasan puros anuncios.

"On this channel they only broadcast commercials."

---

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***anuncio*** ("announcement, advertisement")

*Anuncio* is more commonly understood as "advertisement", but it can also be used to talk about an "announcement" when someone wants to say something.

### ***disponible*** ("available")

This word is used to describe that something is available for others. It can also be used for people as well meaning that someone is not dating another person.

### ***un rato*** ("one moment", "a little bit")

The main meaning of *un rato* is "one moment", but it can also mean "a little bit" depending on the context like in the dialogue.

### ***tramo*** ("stretch")

*Tramo* refers to the distance from one point to another; it can also be understood as "part"

### ***recorrido*** ("route, trajectory, path")

*Recorrido* is a noun that is used to mean "path" in most cases.

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is Using *Mejor* Plus an Indicative Verb.**

***Entonces mejor hacemos lo siguiente...***

**"Then we better do the following..."**

---

In this lesson you will learn how to use *mejor* + an indicative verb.

First, let's look at what the indicative form is. The indicative form indicates the mood of verbs that we use in simple declarative statements. This contrasts with the subjunctive mood in Spanish. Let's look at an example. Here is the verb *hablar* ("to speak") conjugated in the

present indicative tense:

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>hablo</i>	"I speak"
<i>hablas</i>	"you speak"
<i>habla</i>	"he/she/it speaks"
<i>hablamos</i>	"we speak"
<i>hablaís</i>	"you (plural) speak"
<i>hablan</i>	"they/you (plural) speak"

To say that it's "better to do [verb]," we can use the word *mejor*, which means "better," and follow it with a verb in the indicative form.

\* ***Mejor* + [verb in indicative] = "It's better to [verb]"**

**For Example:**

1. *Mejor como mas tarde*  
"I better eat later."

Note that if you use the phrase *mejor que*, you will need to use a verb in the subjunctive after it.

**For Example:**

1. *Mejor que comas mas tarde.*  
"You'd better eat later."

### Examples from This Dialogue

1. *Entonces mejor hacemos lo siguiente...*  
"Then it's better we do the following..."

## Sample Sentences

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1. *Mejor como mas tarde.*  
"I better eat later."
2. *Mejor vivimos en Los Angeles.*  
"We better live in Los Angeles."
3. *Mejor aprende tu trabajo pronto.*  
"You better learn your job soon."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Do You Feel the Latin American Beat?

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Music plays a big role in the lives of those living in Latin American countries. Every Spanish-speaking country listens to its typical type of music everywhere, whether at home, in the car, or on the go. Music is just present at all times.

Age does not matter when it comes to enjoying music: it's common to see young people and older people as well singing and dancing at parties and get-togethers. This may just be what keeps Latin Americans so happy and full of life.

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #22

## Is This a Latin American Kitchen Nightmare?

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# # 22

## INFORMAL SPANISH

1. DELIA: Entonces primero mezclo los huevos con la harina, sal y azúcar. ¿Qué sigue después?
2. JULIA: En otro recipiente, pones la cebolla, tomate y ajo. Todo bien picado. Y de una vez prende la estufa para calentar el sartén.
3. DELIA: Listo. Creo que es diferente esta receta a las otras que he hecho.
4. JULIA: No lo sé. Sigamos. Ahora toma la botella de vino y vacía la mitad en una copa y el resto en el recipiente con la cebolla, tomate y ajo.
5. DELIA: Ya. Creo que nada más falta mezclar todo junto y luego echarlo al sartén. Pero una pregunta: ¿para que puse la mitad del vino en la copa?
6. JULIA: Para que te la tomes antes de que termine de hacerse ésto y no te sepa tan feo como parece ser que va a salir.

## ENGLISH

1. DELIA: Then, first I mix the eggs with the flour, salt and sugar. What's next?
2. JULIA: In another container, you put the onions, tomato and garlic. Everything well chopped. Immediately turn on the stove to heat up the frying pan.
3. DELIA: Okay, ready. I think this recipe is different from the others I've done.

CONT'D OVER



4. JULIA: I'm not familiar with it. Let's keep going. Now get the wine bottle and empty half of it in a glass and the rest in the container with the onions, tomato and garlic.
5. DELIA: Done. I think all that's left to do is mix everything together and then put it in the frying pan. But, one question: what did I pour half of the wine in a glass for?
6. JULIA: For you to drink before before this finishes cooking - it won't taste as bad to you as it seems the dish is going to turn out.

