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Authors Note:

If you are reading this book from your computer, you can listen to these words and phrases aloud! Simply position your cursor over a **Spanish phrase** located in any of the shaded tables. *If correctly positioned over the black text*, your cursor should turn into a hand with a pointing finger. Click. Listen to the correct pronunciation and try it yourself. You can listen to these words and phrases as often as you need to perfect your listening comprehension and pronunciation.

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Part One:

Conversaciones Básicas

Basic Conversations

In this part of the course, you're going to learn all the basic "stuff" for having a conversation. You'll learn greetings and goodbyes, how to talk about what you want and need, as well as how to fill out forms, talk about what you do for a living, and more!

1.1 Saludos y Despedidas Greetings and Goodbyes

What do you say when you greet someone in Spanish?

You might say,

"¡Buenos días!"

"¡Hola!"

"¿Qué tal?"

In this lesson, you're going to learn what each of these greeting means, as well as how to tell someone goodbye.

Unlike in America, where two people often meet and start talking without exchanging formal greetings, greetings are incredibly important in Latin American countries. Whether you're talking to a waiter, a taxi driver, or a stranger that you want to ask directions, always preface your request with a polite, "Buenos días, señor." If someone says, "Buenos días," to you, respond with the same (or the shortened response, "Muy buenos"). If you don't, your lack of a response can be interpreted as being offensive.

So let's take a look at some common greetings. **Click on the Spanish phrase in the table to hear the correct pronunciation.** You can hear *any* of the Spanish words and phrases in the tables in this book simply by positioning your cursor over the phrase and clicking.

Buenos días.	<i>Good morning.</i>
Buenas tardes.	<i>Good afternoon.</i>
Buenas noches.	<i>Good evening. Good night.</i>
Muy buenos.	<i>A shortened version of the above three greetings, suitable anytime.</i>
Hola.	<i>Hello.</i>

Often, you will hear a greeting appended by one of the following words.

señor	<i>sir (also Mr.)</i>
señorita	<i>miss</i>
señora	<i>ma'am (also Mrs.)</i>

Don't confuse *señora* with *señorita*! Address adult or married women with the term *señora*; address girls or young women with *señorita*.

Here's some examples of these words in action.

Travel Agent: Buenos días, señor. ¿En qué le puedo ayudar?

Traveler: Muy buenos, señora. Estoy buscando la dirección de un buen hotel.

Travel Agent: Good morning, sir. How can I help you?

Traveler: Very good morning, ma'am. I'm looking for the address of a good hotel.

Mr. Gonzales: Buenas noches, Señorita Lopez. ¿Cómo has estado?

Miss Lopez: Buenas noches, Señor Gonzales. Estoy muy bien.

Mr. Gonzales: Good evening, Miss Lopez. How've you been?

Miss Lopez: Good evening, Mr. Gonzales. I'm very well.

Young people are often less formal and greet each other with, "How's it going?" For example, a young man might greet a buddy with, "Oye, hombre, ¿qué tal?" or "Hey, man, what's up?"

When you're meeting a friend or someone you're quite familiar with, you may want to greet with a simple, "Hello, how's it going?" You can do so with one of the following phrases:

¿Cómo estás?	<i>How are you?</i>
¿Cómo has estado?	<i>How've you been?</i>
¿Cómo te va?	<i>How's it going?</i>
¿Qué haces?	<i>What are you doing?</i>
¿Qué pasa?	<i>What's happening?</i>
¿Qué tal?	<i>What's up?</i>
¡Tanto tiempo que no te he visto!	<i>It's been so long since I've seen you!</i>

Some common responses are:

Bien. / Muy bien. / ¿Y tú?	<i>Well. / Very well. / And you?</i>
Como siempre.	<i>As always.</i>
No muy bien.	<i>Not very well.</i>
Estoy enfermo/a.	<i>I'm sick. (Use the 'o' ending if you are a man, the 'a' ending if you are a woman.)</i>
Igual.	<i>The same.</i>
Mal.	<i>Bad.</i>
Más o menos.	<i>Okay, so-so.</i>
Nada.	<i>Nothing.</i>
No mucho.	<i>Not much.</i>
Todo bien.	<i>All good.</i>
Un poco cansado/a.	<i>A little tired. (Use the 'o' ending if you are a man, the 'a' ending if you are a woman.)</i>

When you end your conversation, you'll want to say goodbye. Use one of the following words and phrases.

Adios.	<i>Goodbye.</i>
Chao.	<i>Goodbye.</i>
Hasta la vista.	<i>Until we see each other again.</i>
Hasta luego.	<i>Later.</i>
Hasta pronto.	<i>See you soon.</i>
Me despido.	<i>I'll say goodbye now.</i>
Me voy.	<i>I'm going.</i>
Nos vemos.	<i>See ya.</i>
Tengo que irme.	<i>I have to go.</i>

The easiest way to memorize these words and phrases is to use them wherever possible. Say "buenos días" to the waiter at the Mexican restaurant. Get a study partner and practice them on each other. If you can watch greetings and farewells between native speakers, do so. Watch a Spanish-language television channel or listen to a Spanish-language radio station. Use the resources in the Rocket Spanish language course to familiarize yourself with practicing and hearing these greetings.

Conversation Time

Now, practice what you have learned by seeing if you can understand the following conversation.

“

Carmona: Hola, Carlos.
 Carlos: ¡Hola, Carmona! ¿Cómo te va?
 Carmona: Bien, como siempre. ¿Y tú? ¿Cómo has estado?
 Carlos: Un poco cansado.
 Carmona: Ah, lo siento. Bueno, Carlos, me despido. ¡Hasta luego!
 Carlos: Nos vemos.

”

*Carmona: Hello, Carlos.
 Carlos: Hello, Carmona! How's it going?
 Carmona: Good, like always. And you? How've you been?
 Carlos: A little tired.
 Carmona: Ah, I'm sorry. Well, Carlos, I've got to say goodbye. Later!
 Carlos: See ya.*

1.2 Introducciones Introductions

A big part of meeting people is not just knowing how to greet them and say goodbye—it's being able to introduce yourself and others. In this lesson, you'll learn how to tell others who you are and ask their name.

Imagine that you are at a party. A friend grabs your arm and tells you that she'd like to introduce you to someone.

Friend: Te presento a mi amigo, Juan.
You: Encantada.
Juan: El gusto es mío. ¿Cómo te llamas?
You: Me llamo Ann.
Juan: Me gusta tu nombre. ¿De dónde eres?
You: Soy de los Estados Unidos. ¿Y tú?
Juan: Soy de Valencia. ¿Eres soltera?
You: Er ... no.

To understand this conversation, you need to learn some basic introduction phrases.

Te presento a...	<i>I'd like to introduce you to...</i>
Me gustaría presentarte a...	<i>I'd like to introduce you to...</i>
Oye, éste es mi amigo ...	<i>Hey, this is my friend ...</i>
Encantado/a.	<i>It's a pleasure.</i>
El gusto es mío.	<i>The pleasure is mine.</i>
¿Cómo te llamas?	<i>What's your name?</i>
Me llamo...	<i>My name is...</i>
Mi nombre es...	<i>My name is...</i>
¿De dónde eres?	<i>Where are you from?</i>
Soy de...	<i>I'm from...</i>

When you are introduced to someone new, be prepared to be asked some rather personal questions! In many regions in Latin America, people don't think anything about asking you whether you're single or married and how old you are. In fact, four extremely common questions you'll encounter are:

- What's your name? **¿Cómo te llamas?**
- Where are you from? **¿De dónde eres?**
- How old are you? **¿Cuántos años tienes?**
- Are you single or married? **¿Eres soltero/a o casado/a?**

You'll learn how to answer all these questions by the end of this section.

If you look more closely at the last question, you'll notice that **soltero** and **casado** can end in either **a** or **o**. If you are a man, both words will end in **o**. If you are a woman, both words will end in **a**. You may want to simply say that you don't understand Spanish very well at that point, if you don't want to answer, or you can say:

- **Soy soltero/a.** I'm single.
- **Soy casado/a.** I'm married.

If you are a Spanish learner, you may find that your ability to answer a few basic questions in Spanish will encourage your new friend to ask you other questions, which you can't understand at all! Whether you want to explain that you don't understand or simply ask the other person if they speak English, here are some useful phrases.

¿Hablas español?	<i>Do you speak Spanish?</i>
¿Hablas inglés?	<i>Do you speak English?</i>
¿Me entiendes?	<i>Do you understand me?</i>
Entiendo más de lo que hablo.	<i>I understand more than I speak.</i>
Estoy aprendiendo español.	<i>I'm learning Spanish.</i>
Hablas muy bien.	<i>You speak very well.</i>
Lo siento, no entiendo.	<i>Sorry, I don't understand.</i>
No entiendo español muy bien.	<i>I don't understand Spanish very well.</i>
No hablo español.	<i>I don't speak Spanish.</i>
No hablo inglés.	<i>I don't speak English.</i>
No hablo muy bien la lengua.	<i>I don't speak the language very well.</i>
Solo hablo un poco de español.	<i>I only speak a little Spanish.</i>
Un poco.	<i>A little.</i>

Remember that the word for "yes" in Spanish is **sí** while the word for "no" is the same: **no**.

When taking your leave of someone that you've just met, it is polite to add one of the following phrases to your farewell.

Ha sido un placer. / Fue un placer.	<i>It's been a pleasure. / It was a pleasure.</i>
Ha sido un gusto.	<i>It's been a pleasure.</i>
Un gusto conocerte.	<i>A pleasure meeting you.</i>

Conversation Time

Now, practice what you have learned by seeing if you can understand the following conversation.

“

Carlos: Carmona, me gustaría presentarte a mi amiga Jennifer.
 Carmona: Hola, Jennifer. Un gusto.
 Jennifer: El gusto es mío. ¿Cómo te llamas?
 Carmona: Carmona. Hablas español muy bien.
 Jennifer: Gracias, pero solo hablo un poco.
 Carmona: ¿Entiendes mucho?
 Jennifer: Sí, entiendo más de lo que hablo.

”

*Carlos: Carmona, I'd like to present you to my friend Jennifer.
 Carmona: Hello, Jennifer. A pleasure.
 Jennifer: The pleasure is mine. What's your name?
 Carmona: Carmona. You speak Spanish very well.
 Jennifer: Thank you, but I only speak a little.
 Carmona: Do you understand a lot?
 Jennifer: Yes, I understand more than I speak.*

1.3 Lo Que Quieres What You Want

When you're traveling, you often find yourself having to ask for a lot of things. Perhaps you need a phone, or want a drink, or need help. In this lesson, you'll learn many useful words and phrases you can use to communicate what you want.

In Spanish, the most polite way to request something (like a cup of a tea, or a certain dish at a restaurant), is by saying...

Me gustaría...

This means, "I would like..." Add the words, **por favor**, or "please," at the end to be courteous.

Look at the following examples.

- *Me gustaría el pollo, por favor.* I'd like the chicken, please.
- *Me gustaría un vaso de vino tinto, por favor.* I'd like a glass of red wine, please.
- *Me gustaría ver el museo.* I'd like to see the museum.

Here are some possible things that you might like to request using the phrase, "**Me gustaría...**"

Me gustaría...	
un café.	<i>I'd like a coffee.</i>
un té.	<i>I'd like a tea.</i>
una bebida caliente.	<i>I'd like a hot drink.</i>
una bebida helada.	<i>I'd like a cold drink.</i>
un plato de...	<i>I'd like a plate / dish of...</i>
un vaso de...	<i>I'd like a glass of...</i>
una habitación.	<i>I'd like a room.</i>
un boleto.	<i>I'd like a ticket.</i>
hacer un tour.	<i>I'd like to take a tour.</i>
hacer una llamada (internacional).	<i>I'd like to make an (international) phone call.</i>
tener...	<i>I'd like to have...</i>

Necesito: I Need

You may also need to express what you need. You may need an extra towel for your hotel room, or two tickets instead of one. To tell someone what you need, you'll say...

Necesito...

This means, "I need." Here are some examples of this word in use.

- *Necesito una toalla, por favor.* I need a towel, please.
- *Necesito la cuenta, por favor.* (at a restaurant) I need the check, please.
- *Necesito ir.* I need to go.

Here are some possible things that you might need. Simply add one of the entries in the first column to the word, "**Necesito.**"

Necesito...	
ayuda.	<i>I need help.</i>
algo para comer.	<i>I need something to eat.</i>
algo para tomar.	<i>I need something to drink.</i>
un baño.	<i>I need a bathroom.</i>
llamar un taxi.	<i>I need to call a taxi.</i>
un médico.	<i>I need a doctor.</i>
las direcciones a...	<i>I need the directions to...</i>
el número telefónico de...	<i>I need the telephone number of ...</i>
descansar.	<i>I need to rest.</i>
dormir.	<i>I need to sleep.</i>

Quiero: I Want

Finally, you can also say what you want by using the phrase...

Quiero...

Quiero means *I want*. You may want to go somewhere, want a pair of shoes, or want to take some photos. Here are some examples of this phrase in use.

- *Quiero las gafas.* I want the sunglasses.
- *Quiero hacer compras.* I want to go shopping.
- *Quiero ver.* I want to see.

Here's a list of some possible things that you might want. Add one of the entries in the first column to the word, "**Quiero.**"

Quiero...	
estos / esos.	<i>I want these / those.</i>
uno / dos / tres.	<i>I want one / two / three.</i>
caminar.	<i>I want to walk.</i>
ir a...	<i>I want to go to...</i>
pagar ahora.	<i>I want to pay now.</i>
sacar fotos.	<i>I want to take photos.</i>
salir.	<i>I want to get off.</i>
volver.	<i>I want to return.</i>

When People Ask What You Want

When people want to ask you what you'd like, what you need, or what you want, they'll use the exact same verbs with the word **qué** in front. **Qué** means "what."

¿Qué te gustaría?	<i>What would you like?</i>
¿Qué necesitas?	<i>What do you need?</i>
¿Qué quieres?	<i>What do you want?</i>

In fact, here are the three most common phrases you'll hear from waiters, shop attendants, and other servicepeople when they're offering to assist you.

¿Qué le gustaría, señor?	<i>What would you like, sir?</i>
¿En qué le puedo ayudar?	<i>How can I help you?</i>
¿Qué se le ofrece?	<i>What can I offer you?</i>

Conversation Time

Now, practice what you have learned by seeing how much you can understand of the following conversation. Carlos and Carmona are in a restaurant. They order their food then discuss what they want to do that day. Don't worry if most of the conversation contains unfamiliar words. Just focus on trying to get the gist of what they are doing.



Mesero: ¿Qué les gustaría comer?
 Carlos: Me gustaría comer la carne asada.
 Carmona: A mí, me gustaría la ensalada.
 Mesero: ¿Algo para tomar?
 Carlos: Para tomar, me gustaría una cerveza.
 Carmona: Yo, un vaso de vino tinto, por favor.
 Mesero: Bueno.

The waiter leaves.

Carlos: ¿Qué te gustaría hacer hoy?
 Carmona: Necesito ir a un banco. Después, me gustaría ver un museo.
 Carlos: Necesito las direcciones al museo. No sé donde está.
 Carmona: Quiero caminar.
 Carlos: ¡Bien! No necesito llamar un taxi, entonces.



*Waiter: What would you like to eat?
 Carlos: I'd like to have the roast beef.
 Carmona: I'd like the salad.
 Waiter: Anything to drink?
 Carlos: To drink, I'd like a beer.
 Carmona: A glass of red wine, please.
 Mesero: Good.*

The waiter leaves.

*Carlos: What would you like to do today?
 Carmona: I need to go to a bank. Afterwards, I'd like to see a muse
 Carlos: I need the directions to the museum. I don't know where it
 is.
 Carmona: I want to walk.
 Carlos: Great! I don't need to call a taxi, then.*



1.4 Expresiones de Cortesía

Courteous Expressions

Whether you are traveling to a Latin American country or simply interacting with Latin Americans, acting in a courteous way will win you friends and gain you respect. Latin cultures tend to be more formal and place more emphasis on courtesy than you might be used to.

Spend some time with this lesson. Basic phrases like **por favor, gracias, de nada,** and **lo siento** are essential to memorize *before* you travel to a Latin American country. Use them liberally, and you'll find that people will treat you better.

Disculpe.	Excuse me.
Perdón.	Pardon me.
Permiso. / Con permiso.	Excuse me.
Por favor.	Please.
¿Puedo?	May I?
Gracias. Muchas gracias. Mil gracias.	Thanks. Many thanks. A thousand thanks.
De nada.	You're welcome.
Es muy amable.	You're very kind.
Lo siento.	I'm sorry.

Please note that in some parts of the Latin world (like Chile), people don't say "Mil gracias." They say, "*Un millón de gracias*," or a million thanks!

Excuse Me

In Spanish, there are three ways to say, "Excuse me."

- **disculpe**
- **perdón**
- **permiso**

Each of these words is used in a different context. Unless you're spending a long time in a Latin American country, it is best to just stick with **perdón**. **Perdón** is usually used when you're asking for forgiveness, as in, "**Perdón, lo siento.**" (*Forgive me, I'm sorry.*) **Disculpe** is usually used when you're interrupting someone to ask a question.

The last word, **permiso** or **con permiso**, is used to ask permission to do something. In many Latin American countries, it is considered courteous to ask for permission before entering someone else's house. As you walk through the door, simply say, "*Permiso.*" (You don't need to wait for a response!)

Formal v. Informal Modes of Address

Until now, you've learned to address people in the informal way. Unlike English, Spanish distinguishes between formal and informal modes of address. Addressing someone formally shows respect. Addressing someone informally shows that you have a familiar, casual relationship.

usted	<i>formal "you"</i>
tú	<i>informal "you"</i>

Non-native Spanish speakers often find it very difficult to tell when to use **usted** and when to use **tú**. American culture, especially, is very informal, and people move quickly from formal means of address (such as *Mr. Beck* or *Mrs. Taylor*) to a first-name basis. The difference between **tú** and **usted** is not exactly the same as the difference between using last names and being on a first-name basis, but it is a good place to start.

Here's a general guide to when you should use **tú** and **usted**.

Tú (informal)	Usted (formal)
<i>children</i>	<i>elders</i>
<i>friends</i>	<i>people higher in seniority</i>
<i>family</i>	<i>authority figures</i>
<i>peers</i>	<i>strangers</i>

Now, let's see how this affects you. Take a look at how some of the phrases you've already learned change when put in the formal mode of address. Can you see any pattern in the way the phrases change?

Informal Mode	Formal Mode	
¿Cómo estás?	¿Cómo está usted?	How are you?
Te presento a...	Le presento a...	I'd like to introduce you to...
¿Cómo te llamas?	¿Cómo se llama?	What's your name?
¿De dónde eres?	¿De dónde es usted?	Where are you from?
¿Hablas inglés?	¿Habla inglés?	Do you speak English?
¿Me entiendes?	¿Me entiende?	Do you understand me?

Did you notice that in four of the cases above, the last letter 's' was taken off from the end of the verb? This is not always the case—notice how **eres**, or "you are," changes to **es**. Note, too, that the word **usted** was added to some phrases to make it clear who was being addressed.

Question: Is the phrase, "Es muy amable," in formal or informal mode?

You'll learn more about this topic in Lesson 1.4 of the Rocket Spanish Beginners Book. Right now, it's enough that you know that **¿Cómo te llamas?** and **¿Cómo se llama?** are the exact same question—the first phrased informally, the second formally.

Conversation Time

Now, practice what you have learned by seeing how much you can understand of the following conversation. Carlos stops a woman on the street and asks for the time.

“

Carlos: Disculpe, señorita. ¿Me puede decir la hora?
 Woman: Claro. Son las cinco y veinte.
 Carlos: Muchas gracias, señorita. Es muy amable.
 Woman: De nada.

”

*Carlos: Excuse me, miss. Can you tell me the time?
 Woman: Of course. It's 5:20.
 Carlos: Many thanks, miss. You're very kind.
 Woman: You're welcome.*



1.5 Profesión y País de Origen

Profession and Country of Origin

Let's get back to introductions. When you're meeting someone for the first time, chances are they'll ask you what you do, why you're in their country, and where you're from. You already learned the phrase, **¿De dónde eres?** In this lesson, you'll learn more about how to answer this question, as well as to tell people what you do for a living.

For the moment, pretend that you are planning a trip to a Latin American country. Wouldn't it be useful to be able to tell anyone you meet where you're from, what you do, and why you're visiting their country? I recommend that you don't depend on someone asking you the questions below. Instead, take the initiative and prepare a small speech that you can use when you meet someone for the first time. The topics below are great conversation starters. Not only do they break the ice, but they also show the other person that you have some fluency with the language and are willing to try to converse with them in Spanish.

Where are you from?

The question, "Where are you from?" can be asked in two different ways:

- Informal: **¿De dónde eres?**
- Formal: **¿De dónde es?**

The first question is suitable to ask at a party, club, or among young people. The second question is more appropriate for a work colleague, host parents, or anyone you wish to show respect.

The answer will always begin with...

- **Soy de...**

This means, "I am from..." You can add one of the country names below to complete the sentence. (You'll find more in the Beginners Vocabulary Supplement.)

Soy de ...

Alemania.	<i>I'm from Germany.</i>
Australia.	<i>I'm from Australia.</i>
Canadá.	<i>I'm from Canada.</i>
España.	<i>I'm from Spain.</i>
Francia.	<i>I'm from France.</i>
Gran Bretaña.	<i>I'm from Great Britain.</i>
Inglaterra.	<i>I'm from England.</i>
los Estados Unidos.	<i>I'm from the United States.</i>
Nueva Zelanda.	<i>I'm from New Zealand.</i>

What do you do?

If someone wants to ask you what you do, they'll use one of the following questions.

¿Qué haces?	<i>What do you do?</i>
¿En qué trabajas?	<i>In what do you work?</i>
¿Cuál es tu trabajo/profesión?	<i>What's your job / profession?</i>

Fortunately, you don't need to learn many new vocabulary words to answer! Your answer will begin with **Soy...** ("I am"). Complete the sentence by choosing a profession from the table below. Pick from the "Male" column if you are a man, the "Female" column if you are a woman.

Soy...		
<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Profession</u>
abogado.	abogada.	<i>I'm a lawyer.</i>
artista.	artista.	<i>I'm an artist.</i>
contador.	contadora.	<i>I'm an accountant.</i>
enfermero.	enfermera.	<i>I'm a nurse.</i>
estudiante.	estudiante.	<i>I'm a student.</i>
gerente.	gerente.	<i>I'm a manager.</i>
ingeniero.	ingeniera.	<i>I'm an engineer.</i>
doctor.	doctora.	<i>I'm a doctor.</i>
misionero.	misionera.	<i>I'm a missionary.</i>
músico.	música.	<i>I'm a musician.</i>
negociante.	negociante.	<i>I'm a businessman/</i> <i>woman.</i>
periodista.	periodista.	<i>I'm a reporter.</i>
programador.	programadora.	<i>I'm a programmer.</i>
secretario.	secretaria.	<i>I'm a secretary.</i>

¿Qué haces aquí?

¿Qué haces? doesn't just mean, "What do you do?" It also can mean, "What are you doing?"

Similarly, you may hear the question, "**¿Qué haces aquí?**", which means, "What are you doing here?" This gives you an opening to explain that you're studying abroad, or visiting friends, or here on business.

Here's a list of possible questions you might be asked.

¿Qué haces aquí?	What are you doing here?
¿Qué haces en [country or city]?	What are you doing in [country or city]?
¿Estás de vacaciones?	Are you on vacation?

Your answer will begin with, **Estoy**. **Estoy** also means, "I am." Create your answer by adding one of the following endings.

Estoy...

de vacaciones.	<i>I'm on vacation.</i>
estudiando.	<i>I'm studying.</i>
de viaje.	<i>I'm traveling.</i>
aquí por negocios.	<i>I'm here on business.</i>

Conversation Time

Now, see if you can understand the following conversation. Carlos and Carmona have gone away for the weekend to enjoy the sun in Acapulco. While sitting outside by the pool, Carmona strikes up a conversation with a lady sunbathing next to her.

“

Carmona: ¿Hace mucho sol, no?
Mujer: Sí. Tengo mucho calor.
Carmona: ¿Estás de vacaciones?
Mujer: No. Estoy aquí por negocios.
Carmona: ¿En qué trabajas?
Mujer: Soy periodista. Soy de Alemania, y estoy viajando por todo Latinoamérica para un reportaje exclusivo.
Carmona: Qué chévere.
Mujer: ¿Y tú? ¿Qué haces en Acapulco?
Carmona: Estoy de vacaciones con mi esposo.
Mujer: Qué bien.

”

Carmona: It's very sunny, isn't it?
Woman: Yes. I'm very hot.
Carmona: Are you on vacation?
Woman: No. I'm here on business.
Carmona: In what do you work?
Woman: I'm a reporter. I'm from Germany, and I'm traveling through all of Latin America for an exclusive report.
Carmona: How cool.
Woman: And you? What are you doing in Acapulco?
Carmona: I'm on vacation with my spouse.
Woman: How great.



1.6 Preguntas Personales

Personal Questions

In this chapter, you're going to look again at how to answer personal questions like how old you are and whether or not you're married or single. You're going to learn how to say how many siblings you have, if you have children, and what your address and phone number are. Being able to give personal details like these will be very useful for filling out forms or sharing your contact details.

You'll have to know something about numbers to be able to complete this lesson. Fortunately, you can answer most questions in this chapter (with the exception of your age) with the basic numbers from one to ten.

1- uno	6- seis
2- dos	7- siete
3- tres	8- ocho
4- cuatro	9- nueve
5- cinco	10- diez

Let's go through a list of some of the most common questions you might be asked, whether you're filling out a registration form in a hotel or at the consulate getting a new passport. In these situations, you'll be addressed with the formal form of "you." So, though you have seen some of these questions before, all the questions below are expressed formally.

Personal Questions

¿Cómo se llama?	What's your name?
¿De dónde es usted?	Where are you from?
¿Cuál es su nacionalidad?	What's your nationality?
¿Cuántos años tiene?	How old are you?
¿Cuándo nació?	When were you born?
¿Cuál es su fecha de nacimiento?	When is your date of birth?
¿Tiene hermanos?	Do you have siblings?
¿Cuántos hermanos tiene?	How many siblings do you have?
¿Tiene hijos?	Do you have children?
¿Cuántos hijos tiene?	How many children do you have?
¿Tiene esposo/a?	Do you have a spouse?
¿Es soltero/a o casado/a?	Are you single or married?
¿Cuál es su dirección?	What is your address?
¿Cuál es su número telefónico?	What is your telephone number?
¿Cuál es su número de celular?	What is your cell phone number?
¿Cuál es su número de pasaporte?	What is your passport number?