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
receta	recipe, prescription	noun	feminine
echar	to put		
calentar	to heat up, warm up, to become excited	verb	
mezclar	to mix	verb	
sartén	skillet, frying pan		
recipiente	container		
prender	to turn on, to light	verb	
picar	to chop finely, to nibble	verb	
seguir	to continue, to follow	verb	
estufa	stove		

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Necesita receta para comprar este medicamento.</p> <p>"You need a prescription to buy this medication. "</p>	<p>Antes de echar los otros ingredientes, tienes que batir los huevos bien.</p> <p>"Before pouring the other ingredients, you have to beat the eggs very well."</p>
<p>El sol está calentando el caluroso desierto .</p> <p>"The sun is heating the hot desert."</p>	<p>Si mezclas los archivos, tendremos que empezar de nuevo desde el principio.</p> <p>"If you mix the files we have to start again from the beginning."</p>
<p>Por favor, ayúdame y mezcla estos ingredientes mientras yo cocino esto.</p> <p>"Please help me and mix these ingredients while I cook this."</p>	<p>Calentamos un chorrillo de aceite en una sartén.</p> <p>"We warmed a squirt of oil in the frying pan."</p>
<p>Necesito un recipiente cuadrado donde verter la mezcla.</p> <p>"I need a square container in which I can pour the mix."</p>	<p>¿Podés prender la luz por favor?</p> <p>"Can you turn on the lights please?"</p>
<p>Antes de cocinar los vegetales, tenemos que picarlos.</p> <p>"Before cooking the vegetables, we have to chop them."</p>	<p>El pronóstico del tiempo dijo que habría lluvia, seguida de una fuerte nevada durante las próximas horas.</p> <p>"The forecast said there will be rain, followed by heavy snow during the next few hours."</p>

<p>Seguí para allá, hasta el antiguo Banco Negro.</p> <p>"Keep going over there until you get to the former Black Bank."</p>	<p>¿Cuántas horas por día prendés la estufa?</p> <p>"How many hours per day do you turn the heater on?"</p>
--	---

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **mezclar ("to mix, to merge")**

This ar-verb means "to mix", and is used a lot when referring to mixing ingredients when cooking.

### **recipiente ("container")**

The literal translation for *recipiente* is "container", but it is often used when referring to a bowl or plate that we put food into.

### **receta ("recipe, prescription")**

In the context of food, *receta* refers to a recipe used to make a dish. However, it also has the meaning of "prescription"; for example, *receta de un doctor* refers to a prescription.

This word can be identified as a false cognate (a word that looks/sounds very much like a word in another language but has a different meaning) with the English word "receipt", but note that it does not have that meaning. "Receipt" in Spanish is *recibo*.

### **picar ("to bite, to sting, to snack, to chop")**

*Picar* is an ar-verb with many different meanings. When talking about cooking, it is mostly used to mean "to chop up". Note that it also has the meaning of "to be spicy" when talking about food.

### **prender (to turn on, to catch, to light)**

The most common meaning of this er-verb is "to turn on", as in to turn on an appliance or electronic. The opposite word is *apagar* ("to turn off").

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is Using the Subjunctive after Adverbial Conjunctions.**

***Para que te la tomes antes de que termine de hacerse esto y no te sepa tan feo como parece ser que va a salir.***

**"So that you drink it before this finishes cooking-so the dish won't taste as bad as it seems it's going to turn out."**

---

The subjunctive is not a tense; it is a mood. There are three moods in Spanish: the indicative, the imperative, and the subjunctive.

We use the indicative to express certainty, objectivity, or facts: situations that are completed, habitual, or factual.

**For Example:**

1. *Siempre toman vino cuando cocinan juntas.*  
"They always drink wine when they cook together."

We use the imperative to express orders or commands.

**For Example:**

1. *Toma la botella de vino y vacía la mitad en el recipiente.*  
"Take the bottle of wine and pour half of it into the bowl."

We use the subjunctive to express uncertainty, subjectivity, or doubt: situations that are anticipated or hypothetical.

**For Example:**

1. *Dudo que coma postre a menos que tú comas un poco también.*  
"I doubt I'll eat dessert unless you have some too."

*Dudo que...* ("I doubt that...") indicates uncertainty and *a menos que* ("unless...") shows that the situation is conditional to a hypothetical situation, so the verb *comer* ("to eat") needs to be in the subjunctive.

**Common Adverbial Conjunctions That Are Always Followed by the Subjunctive**

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You may notice that all of them indicate an anticipated, pending, or hypothetical situation, which is why they are always followed by the subjunctive.

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>en caso de que....</i>	"in case..."
<i>sin que...</i>	"without..."
<i>con tal (de) que...</i>	"provided that..."
<i>a menos que...</i>	"unless..."
<i>para que...</i>	"so that...," "for...to"
<i>antes (de) que...</i>	"before..."

ESCAPA is a useful mnemonic device to help you remember them.

Other adverbial conjunctions may be followed by the indicative or the subjunctive.

**For Example:**

1. *hasta que...*  
"until..."
2. *tan pronto como...*  
"as soon as..."

To determine which mood to use after these adverbial conjunctions, we need to look at the main clause of the sentence. When the main clause shows certainty, the subordinate clause will take the indicative. When the main clause shows uncertainty, the subordinate clause will take the subjunctive.

Let's take a look at an example to illustrate this point.

**For Example:**

1. *Él la espera todas las noches hasta que termina su turno de trabajo. Ella sale del trabajo tan pronto como puede.*

"He waits for her every night until she finishes her shift. She leaves work as soon as she can."

This sentence denotes a habitual action so the verbs *termina* ("she finishes") and *puede* ("she can") are in the indicative after the adverbial conjunctions: *hasta que* ("until") and *tan pronto como...* ("as soon as...").