Please note that when a word ends with “o/a” you should choose the ‘o’ ending if you are a man and the ‘a’ ending if you are a woman. For example, a man will be asked, “¿Es soltero o casado?” while a woman will be asked, “¿Es soltera o casada?”

Just remember that with the question, “Do you have a spouse?” the ‘o/a’ ending will be chosen according to the gender of the spouse. A woman will be asked, “¿Tiene esposo?” while a man will be asked, “¿Tiene esposa?”

Answers

When you’re responding, you can follow one of the simple formats below. Just insert the appropriate information in the bracket.

¿Cómo se llama?	Me llamo [your name].
¿De dónde es usted?	Soy de [country name].
¿Cuál es su nacionalidad?	Soy [nationality].
¿Cuántos años tienes?	Tengo [number] años.
¿Cuándo nació?	Nací el [day] de [month] de [year].
¿Cuál es su fecha de nacimiento?	Mi fecha de nacimiento es el [day] de [month] de [year].
¿Tiene hermanos?	Sí, tengo hermanos. OR No, no tengo hermanos.
¿Cuántos hermanos tiene?	Tengo [number] hermanos.
¿Tiene hijos?	Sí, tengo hijos. OR No, no tengo hijos.
¿Cuántos hijos tiene?	Tengo [number] hijos.
¿Tiene esposo/a?	Sí, tengo esposo. OR No, no tengo esposo.
¿Es soltero/a o casado/a?	Soy soltero/a. OR Soy casado/a.
¿Cuál es su dirección?	Mi dirección es [your address].
¿Cuál es su número telefónico?	Mi número telefónico es [your number].
¿Cuál es su número de celular?	Mi número de celular es [your number].
¿Cuál es su número de pasaporte?	Mi número de pasaporte es [your number].

Filling out Forms

If you find yourself being asked to fill out forms with your personal details, you won't get the complete questions that you've studied above. Instead, you'll get short words or phrases.

<i>Example</i>		
Nombre	Name	<i>Jane Doe</i>
Nacionalidad	Nationality	<i>EE.UU.</i>
Género	Gender	<i>mujer</i>
Edad	Age	<i>35</i>
Fecha de nacimiento	Date of birth	<i>22 de febrero de 1970</i>
Estado civil	Marital status	<i>casada</i>
Dirección	Address	<i>Casilla 99-99-99, Quito</i>
Número telefónico	Telephone number	<i>555-555</i>
Número de celular	Number of mobile	<i>055-555-555</i>
Número de pasaporte	Passport number	<i>1111111</i>

Conversation Time

Now, see if you can understand what you have learned. Carlos is checking into a hotel, and the receptionist is asking him for some personal details.

“

Carlos: Me gustaría una habitación, por favor.
 Recepcionista: Muy bien. ¿Puede darme su nombre, por favor?
 Carlos: Claro. Mi nombre es Carlos Morales.
 Recepcionista: ¿Cuál es su nacionalidad?
 Carlos: Soy estadounidense.
 Recepcionista: ¿De dónde eres? Mi hermana es de Chicago.
 Carlos: Soy de Denver.
 Recepcionista: Ah, que chévere. Bueno, señor. ¿Me puede dar un número de contacto?
 Carlos: Sí. El número de mi celular es 022-222-222.
 Recepcionista: Muy bien. ¿Y su dirección?
 Carlos: ¿En los Estados Unidos?
 Recepcionista: Sí.
 Carlos: 9999 Main Street, en la ciudad de Denver, en el estado de Colorado.
 Recepcionista: ¿Su número de pasaporte?
 Carlos: 5555555.
 Recepcionista: Gracias.

”

Carlos: I'd like a room, please.
 Receptionist: Very well. Can you give me your name, please?
 Carlos: Of course. My name is Carlos Morales.
 Receptionist: What's your nationality?
 Carlos: I'm American.
 Receptionist: Where are you from? My sister is from Chicago.
 Carlos: I'm from Denver.
 Receptionist: Ah, how cool. Well, sir. Can you give me a contact number?
 Carlos: Yes. The number of my cell phone is 022-222-222.
 Receptionist: Very good. And your address?
 Carlos: In the United States?
 Receptionist: Yes.
 Carlos: 9999 Main Street, in the city of Denver, in the state of Colorado.
 Receptionist: Your passport number?
 Carlos: 5555555
 Receptionist: Thank you.

 1.7 El Tiempo
The Time

I hope you're ready to talk about the time, because I'm going to give you lots to talk about! In this lesson, you'll learn dozens of useful words and phrases to use to talk about the time. You'll learn essential questions that you'll need to ask if you're traveling, how to talk about the time in conversation, and how to schedule a date.

Let's start out with the most basic components of time: how to talk about minutes, seconds, and hours.

Units of Time

segundo	<i>second</i>
minuto	<i>minute</i>
hora	<i>hour</i>
día	<i>day</i>
semana	<i>week</i>
mes	<i>month</i>
año	<i>year</i>

Have you practiced your numbers? If you have, you know that

- Sesenta segundos es un minuto.
- Sesenta minutos es una hora.
- Veinticuatro horas es un día.
- Un mes tiene veintiocho, veintinueve, treinta, o treinta y un días.
- Doce meses es un año.

10 Essential Questions for Travelers

If you're going to travel to a Spanish-speaking country, you're going to need to know how to ask when a museum opens, when your tour bus arrives at your hotel, or when your flight leaves. So take some time to memorize the essential questions for travelers below.

¿Cuándo abre?	When does it open?
¿Cuándo cierra?	When does it close?
¿Cuándo comienza?	When does it start?
¿Cuándo termina?	When does it end?
¿Cuándo salimos?	When do we leave?
¿Cuándo llegamos?	When do we arrive?
¿Cuándo paramos?	When do we stop?
¿Cuándo comemos?	When do we eat?
¿Cuándo sale (llega)...	When does ...
...el bus?	...the bus leave (arrive)?
...el tren?	...the train leave (arrive)?
...el vuelo?	...the flight leave (arrive)?
¿Cuándo es ...	When is ...
...el concierto?	...the concert?
...el viaje?	...the trip?
...el vuelo?	...the flight?
...la exhibición?	...the exhibit?

Conversational Topics

With the lessons you've learned so far, you're able to cover quite a lot of ground in introductory conversations. You may find yourself being asked, "When did you arrive here?" or, "When do you go back to your own country?" The following list gives you an idea of some questions that you might get asked, or the phrases that you might hear. Remember that the questions don't require a complicated answer: simply respond with either a date or a time.

¿Cuándo vuelves a tu país?	<i>When do you return to your country?</i>
¿Cuándo llegaste?	<i>When did you arrive?</i>
¿Por cuánto tiempo estás aquí?	<i>How long are you here?</i>
¿Hace cuánto tiempo estás aquí?	<i>How long have you been here?</i>
¿Por cuánto tiempo hablas español?	<i>How long have you spoken Spanish?</i>
¿Cuándo será?	<i>When will it be? (hypothetical, conjecture)</i>
¿Qué hora es?	<i>What time is it?</i>
¿Cuál es la fecha hoy?	<i>What's the date today?</i>
Estoy atrasado.	<i>I'm late.</i>
Estoy temprano (tarde).	<i>I am early (late).</i>
Tengo prisa.	<i>I'm in a hurry.</i>

Scheduling a Date

If you need to schedule a meeting with a friend, you'll need to know some phrases for setting up a meeting at a certain day and time. Here are some useful phrases to know.

¿Cuándo nos encontramos?	<i>When will we meet?</i>
¿Cuándo es mejor para ti?	<i>When is best for you?</i>
¿A qué hora?	<i>At what time?</i>
¿Qué día?	<i>What day?</i>
en la mañana / tarde / noche	<i>in the morning / afternoon / night</i>
fin de semana	<i>weekend</i>
entre semana	<i>during the week</i>
temprano	<i>early</i>
tarde	<i>late</i>
en punto	<i>on the dot</i>
mediodía	<i>noon</i>
medianoche	<i>midnight</i>

Los Meses

The Months

enero	January
febrero	February
marzo	March
abril	April
mayo	May
junio	June
julio	July
agosto	August
septiembre	September
octubre	October
noviembre	November
diciembre	December

Las Estaciones

The Seasons

primavera	spring
verano	summer
otoño	autumn
invierno	winter

Los Días de la Semana

The Days of the Week

lunes	Monday
martes	Tuesday
miércoles	Wednesday
jueves	Thursday
viernes	Friday
sábado	Saturday
domingo	Sunday

La Fecha

The Date

Talking about the date can be confusing if you're not used to placing the day of the month before the name of the month. In Spanish, you don't say, "July 12, 1994." You will say, "the 12 of July of the year 1994." Try saying it yourself. It's written out for you below.

el doce de julio del año mil novecientos noventa y cuatro

To talk about the date, you're going to have to be quite good with numbers. The basic format of a date is:

el [day] **de** [month] **del año** [year]

You can also shorten this to:

el [day] **de** [month] **de** [year]

Can you tell me in Spanish when your birthday is? *¿Cuál es tu fecha de nacimiento?*

Part Two:

¡Acción!

Action!

In this part of the course, you're going to learn how to ask more complex questions. You'll learn how to talk about what you're doing and what you're going to do. You'll learn to ask for directions and about what happened. By the end of the lesson, you should be able to use verbs and understand what others are doing.



2.1

¿Qué Quieres? ¿Qué Necesitas?

What Do You Want? What Do You Need?

In Lesson 1.3, you learned how to talk about what you want, need, and would like. In this lesson, you'll learn to add verbs to these phrases so that you can talk about what you want to do and need to do.

Lo Que Me Gustaría Hacer

What I'd Like to Do

¿Qué te gustaría? What would you like?

If you want to talk about what you'd like to do, all you have to do is add a verb to the end of the phrase, **Me gustaría...** (*I would like*).

For example,

Me gustaría...

hacer compras.

hacer turismo.

visitar...

el centro comercial.

el centro histórico.

el museo.

el palacio real.

la iglesia.

la playa.

las montañas.

viajar (a España).

pagar la cuenta.

ir (a la playa).

I'd like to go shopping.

I'd like to go sightseeing.

I'd like to visit...

the shopping center.

the historic district.

the museum.

the royal palace.

the church.

the beach.

the mountains.

I'd like to travel (to Spain).

I'd like to pay the bill.

I'd like to go (to the beach).

Lo Que Necesito Hacer

What I Need to Do

¿Qué necesitas? What do you need?

You can talk about what you need to do with the verb **necesitar**. Just start your sentence with **Necesito...** (*I need*) and complete it with one of the following verbs.

Necesito...	
comer.	<i>I need to eat.</i>
tomar (algo).	<i>I need to drink (something).</i>
descansar	<i>I need to rest.</i>
dormir.	<i>I need to sleep.</i>
irme.	<i>I need to go (or leave).</i>

Lo Que Quiero Hacer

What I Want to Do

¿Qué quieres hacer? What do you want to do?

You can talk about what you want to do with the verb **querer**. Use the following table to complete the sentence, **Quiero...** (*I want*).

Quiero...	
acampar.	<i>I want to go camping.</i>
bucear.	<i>I want to scuba dive.</i>
esquiar.	<i>I want to ski.</i>
hacer ciclismo.	<i>I want to go biking.</i>
ir de excursión (en las montañas).	<i>I want to go hiking (in the mountains).</i>
jugar (voleibol).	<i>I want to play (volleyball).</i>
leer.	<i>I want to read.</i>
montar a caballo.	<i>I want to ride a horse.</i>
nadar (en una piscina, en el mar).	<i>I want to swim (in a pool, in the sea).</i>
ir de pesca.	<i>I want to go fishing.</i>
sacar fotos.	<i>I want to take photos.</i>
surfear.	<i>I want to surf.</i>
tomar el sol.	<i>I want to sunbathe.</i>

Lo Que Me Gusta Hacer

What I Like to Do

¿Qué te gusta hacer? What do you like to do?

You'll learn how to talk about what you like in Lesson 6.2, but for now it might be useful to know a little bit about the phrase, **Me gusta...** If someone asks you what you like to do (as opposed to what you *would* like to do), you can answer using any one of the verbs above, starting with, **Me gusta.** For example,

- **Me gusta nadar.** *I like to swim.*
- **Me gusta acampar.** *I like to camp (go camping).*
- **Me gusta leer.** *I like to read.*

It is important not to confuse **me gustaría** with **me gusta.**

me gustaría	<i>I would like</i>
me gusta	<i>I like</i>

Use **Me gusta...** to talk about your hobbies and what you enjoy doing.

Use **Me gustaría...** to talk about what you would like to do now or in the future.

Conversation Time

Here's a conversation to practice your reading comprehension. Carlos is asking Carmona what she wants to do today.

“

Carlos: ¿Qué te gustaría hacer hoy, Carmona?
 Carmona: Me gustaría visitar el palacio real.
 Carlos: Está bien. Quiero sacar fotos.
 Carmona: Yo también. Después, necesito descansar. Estoy cansada.
 Carlos: Mientras descansas, quiero ir de excursión en las montañas.
 Carmona: A mí me gusta ir de excursión. Quiero ir también.
 Carlos: ¿Qué quieres hacer? ¿Quieres descansar o ir de excursión conmigo?
 Carmona: Bueno, no necesito descansar.

”

Carlos: What would you like to do today, Carmona?
Carmona: I'd like to visit the royal palace.
Carlos: That's fine. I want to take pictures.
Carmona: Me, too. Afterwards, I need to rest. I'm tired.
Carlos: While you rest, I want to go hiking in the mountains.
Carmona: I like to go hiking. I want to go, too.
Carlos: What do you want to do? Do you want to rest or to go hiking with me?
Carmona: Well, I don't need to rest.



2.2 **Voy a...** *I'm Going To...*

¿Qué vas a hacer este fin de semana? What are you going to do this weekend?

It's easy to talk about **what you're going to do** in Spanish. All you have to do is add the words **Voy a...** before a verb. For example,

- **Voy a trabajar.** *I'm going to work.*
- **Voy a jugar.** *I'm going to play.*
- **Voy a dormir.** *I'm going to sleep.*

You can also talk about **where** you're going with the same phrase.

- **Voy a la playa.** *I'm going to the beach.*
- **Voy a México.** *I'm going to Mexico.*
- **Voy a la casa.** *I'm going home.*

You can even talk about **when** you're going....

- **Voy mañana.** *I'm going tomorrow.*
- **Voy el sábado.** *I'm going Saturday.*
- **Voy en la tarde.** *I'm going in the afternoon.*

... as well as **how** you're going to get there!

- **Voy en carro propio.** *I'm going in my own car.*
- **Voy a pie.** *I'm going on foot.*
- **Voy con Margarita.** *I'm going with Margarita.*

The phrase "I'm going to..." is one of the most useful phrases you'll learn in Spanish. You'll use it *all* the time. Let's take a look at some ways in which you might use this useful phrase below.

¿Qué Vas a Hacer?

What are You Going to Do?

Voy a...

ir mañana.	<i>to go tomorrow.</i>
salir.	<i>to leave or go out.</i>
bailar.	<i>dance.</i>
hacerlo.	<i>to do it.</i>

¿A Dónde Vas?

Where are You Going?

Voy...

a la playa.	<i>to the beach.</i>
al centro comercial.	<i>to the shopping center.</i>
al cine.	<i>to the cinema.</i>
al club.	<i>to the club.</i>
al hotel.	<i>to the hotel.</i>
al supermercado.	<i>to the supermarket.</i>
a España.	<i>to Spain.</i>
a Valencia.	<i>to Valencia.</i>

¿Cuándo Vas?

When are You Going?

Voy...

en la mañana.	<i>in the morning.</i>
en la tarde.	<i>in the afternoon.</i>
a las ocho.	<i>at 8 o'clock.</i>
el sábado (domingo, etc)	<i>Saturday (Sunday, etc).</i>
mañana.	<i>tomorrow.</i>
la próxima semana.	<i>next week.</i>
en dos semanas.	<i>in two weeks.</i>
en dos años.	<i>in two years.</i>

¿Cómo Vas?

How are You Going (to get there)?

Voy...

a pie.	<i>on foot.</i>
con (alguien).	<i>with (someone).</i>
en bus.	<i>by bus.</i>
en carro.	<i>by car.</i>
en tren.	<i>by train.</i>

Conversation Time

Here's a conversation to practice what you have learned. Carlos has a business trip to Barcelona, and Carmona wants to know the details.

“

Carmona: ¿Cuándo vas a Barcelona?
 Carlos: Voy el 22 de enero.
 Carmona: ¿Cómo vas?
 Carlos: Voy a manejar.
 Carmona: ¿Vas en carro propio?
 Carlos: No. Voy con Miguel. Vamos en su carro.
 Carmona: Cuando tú estés en Barcelona, yo voy a salir.
 Carlos: ¿A dónde?
 Carmona: No sé. Tal vez a un club con las amigas.
 Carlos: ¡No te diviertas mucho!

”

*Carmona: When are you going to Barcelona?
 Carlos: I'm going January 22.
 Carmona: How are you getting there?
 Carlos: I'm going to drive.
 Carmona: Are you going in your own car?
 Carlos: No. I'm going with Miguel. We're going in his car.
 Carmona: When you're in Barcelona, I am going to go out.
 Carlos: Where to?
 Carmona: I don't know. Maybe to a club with my friends.
 Carlos: Don't have too much fun!*



2.3

Preguntas Questions

Asking questions is fun in Spanish! Usually, all you will need is one word to communicate what you need to know.

You've already learned how to ask many questions in Spanish.

- ✓ ¿**Cómo** te llamas? *What's your name? (Literally, how are you called?)*
- ✓ ¿De **dónde** eres? *Where are you from? (Literally, from where are you?)*
- ✓ ¿**Qué** haces? *What do you do?*
- ✓ ¿**Cuándo** es? *When is it?*
- ✓ ¿**Cuántos** hijos tienes? *How many children do you have?*

Each of these questions includes a word that signals you are asking a question.

- ✓ ¿**Cómo**? *How?*
- ✓ ¿**Dónde**? *Where?*
- ✓ ¿**Qué**? *What?*
- ✓ ¿**Cuándo**? *When?*
- ✓ ¿**Cuántos**? *How many?*

If you take some time to memorize these and just a few more question words, you'll be able to ask anything, including the "reporter's five": *who, what, when, where, and how*.

Who?	¿ Quién ?
What?	¿ Qué ?
When?	¿ Cuándo ?
Where?	¿ Dónde ?
How?	¿ Cómo ?
How much?	¿ Cuánto ?
Which?	¿ Cuál ?

Let's take a look at how these words work in some very basic questions.

¿Quién es?	Who is it?
¿Qué es?	What is it?
¿Cuándo es?	When is it?
¿Dónde está?	Where is it?
¿Cómo es?	What is it like?
¿Cómo está?	How is it? (How are you?)
¿Cuánto es?	How much is it?
¿Cuál es?	Which is it?

Once you memorize the eight questions above, you can ask pretty much anything! Nonetheless, if you *do* find yourself needing to form more complex questions, you'll find the list below useful.

¿Quién? Who?

¿Quién llamó?	Who called?
¿Con quién?	With whom?
¿Quién está encargado?	Who is in charge?
¿Para quién?	For whom?
¿Quién más?	Who else?
¿Quién viene?	Who is coming?

¿Qué? What?

¿Qué es?	What is it?
¿Qué es esto (eso)?	What is this (that)?
¿Qué hago?	What do I do?
¿Qué pasó?	What happened?
¿Qué tipo?	What kind?
¿Qué más?	What else?
¿Qué traigo?	What do I bring?
¿Qué quieres?	What do you want?
¿Qué necesitas?	What do you need?

¿Cuándo?
When?

¿Cuándo es?	<i>When is it?</i>
¿Cuándo pasó?	<i>When did it happen?</i>
¿Cuándo sale (llega)?	<i>When does it leave (arrive)?</i>
¿Cuándo abre (cierra)?	<i>When does it open (close)?</i>
¿Cuándo vamos?	<i>When do we go?</i>

¿Dónde?
Where?

¿Dónde está?	<i>Where is it?</i>
¿A dónde?	<i>Where to?</i>
¿De dónde?	<i>From where?</i>
¿A dónde vamos?	<i>Where are we going?</i>
¿De dónde viene?	<i>Where do you come from?</i>

¿Cómo?
How?

¿Cómo?	<i>What?</i> <i>(if you don't understand what someone has just said and want them to repeat it)</i>
¿Cómo estás?	<i>How are you?</i>
¿Cómo es él (ella)?	<i>What sort of person is he (she)?</i>
¿Cómo fue?	<i>How did it go?</i>
¿Cómo así?	<i>Like this?</i>
¿Cómo se hace?	<i>How is it done? (How does one do it?)</i>
¿Cómo para qué?	<i>Like for what?</i>
¿Cómo se dice ... en español?	<i>How do you say ... in Spanish?</i>

¿Cuánto?
How much?

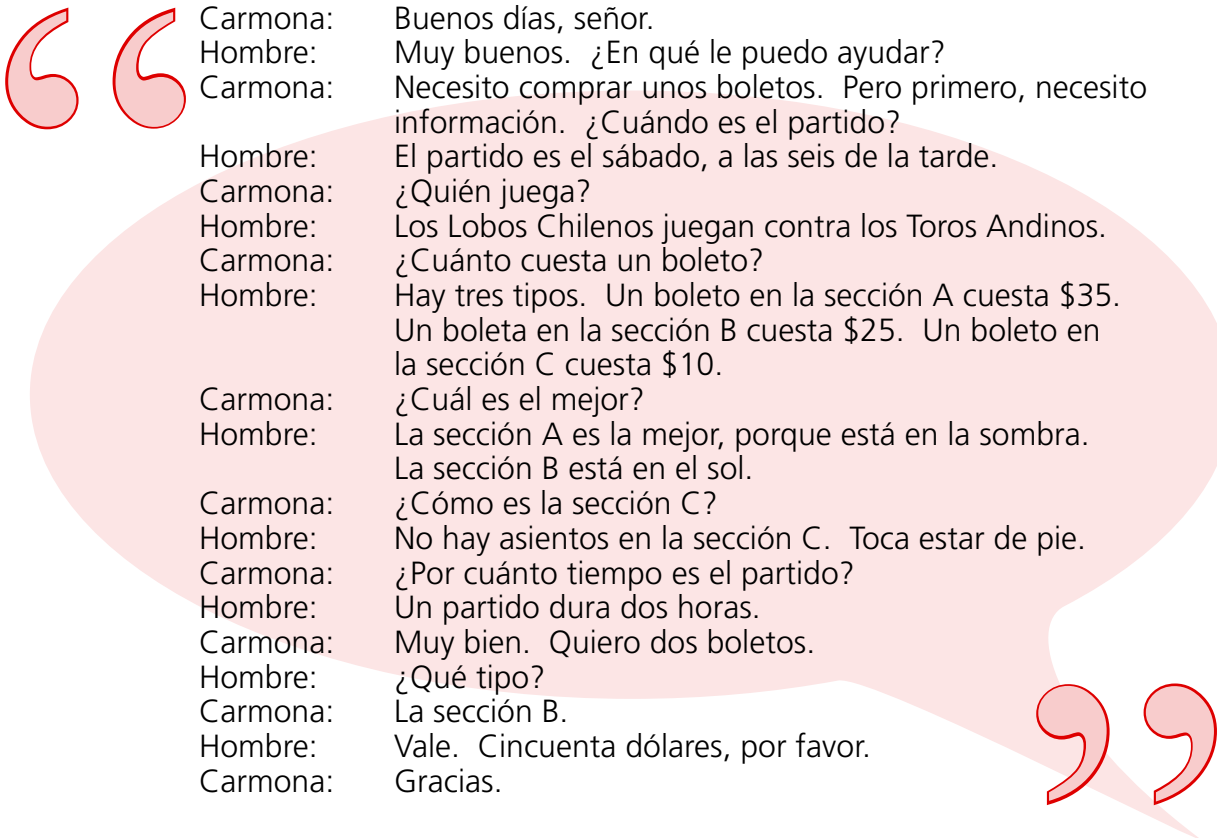
¿Cuánto es?	<i>How much is it?</i>
¿Cuánto cuesta?	<i>How much does it cost?</i>
¿Cuántos?	<i>How many?</i>
¿Por cuánto tiempo?	<i>For how long?</i>

¿Cuál?
Which?

¿Cuál es?	<i>Which is it?</i>
¿Cuál quieres?	<i>Which do you want?</i>
¿Cuál es mejor?	<i>Which is best?</i>

Conversation Time

Buying a ticket requires asking a lot of questions, as Carmona discovers as she goes to buy tickets to a soccer game as a surprise for Carlos.



Carmona: Buenos días, señor.
Hombre: Muy buenos. ¿En qué le puedo ayudar?
Carmona: Necesito comprar unos boletos. Pero primero, necesito información. ¿Cuándo es el partido?
Hombre: El partido es el sábado, a las seis de la tarde.
Carmona: ¿Quién juega?
Hombre: Los Lobos Chilenos juegan contra los Toros Andinos.
Carmona: ¿Cuánto cuesta un boleto?
Hombre: Hay tres tipos. Un boleto en la sección A cuesta \$35. Un boleto en la sección B cuesta \$25. Un boleto en la sección C cuesta \$10.
Carmona: ¿Cuál es el mejor?
Hombre: La sección A es la mejor, porque está en la sombra. La sección B está en el sol.
Carmona: ¿Cómo es la sección C?
Hombre: No hay asientos en la sección C. Toca estar de pie.
Carmona: ¿Por cuánto tiempo es el partido?
Hombre: Un partido dura dos horas.
Carmona: Muy bien. Quiero dos boletos.
Hombre: ¿Qué tipo?
Carmona: La sección B.
Hombre: Vale. Cincuenta dólares, por favor.
Carmona: Gracias.