Now look at this example.

### **For Example:**

1. *No creo que él la espere esta noche. Ella saldrá del trabajo tan pronto como pueda pero tendrá que quedarse hasta que termine su proyecto.*

"I don't think he'll wait for her tonight. She'll leave work as soon as she can but she'll have to stay until she finishes her project."

In this case, the speaker shows doubt about the outcome of the situation, so we use the subjunctive after the adverbial conjunctions to express this idea of uncertainty on the part of the speaker.

## **How to Conjugate Regular Verbs to Form the Present Subjunctive**

---

-AR verbs/-ER and -IR verbs

### **For Example:**

*hablar, cantar, terminar, amar*

Drop the -ar and add the following endings: -e, -es, -e, -emos, -éis, en

### **For Example:**

*comer, vivir, temer, partir*

Drop the -er or -ir and add the following endings: -a, -as, -a, -amos, -áis, -an

## For Example:

<b>Pronoun</b>	<b>Indicative</b>	<b>Subjunctive</b>
Yo	hablo	hable
Tú	hablas	hables
Usted/él/ella	habla	hable
Nosotros/as	hablamos	hablemos
Vosotros/as	habláis	habléis
Ellos/as	hablan	hablen

<b>Pronoun</b>	<b>Indicative</b>	<b>Subjunctive</b>
Yo	como	coma
Tú	comes	comas
Usted/él/ella	come	coma
Nosotros/as	comemos	comamos
Vosotros/as	coméis	comáis
Ellos/as	comen	coman

## Example from This Dialogue

1. *Para que te la tomes antes de que termine de hacerse esto y no te sepa tan feo como parece ser que va a salir.*

"So that you drink it before this finishes cooking—so the dish won't taste as bad as it seems it's going to turn out."

## Sample Sentences

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1. No creo que tome más vino a menos que coma algo primero.  
"I don't think she'll drink any more wine unless she eats something first."
2. Dudo que Delia aprenda a cocinar sin que queme algunas ollas.  
"I doubt that Delia will learn to cook without burning a few saucepans."
3. No creo que terminen de cocinar antes de que partamos.  
"I don't think they'll finish cooking before we leave."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Why It's Important to Spend Some Time in the Kitchen

---

Cooking in Latin America is something very important. It can be said that things are changing and that the younger generations do not cook as much, but for the most part it plays a big part at home. A good homemade meal is the best thing for any Latin American person. Meals in Latin America often contain a lot of food: it is very common to have either a soup or an appetizer before the main meal. Every country has its own traditional dishes, but cuisines that have become particularly famous around the world are Mexican cuisine and Peruvian cuisine.



## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #23 Get Wrapped Up in Spanish

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- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar

# # 23

## INFORMAL SPANISH

1. MAMÁ: Si vas a salir así te vas a congelar. Ponte algo más. Y recuerda llevarte tus guantes y algo para la cabeza.
2. HIJO: Pero si ya voy bien abrigado. Después no voy a poder ni moverme. Quiero estar cómodo.
3. MAMÁ: Hazme caso. Es por tu bien. Regresa por algo más calentito.
4. HIJO: Pero mamá, no hace tanto frío. Y sólo voy a caminar unas cuantas cuadras para la parada del camión.
5. MAMÁ: Si no me haces caso, te voy a llevar directamente a la parada de camión y estaré a tu lado hasta que llegue el camión.
6. HIJO: Ok. Ya me voy entonces.
7. MAMÁ: ¡No! ¡Espera que no estoy bien vestida!
8. HIJO: Adiós.

## ENGLISH

1. MOTHER: If you go out like that, you're going to freeze! Go put on more clothes. And remember to bring your gloves and something for your head.
2. SON: But I'm already all wrapped up warm! After that I won't be able to move. I want to be comfortable.

CONT'D OVER

3. MOTHER: Listen to me. It's for your own good. Go and get something warmer.
4. SON: But mom, it's not that cold. And I'm only going to walk a few blocks to the bus stop.
5. MOTHER: If you don't do what I say, I'm going to take you directly to the bus stop and be by your side until the bus comes.
6. SON: Okay. I'm leaving then.
7. MOTHER: No! Wait, I am not well dressed!
8. SON: Bye.

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
hacer caso	to obey	phrase	
parada	stop (bus, truck)		
guantes	gloves		
poner	to put, to place	verb	
abrigado	covered, sheltered	adjective	masculine
mover	move	verb	
vestir	to dress, to clothe	verb	
cuadra	block		
congelar	to freeze	verb	

caliente

hot, warm

adjective

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

Tenemos que hacerle caso al entrenador si queremos ganar.

"We must pay attention to the coach if we want to win."

No le hagas caso. Ella está chiflada.

"Pay no attention to her: she's nuts."

Voy a tener que correr hasta la parada de camión si no quiero que el camión me deje.

"I will have to run till the bus stop if I don't want the bus to leave me."

Necesito unos guantes más calientes para este invierno.

"I need warmer gloves for this winter."