*Carmona: Good morning, sir.
Man: Good morning. How can I help you?
Carmona: I need to buy some tickets. But first, I need information. When is the game?
Man: The game is Saturday at six o'clock in the afternoon.
Carmona: Who is playing?
Man: The Chilean wolves play against the Andean Bulls.
Carmona: How much does a ticket cost?
Man: There are three kinds. A ticket in Section A costs \$35. A ticket in Section B costs \$25. A ticket in Section C costs \$10.
Carmona: Which is the best?
Man: Section A is the best, because it is in the shade. Section B is in the sun.
Carmona: What is Section C like?
Man: There are no seats in Section C. You must stand.
Carmona: How long is the game?
Man: A game lasts two hours.
Carmona: Very well. I want two tickets.
Man: What kind?
Carmona: Section B.
Man: Fine. Fifty dollars, please.
Carmona: Thank you.*



2.4 Las Direcciones

Directions

Asking for directions is easy. All you ask is,

¿Dónde está...?

followed by the name of the place you're going to.

Even though asking for directions is easy, understanding the directions you are given is not. That's why, in this lesson, you're going to learn a variety of words and phrases related to directions.

Lugares

Places

Here's a list of some places you might like to go and places you may pass on the way to getting there.

agencia de viajes	<i>travel agent</i>
avenida	<i>avenue</i>
baños públicos	<i>public restrooms</i>
calle	<i>street</i>
centro comercial	<i>shopping center</i>
centro histórico	<i>historic center</i>
comisaría	<i>police station</i>
correo	<i>post office</i>
esquina	<i>corner</i>
estación de tren	<i>train station</i>
hospital	<i>hospital</i>
iglesia	<i>church</i>
información	<i>information</i>
museo	<i>museum</i>
palacio (real)	<i>(royal) palace</i>
parque	<i>park</i>
plaza	<i>square</i>
servicios higiénicos (SS.HH.)	<i>public restrooms</i> <i>("hygienic services")</i>
redondel	<i>roundabout</i>
torre	<i>tower</i>

Direcciones

Directions

Here are some useful words and phrases to locate you in what direction you need to take.

a la izquierda	<i>to the left</i>
a la derecha	<i>to the right</i>
derecho	<i>straight</i>
recto	<i>straight</i>
al final	<i>at the end</i>
al oeste	<i>to the west</i>
al este	<i>to the east</i>
al norte	<i>to the north</i>
al sur	<i>to the south</i>
Está muy lejos.	<i>It's very far away.</i>
Está muy cerca.	<i>It's very close.</i>
Está en una línea recta.	<i>It's in a straight line.</i>
Está ubicado...	<i>It's located...</i>
Se encuentra allí.	<i>It's found there.</i>

Mandatos

Commands

When someone gives you directions, they'll tell you that you need to *take* such-and-such street, *turn* left, then *follow* another street. Words like *take*, *turn*, and *follow* are commands. Here are some of the most common.

Coga.	<i>Take.</i>
Cruza.	<i>Cross.</i>
Curva.	<i>Curve.</i>
Dobla.	<i>Turn.</i>
Gira.	<i>Turn.</i>
Pase.	<i>Pass.</i>
Siga.	<i>Follow.</i>
Vaya.	<i>Go.</i>

Señales de Tránsito

Road Signs

Just in case you're driving in a Spanish-speaking country, it might be useful to know what the words mean in the traffic signs that you encounter.

aparcamiento	<i>parking place</i>
ceda el paso	<i>yield, give way</i>
cuidado	<i>caution</i>
despacio	<i>slow</i>
desvío	<i>detour</i>
una vía / doble vía	<i>one way / two ways</i>
obras	<i>road construction, roadworks</i>
parada (de buses)	<i>(bus) stop</i>
parqueadero	<i>parking lot</i>
peligro	<i>danger</i>
dirección única / todas direcciones	<i>only direction / all directions</i>

Conversation Time

See if you can understand the following conversation, in which Carmona stops to ask for directions to the post office.

“

Carmona: Disculpe, señor. ¿Dónde está el correo?
 Hombre: El correo está en la calle Colón.
 Carmona: ¿Dónde está la calle Colón?
 Hombre: ¿No conoce? Bueno, está ubicado atrás de la estación de buses.
 Carmona: ¿Dónde está la estación?
 Hombre: Mire ... ¿ve esa calle? Coge una izquierda. Siga la calle hasta el redondel. De allí, vaya a la derecha hasta la estación de los buses. La calle Colón, donde se encuentra el correo, está al otro lado de la estación.
 Carmona: Gracias, señor. Muy amable.

”

Carmona: Excuse me, sir. Where is the post office?
 Man: The post office is on Columbus Street.
 Carmona: Where is Columbus Street?
 Man: You don't know it? Well, it's located behind the bus station.
 Carmona: Where is the bus station?
 Man: Look ... do you see that street? Take a left. Follow the street until the roundabout. From there, go right until the bus station. Columbus Street, where you'll find the post office, is on the other side of the station.
 Carmona: Thank you, sir. You're very kind.

Part Three:

Las Descripciones

Descriptions

Can you explain what you're like in Spanish? In this section, you'll learn how to describe yourself and others. You'll learn how to talk about how you're feeling and whether you're hot or cold. You'll also learn to describe the weather, tell when something is yours, and much more!

3.1 ¿Cómo es una persona? What is someone like?

If you've been robbed and the policeman asks you what the thief looked like, could you tell him? Perhaps ... "*El ladrón fue muy rápido y muy feo.*" *The thief was very fast and ugly?*

If not, chances are you don't know many description words. In this lesson, you're going to learn how to answer the question, **¿Cómo es una persona?** What is a person like?

¿Cómo es?

What's he/she like?

Don't confuse the question, "¿Cómo es?" with "¿Cómo está?"

- **¿Cómo es Maria?** means what is Maria like?
- **¿Cómo está Maria?** means how is Maria *right now*?

If you're asking what a person is like, you might hear anything as the answer. A person may be short, fat, tall, skinny, blonde, brunette, nice, mean, rich, or poor. All of these qualities are *descriptions*.

Let's think about how we might describe a person. Take Maria for an example.

Maria tiene...	
HAIR	
pelo corto.	<i>Maria has short hair.</i>
pelo largo.	<i>Maria has long hair.</i>
pelo mediano.	<i>Maria has medium-length hair.</i>
pelo liso.	<i>Maria has straight hair.</i>
pelo ondulado.	<i>Maria has wavy hair.</i>
pelo rizado (also crespo).	<i>Maria has curly hair.</i>
pelo castaño.	<i>Maria has brown hair.</i>
pelo negro.	<i>Maria has black hair.</i>
pelo rubio.	<i>Maria has blond hair.</i>
pelo rojo.	<i>Maria has red hair.</i>
EYES	
ojos azules.	<i>Maria has blue eyes.</i>
ojos verdes.	<i>Maria has green eyes.</i>
ojos castaños	<i>Maria has brown eyes.</i>

Maria es...		
HAIR	(For men)	
morena.	moreno.	Maria is dark-skinned, dark-haired.
pelirroja.	pelirrojo.	Maria is a redhead.
rubia.	rubio.	Maria is a blonde.
HEIGHT		
alta.	alto.	Maria is tall.
baja.	bajo.	Maria is short.
WEIGHT		
flaca.	flaco.	Maria is skinny.
delgada.	delgado.	Maria is thin.
gorda.	gordo.	Maria is fat.
ABILITIES		
lenta.	lento.	Maria is slow.
rápida.	rápido.	Maria is fast.
fuerte.	fuerte.	Maria is strong.
débil.	débil.	Maria is weak.
FEATURES		
bonita.	n/a	Maria is pretty.
hermosa.	n/a	Maria is beautiful.
guapa.	guapo.	Maria is good-looking.
fea.	feo.	Maria is ugly.
PERSONALITY		
abierta.	abierto.	Maria is open.
alegre.	alegre.	Maria is cheerful.
amable.	amable.	Maria is nice.
callada.	callado.	Maria is quiet.
chistosa.	chistoso.	Maria is funny, humorous.
divertida.	divertido.	Maria is fun.
grosera.	grosero.	Maria is rude.

horrible.	horrible.	<i>Maria is horrible.</i>
inteligente.	inteligente.	<i>Maria is intelligent.</i>
malcriada.	malcriado.	<i>Maria is bad-mannered.</i>
paciente.	paciente.	<i>Maria is patient.</i>
perezosa.	perezoso.	<i>Maria is lazy.</i>
seria.	serio.	<i>Maria is serious.</i>
simpática.	simpático.	<i>Maria is kind.</i>
sofisticada.	sofisticado.	<i>Maria is sophisticated.</i>
tímida.	tímido.	<i>Maria is shy.</i>
trabajadora.	trabajador.	<i>Maria is hard-working.</i>
valiente.	valiente.	<i>Maria is brave.</i>

WEALTH

pobre.	pobre.	<i>Maria is poor.</i>
rica.	rico.	<i>Maria is rich.</i>
de clase media.	de clase media.	<i>Maria is middle class.</i>

Conversation Time

With all these descriptions, you can describe anyone! As Carmona found out when she was trying to explain to Carlos...

“

Carmona: Conocí a una nueva amiga hoy.
 Carlos: Que bueno. ¿Cómo se llama?
 Carmona: Se llama Andrea, y es abogada.
 Carlos: Debe ser rica.
 Carmona: No, no es rica. Es como nosotros. Es de clase media.
 Carlos: ¿Es bonita?
 Carmona: Sí. Es rubia, y tiene ojos azules.
 Carlos: ¿De dónde es?
 Carmona: Es de los Estados Unidos. Es muy tímida, en realidad.
 Carlos: No lo creo. ¿Una abogada americana tan bonita?
 ¡No tiene por qué ser tímida!

”

Carmona: I met a new friend today.
 Carlos: How great. What's her name?
 Carmona: Her name is Andrea, and she is a lawyer.
 Carlos: She must be rich.
 Carmona: No, she isn't rich. She is like us. She's middle class.
 Carlos: Is she pretty?
 Carmona: Yes. She is blond and has blue eyes.
 Carlos: Where is she from?
 Carmona: She is from the United States. She's very shy, really.
 Carlos: I don't believe it. An American lawyer that pretty?
 She doesn't have any reason to be shy!



3.2 Las Emociones

Feelings

You didn't learn many ways to answer the question, "¿Cómo estás?" in lesson 1.1. Now that you know a bit more Spanish, you can try answering in a bit more complex way. Maybe you want to say that you're worried, busy, bored, or happy.

It's easy to do! Add one of the words in the following table to **Estoy...**

Estoy...		
aburrido.	aburrida.	<i>I'm bored.</i>
asustado.	asustada.	<i>I'm frightened.</i>
avergonzado.	avergonzada.	<i>I'm embarrassed.</i>
cansado.	cansada.	<i>I'm tired.</i>
celoso.	celosa.	<i>I'm jealous.</i>
contento.	contenta.	<i>I'm happy, content.</i>
emocionado.	emocionada.	<i>I'm excited.</i>
enfadado.	enfadada.	<i>I'm enraged.</i>
enojado.	enojada.	<i>I'm angry.</i>
feliz.	feliz.	<i>I'm happy.</i>
nervioso.	nerviosa.	<i>I'm nervous.</i>
ocupado.	ocupada.	<i>I'm busy.</i>
preocupado.	preocupada.	<i>I'm worried.</i>
sorprendido.	sorprendida.	<i>I'm surprised.</i>
tranquilo.	tranquila.	<i>I'm calm.</i>
triste.	triste.	<i>I'm sad.</i>

You can also talk about some common feelings with the word, **Tengo...** The following are the most commonly used.

Tengo...	
miedo.	<i>I'm scared.</i>
prisa.	<i>I'm in a hurry.</i>
vergüenza.	<i>I'm embarrassed.</i>

Conversation Time

See if you can recognize emotions with this conversation. Carlos and Carmona are in a hurry to get to the soccer game, and they're stuck in traffic.

“

Carlos: ¡Qué coraje! Tengo prisa.
 Carmona: Estoy emocionada. ¡Va a ser un buen partido!
 Carlos: Por mi parte, estoy enojado con este tráfico.
 Carmona: Tranquilo, tranquilo. Llegaremos. Estoy contenta estar aquí contigo.
 Carlos: Estoy cansado de todo este tráfico.
 Carmona: Basta, Carlos.

”

Carlos: *How infuriating! I'm in a hurry.*
 Carmona: *I'm excited. It's going to be a good game!*
 Carlos: *For me, I'm angry with this traffic.*
 Carmona: *Calm down, calm down. We'll arrive. I'm happy being here with you.*
 Carlos: *I'm tired of all this traffic.*
 Carmona: *That's enough, Carlos.*



3.3 El Clima The Weather

Knowing how to ask about the weather is extremely important if you're traveling. You'll need to know what sort of weather gear to pack and whether to plan to go outside or stay inside. In this lesson, you'll learn a variety of questions, phrases, and words to describe the weather as well as weather-related clothing.

¿Cómo está el clima? *What's the weather like?*

In Lesson 3.3 of the Beginners Book, you'll learn more about how to ask what the weather is like. For now, just review some of the most common.

¿Cómo está el clima?	<i>How's the weather?</i>
¿Cómo está el clima allá?	<i>How's the weather over there?</i>
¿Cómo está por afuera?	<i>What's it like outside?</i>
¿Cómo está por adentro?	<i>What's it like inside?</i>
¿Qué tiempo hace?	<i>What's the weather like?</i>
¿Qué tiempo hace en Barcelona?	<i>What's the weather like in Barcelona?</i>
¿Cuál es el pronóstico del tiempo para hoy?	<i>What's the weather forecast for today?</i>

Here are a few possible responses.

Está granizando.	<i>It's hailing.</i>
Está haciendo una tormenta.	<i>It's storming.</i>
Está helado.	<i>It's icy.</i>
Está húmedo.	<i>It's damp.</i>
Está lloviendo.	<i>It's raining.</i>
Está lloviznando.	<i>It's drizzling.</i>
Está nevando.	<i>It's snowing.</i>
Está nublado.	<i>It's cloudy.</i>
Está despejado.	<i>It's clear.</i>
Hace (mucho) sol.	<i>It's (very) sunny.</i>
Hace (mucho) calor.	<i>It's (very) hot.</i>
Hace (mucho) frío.	<i>It's (very) cold.</i>
Hace (muy) buen clima.	<i>The weather is (very) good.</i>
Hace (muy) mal clima.	<i>The weather is (very) bad.</i>
Me parece que va a llover/nevar...	<i>It seems to me that it's going to rain/snow...</i>
Va a llover/hacer sol/hacer frío...	<i>It's going to rain/be sunny/be cold...</i>
Vamos a estar adentro.	<i>We're going to be inside.</i>
Vamos a estar afuera.	<i>We're going to be outside.</i>

Palabras para el Clima

Words for the Weather

Here are some basic weather conditions that you might hear.

aguacero	downpour
arco iris	rainbow
brisa	breeze
granizos	hail
hielo	ice
inundación	flood
llovizna	drizzle
lluvia	rain
neblina	mist, light fog
niebla	fog
nieve	snow
nube	cloud
rayo	ray of lightning
relámpago	lightning
terremoto	earthquake
tormenta	storm
trueno	thunder

La Temperatura

The Temperature

You read the temperature, **la temperatura**, on a thermometer, or **un termómetro**. Be careful with this word, however. **La temperatura** usually refers to *body* temperature rather than the temperature outside. Ask what temperature it is outside with the following phrase:

¿Cuántos grados hacen?

How many degrees is it?

The word for *degrees* is **grados**. Your answer will be in degrees Celsius, or **grados centígrados**. A sample answer is

Hacen once grados centígrados.

It is 11 degrees Celsius.

¿Tienes Calor o Frío?

Are You Hot or Cold?

If the weather is no good, you may want to say that you're hot, cold, wet, or miserable! Here are some useful phrases.

Tengo frío.		<i>I'm cold.</i>
Tengo calor.		<i>I'm hot.</i>
Estoy mojado.	<i>(for men)</i>	<i>I'm wet.</i>
Estoy mojada.	<i>(for women)</i>	
Me voy a enfermar.		<i>I'm going to get sick.</i>

Ropa para el Mal Clima

Clothes for Bad Weather

Part of dealing with weather conditions is having the appropriate clothing. If you're unclear about what clothing you should bring, ask

¿Qué tipo de ropa debo traer?

What sort of clothing should I bring?

Answers may include:

Un abrigo.	<i>A coat.</i>
Unas botas de caucho.	<i>Some rubber boots.</i>
Unas botas de cuero.	<i>Some leather boots.</i>
Una bufanda.	<i>A scarf.</i>
Una chaqueta.	<i>A jacket.</i>
Crema del sol.	<i>Sunscreen.</i>
Unas gafas.	<i>Some sunglasses.</i>
Una gorra.	<i>A baseball cap.</i>
Un impermeable.	<i>A raincoat.</i>
Un paraguas.	<i>An umbrella.</i>
Ropa caliente.	<i>Warm clothing.</i>
Ropa liviana.	<i>Light clothing.</i>
Unas sandalias.	<i>Some sandals.</i>
Un sombrero.	<i>A hat.</i>
Un suéter.	<i>A sweater.</i>
Un traje de baño.	<i>A swimsuit.</i>

Conversation Time

Now you're ready to hear some of these words and phrases in a conversation! Listen as Carlos and Carmona sit through a freezing soccer match.

“

Carmona: Ai, ¡qué frío!
 Carlos: Está helado. ¿Tienes frío? ¿Quieres mi chaqueta?
 Carmona: No, estoy bien. Tengo un sombrero y una bufanda.
 Carlos: Mira. ¡Ahora está granizando!
 Carmona: ¿Dónde está el impermeable?
 Carlos: Aquí está. ¡Qué mal clima!
 Carmona: Me parece que va a nevar.
 Carlos: Vamos adentro. Hace demasiado frío aquí.

”

Carmona: Aye, how cold it is!
Carlos: It's freezing. Are you cold? Do you want my jacket?
Carmona: No, I'm fine. I have a hat and a scarf.
Carlos: Look. Now it's hailing!
Carmona: Where is the raincoat?
Carlos: Here it is. What terrible weather!
Carmona: It looks like it's going to snow.
Carlos: Let's go inside. It's too cold here.



3.4

El Tuyo y El Mío Yours and Mine

There are so many situations in which you need to talk about to whom something belongs. For example...

- ...You are sitting on a park bench, and an old lady sitting next to you nudges you and points to a jacket that has been dropped on the ground. "Is that yours?" *¿Es suyo?*
- ...You are checking in at the airport, and the customs inspector asks you, "Are those bags yours?" *¿Son esas las maletas tuyas?*
- ...You are on a bus, and the passenger next to you takes your backpack from the overhead rack and starts to leave with it. "Excuse me!" you say. "That backpack is mine." *Perdón, esa mochila es mía.*

In this lesson, you're going to learn how to say all of these phrases, so that you can make sure that you don't lose your possessions.

¿De Quién Es?

Whose is it?

Asking to whom something belongs is easy in Spanish.

¿De quién es?

Whose is it?

With this phrase, you can ask who the coat belongs to, or who the seat belongs to, or who the lovely voice belongs to. If you want to be more specific than just, *Whose is it?* you can add a noun at the end to create questions like *Whose is the coat?* *Whose house is it?* Let's look at some examples.

¿De quién es...

el abrigo?	Whose coat is this?
el asiento?	Whose seat is this?
la maleta?	Whose suitcase is this?
la mochila?	Whose backpack is this?
éste?	Whose is this?
ése?	Whose is that?

The answer can take a variety of forms. You might wish to say,

- The coat is Daniel's.
- The coat is hers.
- The coat is mine.

Let's look at each of these in turn.

➤ El abrigo es de Daniel.

The coat is Daniel's.

If you want to say that something belongs to one person in particular, you will use “**Es de...**” followed by the name.

- **¿De quién es el abrigo? Es de Daniel.**
Whose coat is this? It's Daniel's.
- **¿De quién es la casa? Es la casa de los señores Hernández.**
Whose house is this? It's the house of Mr. and Mrs. Hernandez.
- **¿De quién son las maletas? Las maletas son de la Señorita López.**
Whose suitcases are these? The suitcases are Miss Lopez's.

➤ El abrigo es de ella.

The coat is hers.

You can also replace the person's name with a personal pronoun like *he, she, we, and they*.

- **¿De quién es el asiento? Es de él.**
Whose seat is this? It's his.
- **¿De quién es la habitación? Es de nosotros.**
Whose room is this? It's ours.
- **¿De quién son los boletos? Son de ellos.**
Whose tickets are these? They're theirs.

➤ El abrigo es mío.

The coat is mine.

If you want to say that something is mine or yours, you have to learn some new words.

mío	mine
tuyo	yours (informal)
suyo	yours (formal)

Let's look at some examples.

- **¿De quién es la mochila? Es mía.** *Whose backpack is it? It's mine.*
- **¿De quién es éste? Es mío.** *Whose is this? It's mine.*
- **¿De quién es el plato? Es suyo.** *Whose plate (of food) is it? It's yours.*

You can also use these words to tell someone that it's yours, not theirs, or vice versa.

- **Es mío, no es suyo.** *It's mine, it's not yours.*
- **Es suyo, no es mío.** *It's yours, it's not mine.*

- **Es de ellos, no de nosotros.** *It's theirs, not ours.*
- **Es de Anita, no de Carla.** *It's Anita's, not Carla's.*

Tu Abrigo, Mi Abrigo

Your Coat, My Coat

One final way in which you can talk about what's yours is by putting the word **mi** in front of a noun.

- **mi celular** *my cellphone*
- **mi hotel** *my hotel*
- **mi pasaporte** *my passport*
- **mi vuelo** *my flight*
- **mis llaves** *my keys*

If you want to talk about *your* flight, keys, or hotel, just put the word **tu** (informal) or **su** (formal) in front of a noun.

- **tu celular** *your cellphone*
- **tu hotel** *your hotel*
- **su pasaporte** *your passport*
- **su vuelo** *your flight*
- **sus llaves** *your keys*

Here are some common sentences that you might hear.

- At the airport: **¿Su pasaporte, señor?** *Your passport, sir?*
- At the hotel: **Aquí están sus llaves.** *Here are your keys.*
- At the travel agency: **Su vuelo sale a las ocho.** *Your flight leaves at eight o'clock.*

Conversation Time

Now that you know how to talk about what belongs to you and what belongs to someone else, let's see if you can understand this new vocabulary in the context of a conversation.



Carmona: Carlos, ¿tienes mi llave?
Carlos: No, no tengo tu llave. ¿Por qué?
Carmona: Porque no sé donde está.

She picks up a key lying on the window sill.

Carmona: ¿De quién es esta llave?
Carlos: Es mía. No es tuya.
Carmona: Vale.

She sets the key down again, sighing.

Carmona: ¿Dónde estará?
Carlos: ¿No está en el bolsillo de tu abrigo?
Carmona: Voy a ver. ¡Ah! Aquí está. ¡Qué felicidad!
Carlos: Qué bueno.



*Carmona: Carlos, do you have my key?
Carlos: No, I don't have your key. Why?
Carmona: Because I don't know where it is.*

She picks up a key lying on the window sill.

*Carmona: Whose key is this?
Carlos: It's mine. It's not yours.
Carmona: Okay.*

She sets the key down again, sighing.

*Carmona: Where could it be?
Carlos: It isn't in the pocket of your coat?
Carmona: I'll look. Ah! Here it is. What happiness!
Carlos: How great.*

Part Four:

¡Vamos a Hacer Compras!

We're Going to Go Shopping

By now, you should know quite a few basic words and phrases in Spanish. With what you know already, you can communicate in a variety of situations. Sometimes, though, you'll need a bit more specialized vocabulary. From this section on, you're going to learn useful words and phrases for more specific situations: for buying, for traveling, for social engagements, and more. Right now, let's learn about shopping!

 4.1 Las Compras
Shopping

If you're going to go shopping, you need to know your numbers perfectly. Depending on whether you're talking about dollars (Ecuador, El Salvador), pesos (Mexico, Chile), or euros (Spain), you need to be able to ask how much something costs and understand the response. Knowing numbers is especially important when bargaining. You'll learn more about bargaining in the next section.

To begin with, let's talk about money. *Money* in Spanish is:

- **el dinero**
- **la plata** (literally *silver* ... an informal term for money)

There are many currencies in Latin America, from the *real* (Brazil) to the *bolívar* (Venezuela) to the *nuevo sol* (Perú). The three most common are the dollar, the peso, and the euro. Here they are in Spanish.

Currencies**Las Monedas**

dólares (un dólar)	dollars
centavos (un centavo)	cents
euros (un euro)	euros
pesos (un peso)	pesos

Unlike in English, you can't say that something that costs \$1.25 is "one twenty-five." In Spanish, you'll have to say the complete phrase: it is one dollar and twenty-five cents.

Cuesta un dólar y veinte cinco centavos.

If the currency is pesos, you may find yourself dealing with very large numbers, such as 15,000 pesos. Remember that

- **cien** = a hundred
- **mil** = a thousand
- **un millón** = a million

The question "How much does it cost?" can be asked in several ways.

- **¿Cuánto cuesta?**
- **¿Cuánto vale?**
- **¿Qué precio tiene?**

The most common is the first phrase: *¿Cuánto cuesta?*

The answer will usually start with “Cuesta...” followed by the money amount. For example,

- *¿Cuánto cuesta?*
How much does it cost? Cuesta diez dólares y veinte centavos.
It costs \$10.20.
- *¿Cuánto cuestan los zapatos?*
How much do the shoes cost? Cuestan ochenta dólares.
They cost \$80.
- *¿Cuánto cuesta un café?*
How much does a coffee cost? Cuesta dos euros y cincuenta centavos.
It costs €2.50.
- *¿Cuánto cuesta el pasaje de bus?*
How much does the bus fare cost? El pasaje cuesta mil pesos.
The fare costs 1,000 pesos.

Las Tiendas

Shops

When you go shopping, you’re probably looking for a certain type of shop. You may need a grocery store, a department store, or a clothing store. Here are some types of shops that you might need to find.

el almacén	<i>store, department store</i>
el centro comercial	<i>shopping center</i>
el correo	<i>post office</i>
el mercado	<i>market</i>
el supermercado	<i>supermarket</i>
el vendedor	<i>vendor</i>
la carnicería	<i>the butcher</i>
la farmacia	<i>pharmacy</i>
la lavandería	<i>laundromat</i>
la librería	<i>bookstore</i>
la panadería	<i>bakery</i>
la pastelería	<i>pastry shop</i>
la tienda	<i>store, shop</i>
la tienda de música	<i>music store</i>
la tienda de ropa	<i>clothing store</i>

Comprar y Vender

To Buy and to Sell

Once you've found the right shop, you need to find what you're looking for. Use the following words and phrases to find what you need, figure out how much it costs, tell the vendor how many you want, and explain how you'd like to pay.