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

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

Si vas a salir, abrígate bien que está haciendo mucho frío afuera.

"If you are going out, wrap up well because it is very cold outside."

Los lagartos se mueven lentamente a través del agua.

The alligators are slowly moving through the water.

A veces es necesario vestir elegante.

"Sometimes it is necessary to dress elegantly."

Ya estoy cansada y aún quedan cinco cuadras más por caminar.

"I'm already tired and we still have five more blocks to walk."

¡Se me están congelando las manos!

"My hands are freezing!"

---

Me gusta comer sopa caliente en el invierno.

"I like to eat hot soup in the winter."

---

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***congelar*** ("to freeze")

This *-ar* verb means "to freeze," as in to make something very cold. In the dialogue, the mother uses it in an exaggerated sense when she tells her son that he will freeze if he goes outside in what he is wearing.

### ***guantes*** ("gloves")

This noun refers to "gloves."

### ***abrigar*** ("to wrap," "to keep warm")

This *ar* verb means to "wrap up (in warm clothes) to keep warm." In the dialogue, it is used in the past participle, *abrigado*.

### ***caliente*** ("hot")

In the dialogue, we saw a variation of this word: the diminutive form, *calientito*. While *caliente* means "hot," *calientito* is less severe and has more of a nuance of "warm." When the mother tells her son to go get some warmer clothes, she says *Regresa por algo más calientito* ("Go and get something warmer").

### ***parada*** ("stop," "stopping")

In the dialogue, the speaker uses the noun *parada* to refer to a "bus stop." The related verb is *parar*, which means "to stop."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Commands or Imperatives Using Reflexive Verbs.**

***Ponte algo más.***

**"Put something else on."**

---

We use commands or the imperative mood to give direct orders, to implore, or to entreat.

### For Example:

1. *¡Espera!*  
"Wait!"

Reflexive verbs indicate that the subject of the sentence performs an action on itself-the person who does the action also receives it.

### For Example:

1. *Me lavo.*  
"I wash myself."

So, the imperative using reflexive verbs indicates that an order is given to the subject to perform an action on itself.

### For Example:

1. *Lávate.*  
"Wash yourself."

## The Imperative

---

We form the imperative in the same way as the present subjunctive except for the affirmative of the second person singular *tú* and the second person plural *vosotros*.

To form the affirmative imperative of *tú*, take the present tense of the verb and drop the final -s.

### For Example:

1. *hablas* becomes *habla*
2. *comes* becomes *come*
3. *vives* becomes *vive*

To form the affirmative imperative of *vosotros*, take the infinitive and replace the final -r with a -d.

## For Example:

1. *estudiar* becomes *estudiad*
2. *beber* becomes *bebed*
3. *abrir* becomes *abrid*

---

### Imperative -AR Verbs

	<b>Affirmative</b>	<b>Negative</b>
<i>tú</i>	<i>pasa</i>	<i>no pases</i>
<i>usted</i>	<i>pase</i>	<i>no pase</i>
<i>nosotros</i>	<i>pasemos</i>	<i>no pasemos</i>
<i>vosotros</i>	<i>pasad</i>	<i>no paséis</i>
<i>ustedes</i>	<i>pasen</i>	<i>no pasen</i>

---

### Imperative -ER and -IR Verbs

	<b>Affirmative</b>	<b>Negative</b>
<i>tú</i>	<i>abre</i>	<i>no abras</i>
<i>usted</i>	<i>abra</i>	<i>no abra</i>
<i>nosotros</i>	<i>abramos</i>	<i>no abramos</i>
<i>vosotros</i>	<i>abrid</i>	<i>no abráis</i>
<i>ustedes</i>	<i>abran</i>	<i>no abran</i>

Adding *usted* or *ustedes* to the commands conveys more formality: for example, *pasa*, *pase*, and *pase usted*. In all three cases, the translation is "Come in" or "Go in," but the level of formality is different. *Pase usted* is more formal than just *pase*, although in both cases, we are

addressing the formal subject *usted*. *Pasa* is the least formal since we are addressing the second person singular *tú*.

## Reflexive Verbs

---

The reflexive verb denotes that the subject carrying out the action is also the receiver of that action.

Reflexive verbs need the reflexive pronouns *me*, *te*, *se*, *nos*, and *os*.

The subject pronouns are not needed and at times may seem redundant, since it is implicit that both pronouns refer to the same person in reflexive verbs. Sometimes we add them for emphasis, and as we mentioned before, we use *usted* and *ustedes* to add formality to a command.

---

Subject Pronoun	Reflexive Pronoun		
<i>yo</i>	<i>me</i>		
<i>tú</i>	<i>te</i>		
<i>él/ella/usted</i>	<i>se</i>		
<i>nosotros/as</i>	<i>nos</i>		
<i>vosotros/as</i>	<i>os</i>		
<i>ellos/ellas</i>	<i>se</i>	+	verb
<i>ustedes</i>	<i>se</i>		

The list of reflexive verbs is very long in Spanish. Here is a list of some common ones.