Busco...	<i>I'm looking for...</i>
¿Cuánto cuesta?	<i>How much does it cost?</i>
Cuesta ... cada uno.	<i>Each one costs...</i>
¿Cuántos?	<i>How many?</i>
¿Cuántos quiere?	<i>How many do you want?</i>
¿Para cuántas personas?	<i>For how many people?</i>
¿Tiene más?	<i>Do you have more?</i>
¿Quiere probárselo?	<i>Would you like to try it on?</i>
Lo llevo.	<i>I'll take it.</i>

Como Pagar

How to Pay

¿Cómo desea pagar?	<i>How would you like to pay?</i>
Por crédito.	<i>By credit.</i>
Por cheque.	<i>By check.</i>
Por cheque de viajero.	<i>By travelers cheque.</i>
En efectivo.	<i>With cash.</i>
¿Puedo pagar con cheque de viajero?	<i>Can I pay with a travelers cheque?</i>
¿Cuál es el número de su tarjeta de crédito?	<i>What is your credit card number?</i>
¿Puede firmar aquí?	<i>Can you sign here?</i>

Los Métodos de Pagar

Methods of Payment

el cheque	<i>check</i>
el cheque de viajero	<i>travelers cheque</i>
la tarjeta de crédito	<i>credit card</i>
el recibo, la factura	<i>receipt</i>

Once you know the basics of buying, you can buy clothing, food, souvenirs, or anything! For right now, see if you can put your new vocabulary to use in purchasing clothing.

La Ropa

Clothing

el bolsillo	<i>pocket</i>
el suéter	<i>sweater</i>
el vestido	<i>dress</i>
la camisa	<i>shirt</i>
la camiseta	<i>t-shirt</i>
la falda	<i>skirt</i>
las mangas	<i>sleeves</i>
la ropa interior	<i>underwear</i>
los pantalones	<i>trousers, pants</i>
los pantalones cortos	<i>shorts</i>
sin mangas	<i>sleeveless</i>

Los Colores

Colors

rojo, colorado, tinto	<i>red</i>
naranja, tomate, anaranjado	<i>orange</i>
amarillo	<i>yellow</i>
verde	<i>green</i>
azul	<i>blue</i>
morado, púrpura	<i>purple</i>
negro	<i>black</i>
gris	<i>gray</i>
blanco	<i>white</i>
(azul) oscuro	<i>dark (blue)</i>
(azul) claro	<i>light (blue)</i>

El Estilo

Style

¿Qué talla lleva?	<i>What size do you wear?</i>
talla	<i>size</i>
talla mediana	<i>medium size</i>
talla pequeña, talla chica	<i>small size</i>
talla grande	<i>large size</i>
Es muy grande.	<i>It's very large.</i>
Es muy pequeño.	<i>It's very small.</i>
Es muy corto.	<i>It's very short.</i>
Es muy largo.	<i>It's very long.</i>
Me queda bien.	<i>It looks good on me.</i>
Me queda mal.	<i>It looks bad on me.</i>
Es de muy buena calidad.	<i>It's very good quality.</i>
Es de muy mala calidad.	<i>It's very bad quality.</i>

La Tela

Fabric

Es de algodón.	<i>It's made of cotton.</i>
Es de lana.	<i>It's made of wool.</i>
Es de seda.	<i>It's made of silk.</i>
Es muy liviano.	<i>It's very light.</i>
Es muy fino.	<i>It's very fine.</i>
Es muy grueso.	<i>It's very thick.</i>
Pica.	<i>It itches.</i>

Conversation Time

See if you can understand the following conversation, in which Carmona tries on a dress at a shop.

“

Hombre: Buenas tardes, señora. ¿Cómo le puedo ayudar?
 Carmona: Busco una falda roja.
 Hombre: Aquí tenemos muchas faldas. ¿Qué piensa de ésta?
 Carmona: No sé. Es muy liviana. ¿Es de seda?
 Hombre: No, no. Es de algodón.
 Carmona: Ah. ¿Puedo probármela?
 Hombre: Claro. Los vestidores están allí.

Carmona tries on the dress.

Carmona: Es muy corta.
 Hombre: Es el estilo.
 Carmona: ¿Tiene otro estilo?
 Hombre: Claro. Tengo ésta.
 Carmona: ¡Qué bonita! ¿La tiene en una talla mediana?
 Hombre: Sí.
 Carmona: La llevo. ¡Gracias!

”

Man: Good afternoon, ma'am. How can I help you?
 Carmona: I'm looking for a red dress.
 Man: Here we have many dresses. What do you think of this one?
 Carmona: I don't know. It's very light. Is it silk?
 Man: No, no. It's cotton.
 Carmona: Ah. Can I try it on?
 Man: Of course. The dressing rooms are there.

Carmona tries on the dress.

Carmona: It's very short.
 Man: It's the style.
 Carmona: Do you have another style?
 Man: Of course. I have this one.
 Carmona: How pretty! Do you have it in a medium?
 Man: Yes.
 Carmona: I'll take it. Thank you!



4.2

Regateo Bargaining

Bargaining is a way of life in many Latin American countries, so it may be worth your while to invest some time in learning how to do it. Here are some bargaining tips:

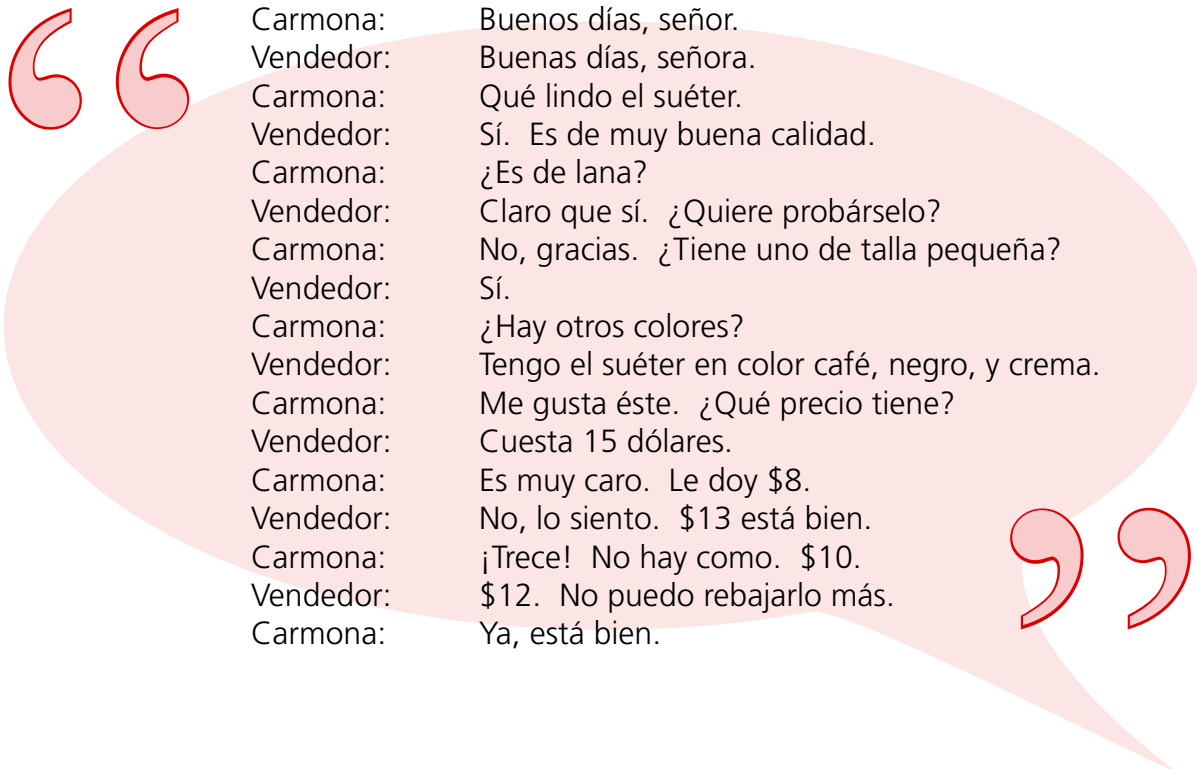
- The best places to bargain are markets. However, if prices are marked, they are probably *precios fijos*, or fixed prices.
- The best time to get a real bargain is when the markets are about to close for the day. Just remember that the selection may be less, because the best items usually go quickly.
- Bargaining is expected in most traditional markets, so never agree to the first offered price.
- Make sure you know what a fair price is for the item you want. Ask a local if possible.
- Decide how much you want to pay in advance. Sometimes, if you can't agree on a price and end up walking away, the vendor will capitulate and offer you a super-low price.
- Always be courteous. Some small conversation sets up a comfortable environment for bargaining to begin.
- Your first offer should usually be about half of the original offer.
- If you buy in quantity, ask for a discount.
- If a price is reasonable, accept it. Don't quibble over a few cents if it doesn't make that much difference to you.

When you bargain, you're going to need to know some basic vocabulary.

Es muy caro.	<i>It's very expensive.</i>
Es muy barato.	<i>It's very cheap.</i>
¿Hay algo más barato?	<i>Is there something less expensive?</i>
Le doy...	<i>I'll give you...</i>
comprar	<i>to buy</i>
vender	<i>to sell</i>
recuerdos	<i>souvenirs</i>
regalos	<i>gifts, presents</i>
precio	<i>price</i>
un buen precio	<i>a good price</i>
un precio fijo	<i>a fixed price</i>
descuento	<i>discount</i>
liquidación	<i>sale</i>
rebaja	<i>discounted prices</i>
rebajar	<i>to reduce price</i>
regatear	<i>to bargain</i>
todos precios rebajados	<i>all prices reduced</i>
ventas	<i>sales</i>

Conversation Time

See if you can understand this conversation, in which Carmona haggles with a street merchant for a wool sweater.



Carmona: Buenos días, señor.
 Vendedor: Buenas días, señora.
 Carmona: Qué lindo el suéter.
 Vendedor: Sí. Es de muy buena calidad.
 Carmona: ¿Es de lana?
 Vendedor: Claro que sí. ¿Quiere probárselo?
 Carmona: No, gracias. ¿Tiene uno de talla pequeña?
 Vendedor: Sí.
 Carmona: ¿Hay otros colores?
 Vendedor: Tengo el suéter en color café, negro, y crema.
 Carmona: Me gusta éste. ¿Qué precio tiene?
 Vendedor: Cuesta 15 dólares.
 Carmona: Es muy caro. Le doy \$8.
 Vendedor: No, lo siento. \$13 está bien.
 Carmona: ¡Trece! No hay como. \$10.
 Vendedor: \$12. No puedo rebajarlo más.
 Carmona: Ya, está bien.

Carmona: Good morning, sir.
 Vendor: Good morning, ma'am.
 Carmona: How pretty this sweater is.
 Vendor: Yes. It's very good quality.
 Carmona: Is it wool?
 Vendor: Of course. Would you like to try it on?
 Carmona: No, thank you. Do you have one in a small?
 Vendor: Yes.
 Carmona: Are there other colors?
 Vendor: I have the sweater in brown, black, and cream.
 Carmona: I like this one. What price does it have?
 Vendor: It costs \$15.
 Carmona: It's very expensive. I'll give you \$8.
 Vendor: No, I'm sorry. \$13 is okay.
 Carmona: Thirteen! There's no way. \$10.
 Vendor: \$12. I can't reduce it any more.
 Carmona: Yeah, okay.



4.3

El Hotel *The Hotel*

When you're traveling to a foreign country, you'll need to be able to reserve a room at a hotel. In this lesson, you'll learn all the necessary vocabulary to do so in Spanish.

Let's start out with some basic questions that you might want to ask about a hotel before you make a reservation for a room.

¿Cuánto cuesta la noche?	<i>How much is a night?</i>
¿Cuánto cuesta una habitación?	<i>How much is a room?</i>
¿Tiene baño privado?	<i>Does it have a private bathroom?</i>
¿Tiene agua caliente?	<i>Does it have hot water?</i>
¿Ofrece un desayuno gratis?	<i>Does it offer a free breakfast?</i>
¿A qué hora necesito desocupar la habitación?	<i>At what time do I need to check out of the room?</i>
¿Pago ahora o después?	<i>Do I pay now or later?</i>

When you ask how much a room is, the receptionist at the hotel will need to know for how many people and for how many nights.

¿Para cuántas personas?	<i>For how many people?</i>
¿Por cuántas noches?	<i>For how many nights?</i>

The receptionist may also ask whether you want a single room or double room.

una individual	<i>a single room</i>
una doble	<i>a double room</i>

Your answer may look like this.

Para dos personas	<i>For two people.</i>
Por una noche.	<i>For one night.</i>

If you decide that you want to reserve a room, tell the receptionist:

Quiero hacer una reservación.	<i>I want to make a reservation.</i>
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Una reservación is a reservation.

Two useful words to know at this point are *la habitación*, the room, and *disponible*, or available. The receptionist may respond:

Tengo una habitación disponible.	<i>I have an available room.</i>
No tengo ninguna habitación disponible.	<i>I don't have a room available.</i>

Make sure to refer to Lesson 1.6 for information on how to fill out the guest register. Lesson 4.1 includes information on how to pay for your hotel room.