### For Example:

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Spanish	"English"
<i>sentarse</i>	"to sit down"
<i>levantarse</i>	"to get up"
<i>mirarse</i>	"to look at oneself"
<i>bañarse</i>	"to bathe"

---



<i>dormirse</i>	"to fall asleep"
<i>irse</i>	"to leave"/"to go"
<i>peinarse</i>	"to comb one's hair"
<i> ducharse</i>	"to take a shower"
<i>abrigarse</i>	"to wrap up warm"
<i>callarse</i>	"to be quiet"/"to shut up"
<i>despertarse</i>	"to wake up"
<i>marcharse</i>	"to leave"
<i>arrepentirse</i>	"to regret"/"to repent"

## The Imperative using Reflexive Verbs

To form the affirmative reflexive imperative, we attach the reflexive pronoun to the end of the verb, and to form the negative commands, we place the reflexive pronoun just before the verb.

### For Example:

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>¡Siéntate!</i> <i>¡No te sientes!</i>	"Sit down!" "Don't sit down!"
<i>¡Váyanse!</i> <i>No se vayan.</i>	"Leave." "Don't leave."
<i>Levantémonos</i> <i>No nos levantemos</i>	"Let's get up." "Let's not get up."

---

*Mírense*

"Look at each other."

*No se miren*

"Don't look at each other."

---

Spelling: Notice that by attaching the reflexive pronoun to the verb, we add an extra syllable to the word, so a *tilde* ("accent") is required on the third syllable from the end to maintain the proper stress of the word.

### Example from This Dialogue

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1. *Ponte algo más.*  
"Put something else on."

### Sample Sentences

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1. *Abrígate bien. Hace frío afuera.*  
"Wrap up warm. It's cold outside."
2. *No se sienten en esa silla. Está rota.*  
"Don't sit on that chair. It's broken."
3. *Marchémonos de aquí.*  
"Let's get out of here."

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #24 Getting Affectionate in Latin America

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- 2 Informal Spanish
- 2 English
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- 4 Sample Sentences
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- 10 Cultural Insight

# # 24

## INFORMAL SPANISH

1. LIZETTE: Hola amor. ¿Ya llegaste?
2. ALEX: Hola cariño. Sí, apenas voy aterrizando. Se atrasó el vuelo una hora pero estuvo bien.
3. LIZETTE: Qué bueno. Ya me estaba preocupando. ¿Me estás hablando del avión o por qué se escucha tanto ruido y música?
4. ALEX: Eh, sí. Es que la gente anda emocionada por haber llegado. Incluso alguien sacó su aparato de música para celebrar.
5. LIZETTE: Se me hace raro. Debe tener muy buenas bocinas. Se escucha bastante fuerte. Amor, ¿escucho la voz de tu amigo Matías?
6. ALEX: Eh, no. Para nada. Estoy en el aeropuerto, te digo...
7. LIZETTE: ¡Me acabas de decir que estabas en el avión!
8. ALEX: Amor, se está cortando la llamada. Casi no te escucho. Te marco cuando vaya en camino a la casa.
9. LIZETTE: Si llegas con aliento de alcohol no te voy a dejar entrar a la casa.
10. ALEX: Nos vemos mañana entonces. ¡Un besotote!

## ENGLISH

1. LIZETTE: Hi, love. Have you arrived?

CONT'D OVER

2. **ALEX:** Hi, darling... Yes, I'm just landing. The flight was delayed an hour, but it was okay.
3. **LIZETTE:** Oh, good. I was getting worried. Are you talking to me from the plane, or why is there so much noise and music?
4. **ALEX:** Ah, yeah. It's that the people are all excited to arrive. Someone even took out his music player to celebrate.
5. **LIZETTE:** It sounds weird. It must have very good speakers. It sounds very loud. Dear, is that the voice of your friend Matias I hear?
6. **ALEX:** Eh, no. No way, I'm at the airport, I tell you...
7. **LIZETTE:** You just told me you were on the plane!
8. **ALEX:** Darling, the call is breaking up. I can hardly hear you. I'll call you on my way home.
9. **LIZETTE:** If you come back with alcohol on your breath I won't let you in the house.
10. **ALEX:** Then we'll see each other tomorrow. A big kiss!

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
emocionado, -a	excited, touched	adjective, past participle	masculine
gente	people	noun	feminine

cariño	affection, darling, sweetheart	masc. noun	
atrasar	to be delayed		
vuelo	flight	noun	masculine
ruido	noise	masc. noun	
besotote	big kiss		
aliento	breath	masc. noun	
aterrizar	to land	verb	
bocina	(Mexican-Spanish) speaker		

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Estamos emocionados por lo que nos dices.</p> <p>We're excited about what you tell us.</p>	<p>A mí me gusta hablar con la gente en los buses.</p> <p>"I like to talk to the people on the buses."</p>
<p>¿Qué hay de cena, cariño?</p> <p>"What's for dinner, honey?"</p>	<p>Apúrate que estamos atrasados, recuerda que si llegamos tarde no nos van a dejar entrar.</p> <p>"Hurry up because we're late; remember that if we get there late we won't be allowed in."</p>

<p>Tengo que apurarme, que estoy atrasada</p> <p>"I have to hurry up because I am delayed."</p>	<p>Los ruidos de la calle me despertaron temprano.</p> <p>"The noises from the street awoke me early."</p>
<p>Mándale un besotote a mi tía de mi parte.</p> <p>"Send my aunt a big kiss from me."</p>	<p>Tengo que hacer algo para quitarme este aliento de alcohol que tengo.</p> <p>"I have to do something to get rid of this alcohol breath that I have."</p>
<p>El vuelo en el que viene mi novio por fin acaba de aterrizar.</p> <p>"The flight my boyfriend is on has finally landed."</p>	<p>Quiero comprar unas bocinas más grandes para la sala.</p> <p>"I want to buy bigger speakers for the living room."</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***aterrizar*** ("to land," "to touch down")

This transitive *ar* verb means "to land," and we often use it when talking about airplanes landing, as in *el avión aterrizó* ("the airplane landed").

### ***ruido*** ("noise")

This masculine noun means "noise." The adjective form is *ruidoso*, meaning "noisy."

### ***emocionado, -a*** ("moved," "touched," "excited")

This adjective refers to being "touched," "moved," or "excited."

### ***aliento*** ("breath")

The most common meaning of this noun is "breath," as in the phrase *mal aliento*, which is "bad breath." It also has the meaning of "encouragement"; for example, *mi madre me dio aliento*, which means "my mother encouraged me."

## **besotote ("big kiss")**

*Besotote* is the augmentative of the noun *beso*. The normal augmentative form is *besote*, and *besotote* is an exaggerated form.

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is the Verb *Estar* in the Past (Preterite and Imperfect).**

***Se atrasó el vuelo una hora pero estuvo bien.***

**"The flight was delayed an hour, but it was okay."**

***¡Me acabas de decir que estabas en el avión!***

**"You just told me you were on the plane!"**

---

In this lesson, we'll take a look at the two past tense forms (preterite and imperfect) of the verb *estar*.

### **Conjugation**

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<b><i>Subject</i></b>	<b><i>Preterite</i></b>	<b><i>Imperfect Preterite</i></b>
<i>yo</i>	<i>estuve</i>	<i>estaba</i>
<i>tú</i>	<i>estuviste</i>	<i>estabas</i>
<i>él/ella/usted</i>	<i>estuvo</i>	<i>estaba</i>
<i>nosotros</i>	<i>estuvimos</i>	<i>estábamos</i>
<i>vosotros</i>	<i>estuvisteis</i>	<i>estabais</i>
<i>ellos/ellas/ustedes</i>	<i>estuvieron</i>	<i>estaban</i>

---

In English, we translate both of these tenses as the simple past, "was"/"were" and in some cases "used to."

### **The Difference between the Preterite and the Imperfect Preterite**

---

When we talk about the past, we are in essence telling a story. So we may view the difference



between these two tenses as the point in the story in which the narrator places him/herself. We use the preterite when as narrators, we place ourselves outside the situation after it has happened, and we narrate describing the action or state as a finished, completed whole.

1. *Estuvimos en el concierto de Maná anoche. Esperamos tres horas para entrar, pero estuvo fantástico.*

"We were at the Maná concert last night. We waited for three hours to get in, but it was fantastic."

- We use the preterite imperfect when we place ourselves within the story, immersed in the situation, and we narrate from there. So the beginning and end of the whole action are not important.

1. *Estábamos en la fila para entrar al concierto. Había mucha gente. Estábamos tan emocionados.*

"We were in line to get in to the concert. There were a lot of people. We were so excited."

In the first example (preterite), we state the end result of each action, and we talk about the experience as a finished whole. In the second example (imperfect preterite), we are reliving the experience, narrating from that moment.

## Uses of the Preterite and Imperfect Preterite

---

### Preterite

- We use the preterite to talk about an action or state when a specific moment in the past is mentioned or implied.

1. *Estuve en el cine el sábado pasado.*

"I was at the cinema last Saturday."

2. *Hace 12 mil años cayó un cometa sobre la tierra.*

"Twelve thousand years ago, a comet fell to Earth."

- We also use it to talk about single actions that together form part of a sequence of events.

1. *Cuando terminé el café, me paré y me fui.*

"When I finished my coffee, I got up and left."

- We use it to talk about a completed action.

1. *¡Me robaron la billetera!*  
"My wallet was stolen!"

2. *Ya entendí.*  
"I got it."/"I understood."

- We use it to describe actions or states that occurred for a specific duration of time when the beginning or end or the time frame is mentioned or implied.

1. *Estuve en el bar desde las ocho a las diez y no te vi.*  
"I was in the bar from eight till ten and I didn't see you."

2. *Estuvieron con la radio prendida durante toda la película.*  
"They had the radio on during the whole movie."

- We use it to talk about repeated actions when the period of time or specific number of times the action occurred is mentioned.

1. *Durante su viaje a Paris, visitó el Louvre varias veces.*  
"During her trip to Paris, she visited the Louvre several times."

2. *En total, estuvo allí cinco veces.*  
"She was there five times in total."

- We use it to describe an event that interrupts another event.

1. *Estaba en el teléfono, cuando vi la noticia en la tele.*  
"I was on the phone when I saw the news on TV."

Some examples of time expressions generally associated with the preterite are:

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>ayer</i>	"yesterday"
<i>anoche</i>	"last night"
<i>desde el primer momento</i>	"from the first moment"
<i>desde las cinco a las seis</i>	"from five till six"
<i>por tres horas</i>	"for three hours"
<i>durante cinco minutos</i>	"for five minutes"
<i>el año pasado</i>	"last year"

### The Imperfect Preterite

- We use the imperfect preterite to talk about habitual or repeated actions in the past when a specific time is not mentioned, although a time in general may be mentioned or implied.

1. *Todos los martes la esperaba en el café de la esquina. Siempre estaba solo.*  
"He waited/used to wait for her in the cafe on the corner every Tuesday. He was always alone."
2. *Hace unos cinco siglos, los Inca cultivaban más de setenta especies vegetales.*  
"Around five centuries ago, the Incas cultivated/used to cultivate/ more than seventy species of vegetables."

- We use it to talk about a state or action in the past, but we do not specify when it began or ended.

1. *Estaban aburridos de siempre ir al mismo lugar.*  
"They were bored of always going to the same place."

- We use it to describe situations, scenery, characteristics of people and places, the date and time in the past, people's age, the weather, and the surroundings.

1. *El día estaba nublado, eran las cinco, el lugar estaba vacío...*  
"The day was cloudy, it was five o'clock, and the place was empty..."

2. *Tenía 28 años. Era alto y delgado...*  
"He was twenty-eight years old. He was tall and slim..."

• We use it to describe a situation in the past as a backdrop for a specific action.

1. *Estaba cerca de la ventana cuando ella llegó.*  
"He was near the window when she arrived."

In these cases, we can use specific time cues because we are using the preterite too.

1. *El domingo pasado no estabas en casa cuando llamé.*  
"Last Sunday you weren't at home when I called."

• We use it to contrast what we used to do as opposed to what we do now.

1. *Antes estaba siempre aburrido; ahora ya no.*  
"He used to always feel bored, but not anymore."

Some examples of time expressions generally associated with the imperfect preterite include the following:

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>a menudo</i>	"often"
<i>a veces</i>	"sometimes"
<i>siempre</i>	"always"
<i>generalmente</i>	"generally"
<i>todos los martes</i>	"every Tuesday"

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

## Changing the Size of Something with Words

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We use the diminutive, which is a suffix we use to indicate size or to show affection, a lot in Spanish for names of things and people. The most common way is to change the ending of the name to *-ito* or *-ita*. For example, we say *caja* in Spanish to say "box," but when we want to say a "small box," we say *cajita*. For names it works the same way. Let's take the name *Juana*, for example. The diminutive of this name would be *Juanita*.

In the same way that we use the diminutive to indicate that something is small, we also use the augmentative to indicate that something is big. In this case, the most common way is to change the ending of the word to *-ote* or *-ota*. For example, we can say *caja* for "box" or *cajota* for "big box." Unlike the diminutive, we do not use the augmentative with names.

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S3 #25

## What's your Spanish Game Plan?

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# # 25

## INFORMAL SPANISH

1. ESTHER: ¿Tienes planes para el juego del domingo?
2. NADIA: Para nada. Lo último que quiero es ver un juego donde juegan hombres todos sudados y donde mi novio no me va a poner atención.
3. ESTHER: Tienes razón. Yo voy porque así lo puedo observar en su elemento con sus amigos. Me sirve para saber cómo reacciona cuando ve deportes.
4. NADIA: Los incentivos deben venir de tu parte para poder ver el juego en casa.
5. ESTHER: No me gusta el tono de esta conversación. Ni sé a dónde quieres llegar.
6. NADIA: Me refiero a incentivos como tener una televisión pantalla grande de alta definición e invitar a sus amigos Y esposas o amigas a verlo en tu casa. Eso es todo.
7. ESTHER: Ah bueno.

## ENGLISH

1. ESTHER: Do you have any plans for the game on Sunday?
2. NADIA: Not at all. The last thing I want to see is a game with sweaty men playing where my boyfriend won't pay attention to me.

CONT'D OVER

3. ESTHER: You're right. I'm going because then I can watch my boyfriend in his element with his friends. It helps me learn how he reacts when he watches sports.
4. NADIA: The incentives should come from you in order to see the game at your place.
5. ESTHER: I don't like the tone of this conversation. I don't know where you want to go with it.
6. NADIA: I mean incentives like having a high definition big screen television and inviting your male friends and their wives or female friends to watch it at your place. That's all.
7. ESTHER: Oh, okay.

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class
reaccionar	to react	verb
tono	tone	masc. noun
para nada	at all, for nothing	
sudado	sweaty	adjective
incentivo	incentive	masc. noun
atención	attention	feminine noun
referir	to refer	verb
plan	plan	noun
tener razón	to be right	



## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>No sabía cómo reaccionar ante esta difícil situación.</p> <p>"I didn't know how to react faced with this difficult situation."</p>	<p>Hablan en tono amistoso.</p> <p>"They speak in a friendly tone."</p>
<p>No quiero saber de él para nada.</p> <p>"I don't want to know about him at all."</p>	<p>No me abrases que acabo de terminar de correr y estoy toda sudada.</p> <p>"Do not hug me because I just finished jogging and I'm all sweaty."</p>
<p>Me parece genial que estés incentivando a tu hijo a hacer ejercicios.</p> <p>"I think is great that you are encouraging your son to exercise."</p>	<p>¡Presta atención!</p> <p>"Pay attention!"</p>
<p>A esto se refieren los tres últimos capítulos.</p> <p>"The last three chapters refer to this."</p>	<p>El jefe felicitó a Juan por el elaborado plan de desarrollo.</p> <p>"The boss congratulated Juan for the elaborate development plan."</p>

<p>Tienes razón. Deberíamos salir esta noche.</p> <p>"You are right. We should go out tonight."</p>	<p>Limpia la pantalla de tu computadora que está un poco sucia.</p> <p>"Clean your computer screen because it is a bit dirty."</p>
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## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***para nada*** ("for nothing")

We often use *para nada*, and depending on the context, it can also mean "not at all."

### ***sudado*** ("sweaty")

We also use this adjective a lot, and as we know, the feminine form is *sudada*.

### ***incentivo*** ("incentive," "bonus")

It comes from the verb *incentivar*, and this verb means "to encourage." It is an important word to

### ***tono*** ("pitch," "tone," "shade")

*Tono* is a bit more difficult because we have to understand the context in order to know which meaning the speaker is using. A lot of times it means "tone" and could refer to the tone of voice, a dial tone, or even a conversational tone. Other times, it can relate to shades when talking about colors.

### ***pantalla*** ("screen," "monitor," "lamp shade," "fan")

Most of the time, this noun refers to a television screen.

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is Expressing Purpose Using *Para* + Infinitive.**

***Me sirve para saber cómo reacciona cuando ve deportes.***

**"It helps in order to know how he reacts when he watches sports."**

When we talk about an action, it is common to state to what end that action is done; that is, its purpose.

In English, we show purpose by using prepositional phrases: "for + -ing," "to + infinitive," and the phrases "in order to," "so as to," or "so that." We call these constructions subordinators of purpose.

In Spanish, a common subordinator of purpose is **para + infinitive**

**For Example:**

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Tomo para olvidar.</i>	"I drink to forget."
<i>Tuvo que romper la ventana para entrar.</i>	"He had to break the window in order to get in."
<i>Usamos este cuchillo para cortar pan.</i>	"We use this knife for cutting bread."

Remember that after a preposition, the verb always goes in the infinitive.

### **Para + infinitive**

We use this structure when the subject is the same for both actions.

**For Example:**

1. *Hablo en español para aprender.*  
"I speak in Spanish in order to learn."  
i.e., (Yo) *Hablo en español para (yo) aprender.*  
"I speak Spanish so as to learn/ so that I will learn."
2. *Tuvo que romper la ventana (él), para entrar (él).*  
"He had to break the window to get in/(so that he could get in)."

### **Para que + subjunctive**

We use this structure when the subjects are not the same for both actions.

**For Example:**

1. *(Yo) Hablo en español para que aprendas (tú).*  
"I speak in Spanish so that you'll learn."
2. *(Él) Tuvo que romper la ventana para que entraran (ellos).*  
"He had to break the window so that they could get in."

## Passive Sentences

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In passive sentences, we have to carefully identify who is doing the action.

### **Para que + subjunctive**

#### **For Example:**

1. *El acusado fue interrogado para que explicara lo sucedido.*  
*El acusado fue interrogado (por el fiscal) para que (el acusado) explicara lo sucedido.*  
"The defendant was cross-examined (by the prosecutor) so that he (the defendant) could explain what happened."

### **Para + infinitive**

#### **For Example:**

1. *El acusado fue perdonado para darle otra oportunidad.*  
*El acusado fue perdonado (por el juez) para (el juez) darle otra oportunidad.*  
"The accused was pardoned by the judge to give him another chance." ("The judge gave him another chance.")

## Examples from This Dialogue

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1. *Me sirve para saber cómo reacciona cuando ve deportes.*  
"It helps in order to know how he reacts when he watches sports."

## Sample Sentences

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1. *Para perder peso, tienes que comer menos.*  
"In order to lose weight, you have to eat less."
2. *Voy a trabajar para poder ahorrar y viajar.*  
"I'm going to work in order to save and travel."
3. *Yo le hablo en español para que aprenda.*  
I speak to you in Spanish for you to learn."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Soccer: More Than a Sport in Latin America

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It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that in Latin America, soccer is not only a sport but also a religion. Soccer is something that brings people together: people of all ages play it and watch it on TV. Friends get together after work, spend time together, and have fun playing this sport. When matches are broadcast on TV, everyone watches and cheers for their team. Major events like the World Cup are very important in Latin America and receive a lot of media coverage.



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