Once you've checked in, the receptionist will give you your key and tell you what room number you're in.

la llave	<i>the key</i>
Estoy en la habitación número 5.	<i>I'm in room number 5.</i>

You may wish to know where the following are:

¿Dónde está...	
...la recepción?	<i>Where is reception?</i>
...el ascensor?	<i>Where is the elevator?</i>
...la piscina?	<i>Where is the swimming pool?</i>
...el restaurante?	<i>Where is the restaurant?</i>

Directions will be given with reference to floors.

planta baja	<i>ground floor</i>
primer piso	<i>first floor</i>
segundo piso	<i>second floor</i>
tercer piso	<i>third floor</i>
cuarto piso	<i>fourth floor</i>

If your room isn't equipped with all the facilities you'd like, here are some useful phrases.

Necesito más toallas.	<i>I need more towels.</i>
Necesito más jabón.	<i>I need more soap.</i>
Necesito más papel higiénico.	<i>I need more toilet paper.</i>
Necesito una manta más.	<i>I need one more blanket.</i>
Necesito sábanas limpias.	<i>I need clean sheets.</i>

Here are a few final words that might come in handy.

una cama matrimonial	<i>a double bed (for two people)</i>
agua caliente / agua fría	<i>hot water / cold water</i>
un baño privado / compartido	<i>a private / shared bathroom</i>
desayuno gratis	<i>free breakfast</i>
privacidad	<i>privacy</i>
tranquilo	<i>peaceful, quiet</i>
bullicioso	<i>noisy</i>
limpio	<i>clean</i>
sucio	<i>dirty</i>
calefactor	<i>heater</i>
aire acondicionado	<i>air conditioning</i>

Conversation Time

Carlos is trying to reserve a room for himself and Carmona. See if you can understand the following conversation.



Carlos: Necesito una habitación.
 Recepcionista: Muy bien, señor. ¿Para cuántas personas?
 Carlos: Para dos. ¿Cuánto cuesta?
 Recepcionista: Cuesta setenta y nueve dólares.
 Carlos: Está bien.
 Recepcionista: ¿Cómo desea pagar? ¿Por crédito, por cheque, o en efectivo?
 Carlos: Por crédito.
 Recepcionista: ¿Cuál es el número de su tarjeta de crédito?
 Carlos: Aquí está.
 Recepcionista: ¿Cómo se llama usted?
 Carlos: Me llamo Carlos Morales.
 Recepcionista: Muy bien. Necesito su número telefónico y dirección, por favor.
 Carlos: Mi número telefónico es 555-555, y mi dirección es número 265, la Calle Santiago, en la ciudad de Pueblo Rojo.
 Recepcionista: Gracias, señor. Aquí está su llave. Está en la habitación número 105. Bienvenido.



Carlos: *I need a room.*
 Receptionist: *Very well, sir. For how many people?*
 Carlos: *For two. How much will it cost?*
 Receptionist: *It will cost \$79.00.*
 Carlos: *That's okay.*
 Receptionist: *How would you like to pay? By credit, by check, or with cash?*
 Carlos: *By credit.*
 Receptionist: *What's your credit card number?*
 Carlos: *Here it is.*
 Receptionist: *What is your name?*
 Carlos: *My name is Carlos Morales.*
 Receptionist: *Very well. I need your telephone number and address, please.*
 Carlos: *My telephone number is 555-555, and my address is number 265, Santiago Street, in the city of Pueblo Rojo.*
 Receptionist: *Thank you, sir. Here is your key. You're in room number 105. Welcome.*

 4.4 El Restaurante
The Restaurant

Once you learn how to order at a restaurant in Spanish, you can practice your Spanish locally. Most major cities have Spanish, Mexican, or Latin American restaurants. Don't be embarrassed about telling the waiter or waitress that you're learning Spanish (*Estoy aprendiendo español*). Most Spanish-speakers enjoy sharing their native language with you.

This lesson will take you step by step through the process of ordering at a restaurant.

When you arrive at a restaurant, you may want to see the menu.

¿Puedo ver el menú?	<i>Can I see the menu?</i>
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The maitre d' may ask you

¿Tiene reservaciones?	<i>Do you have reservations?</i>
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You can answer,

Sí, tengo reservaciones.	<i>Yes, I have reservations.</i>
No, no tengo reservaciones.	<i>No, I don't reservations.</i>

If you want to make reservations, ask for

Una mesa para dos.	<i>A table for two.</i>
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or for how ever many people you like.

Once you've looked at the menu and decided what you want to order, the waiter (**el camarero** or **el mesero**) or the waitress (**la camarera** or **la mesera**) will ask you,

¿Qué le gustaría comer?	<i>What would you like to eat?</i>
¿Qué le gustaría tomar?	<i>What would you like to drink?</i>

Or, they might ask you:

¿Algo para tomar?	<i>Something to drink?</i>
¿Algo para comer?	<i>Something to eat?</i>

The word **comer** means *to eat*. The word **tomar** means *to drink*.

In response, you might ask,

¿Qué me recomienda?	<i>What do you recommend?</i>
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If you want to know what the daily specials or soup of the day are, ask:

¿Cuál es el especial del día?	<i>What's the daily special?</i>
¿Cuál es la sopa del día?	<i>What's the soup of the day?</i>

The waiter may tell you

Nos especializamos en...	<i>We specialize in...</i>
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Platos Fuertes

Main Dishes

bistec	<i>steak</i>
chuleta	<i>chop</i>
carne de res	<i>beef</i>
pollo	<i>chicken</i>
pavo	<i>turkey</i>
pescado	<i>fish</i>
mariscos	<i>seafood</i>
hamburguesa	<i>hamburger</i>
sopa	<i>soup</i>
crema de...	<i>cream of...</i>
ensalada	<i>salad</i>
vegetales	<i>vegetables</i>
papas (patatas)	<i>potatoes</i>
papas fritas	<i>French fries</i>
puré de papas	<i>mashed potatoes</i>
papas al horno	<i>baked potatoes</i>

If you order meat, the waiter will ask you,

¿Cómo lo desea?	<i>How would you like it?</i>
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How would you like your steak? Here are some options. Notice that there are several ways of saying each.

<i>rare</i>	poco hecha	casi cruda
<i>medium rare</i>	medio hecha	medio cruda
<i>well-done</i>	bien hecha	bien cocinada

If there are options, like side dishes, the waiter may ask you:

¿Cuál prefiere?	<i>Which would you prefer?</i>
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You can answer,

Prefiero...	<i>I prefer...</i>
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Bebidas

Drinks

agua mineral	<i>mineral water</i>
cerveza	<i>beer</i>
jugo (de naranja, de manzana)	<i>juice (orange, apple)</i>
leche	<i>milk</i>
vino blanco	<i>white wine</i>
vino tinto	<i>red wine</i>

Once your order arrives, you may have this to say about your food.

Está caliente.	<i>It's hot.</i>
Está fría.	<i>It's cold.</i>
¡Qué rico!	<i>How delicious!</i>
¡Qué delicioso!	<i>How delicious!</i>

When you finish your meal, tell the waiter:

La cuenta, por favor.	<i>The check, please.</i>
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You may want to leave **una propina**, or a *tip*.

Conversation Time

Now, let's put everything you learned into practice! Listen as Carlos and Carmona order at a restaurant.

“ Mesero: Buenas noches. ¿Tienen reservaciones?
Carlos: No, no tenemos reservaciones.
Mesero: Hmm. ¿Para cuántas personas?
Carlos: Para dos.
Mesero: Sí, tenemos una mesa para dos. Sígueme, por favor.

Carlos and Carmona are seated at a table.

Mesera: Buenas noches. ¿Qué se les ofrece?
Carlos: Buenas noches. ¿Cuál es el especial del día?
Mesera: Es pescado frito, un plato muy rico.
Carmona: No quiero mariscos. Me gustaría una ensalada.
Carlos: Vale. Bueno, a mí me gustaría el pescado.
Mesera: ¿Quieren algo para tomar?
Carlos: ¿Qué quieres, Carmona?
Carmona: Quiero un vaso de vino blanco.
Carlos: Igual para mí.
Mesera: ¿Algo más?
Carlos: No, gracias.
Mesera: Bueno. Si me necesitan, llámenme.

*Maitre d': Good evening. Do you have reservations?
Carlos: No, we don't have reservations.
Maitre d': Hmm. For how many people?
Carlos: For two.
Maitre d': Yes, we have a table for two. Follow me, please.*

Carlos and Carmona are seated at a table.

*Waitress: Good evening. What can I offer you?
Carlos: Good evening. What's the daily special?
Waitress: It is fried fish, a very delicious dish.
Carmona: I don't want seafood. I'd like a salad.
Carlos: Okay. Well, for me, I'd like the fish.
Waitress: Do you want something to drink?
Carlos: What do you want, Carmona?
Carmona: I want a glass of white wine.
Carlos: The same for me.
Waitress: Anything else?
Carlos: No, thank you.
Waitress: Good. If you need me, call.*

Part Five:

¡La Fiesta!

The Party

Who wants to know how to party? In this section of the course, you'll learn all the vocabulary you need to know about giving a party, buying presents, planning games, and more. You'll even learn how to tell someone you're late for their party, useful when you find yourself running behind! So ... let's party!

5.1 ¡Feliz Cumpleaños! Happy Birthday!

Parties are a big deal in Latin America. Birthday parties are fun occasions for children and adults alike, with presents, birthday cake, dancing, and games. Birthday party traditions vary among countries and families, just as they do in the U.S., but three characteristics that are distinctive of Latin American celebrations are:

1. The Breaking of the Piñata

In birthday celebrations in Mexico, Central America, and Colombia, birthday celebrations often include the breaking of a piñata. A piñata is a decorated figure, such as an animal or a cartoon character, fashioned from cardboard and paper mache. It is filled with candy, tiny trinkets, or coins and hung at head level. Blindfolded children take turns striking at the piñata with a stick until it breaks, upon which all the children scramble for the candy.

2. La Quinceañera

For Latin American girls, their most important birthday is not sweet sixteen but fifteen. In Spanish, fifteen is *quince*, so a girl's fifteenth birthday is called a *quinceañera*. The *quinceañera* marks the girl's formal entrance into society as a woman. They're magical occasions with music, dancing, food, and wine flowing all night. The girl, dressed in formal gown and tiara, is the star of the night.

3. El Día de Santo

The only thing better than one birthday party is two! Kids in Latin America often enjoy two special celebrations: their birthday (the day on which they were born) and their Saint's Day. In the Catholic calendar, every day is assigned to a particular saint. Your Saint Day is the day of the saint who has the same name as you.

¡Estás Invitado!

You're Invited!

Let's say that someone has just invited you to a party! Here's what they might say.

Voy a dar una fiesta.	<i>I'm going to give a party.</i>
Estás invitado.	<i>You're invited.</i>
Te invito.	<i>I invite you.</i>
¿Puedes venir?	<i>Can you come?</i>

You can answer,

Sí, puedo venir a tu fiesta.	<i>Yes, I can come to your party.</i>
No, no puedo venir.	<i>No, I can't come.</i>

You may also want to ask a few questions about the party, like...

¿Para qué es?	<i>What's it for?</i>
¿Para quién es?	<i>Who's it for?</i>
¿Cuántos años va a cumplir?	<i>How old is he or she going to be?</i>
¿Es una sorpresa?	<i>Is it a surprise?</i>
¿Cuándo es la fiesta?	<i>When is the party?</i>
¿Dónde está la fiesta?	<i>Where is the party?</i>
¿Cuántas personas vienen?	<i>How many people are coming?</i>
¿Quién más viene?	<i>Who else is coming?</i>
¿Qué traigo?	<i>What do I bring?</i>

You can conclude with,

¡No puedo esperar!	<i>I can't wait!</i>
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¿A Quién Invito?

Who Do I invite?

If you're giving a party yourself, you may want to ask yourself, "Who is coming to my party?" ¿Quién viene a mi fiesta? Chances are your guest list will include some of the following people.

Los Invitados

amigos
parejas
vecinos
compañeros de trabajo
hermanos
padres
abuelos
nietos
primos
sobrinos
tíos

The Guests

friends
partners
neighbors
co-workers
brothers and sisters
parents
grandparents
grandchildren
cousins
nieces and nephews
aunts and uncles

Conversation Time

Carmona is planning a surprise birthday for Carlos, and she enlists the help of her friend Elena.

“

Carmona: ¡Hola, Elena!

Elena: Hola, Carmen. ¿Qué hay de nuevo?

Carmona: Bueno, tengo una sorpresa. Carlos cumple treinta y dos años el sábado.

Elena: ¿Sí? Qué bueno. ¿Vas a tener una fiesta?

Carmona: Claro. ¡Y estás invitado!

Elena: Gracias, Carmona. ¿Te puedo ayudar?

Carmona: Sí. Necesito mucha ayuda.

Elena: ¿Vas a invitar a muchas personas?

Carmona: Voy a invitar a todos nuestros amigos y familia.

Elena: ¡Tantas personas! ¿Qué puedo traer?

Carmona: ¿Puedes traer un plato pequeño de algo para comer?

Elena: Claro que sí. ¿Qué más?

Carmona: Nada más. Mis padres van a traer un pollo, y mis tíos van a traer una torta gigante.

Elena: ¡Chévere! No puedo esperar.

”

Carmona: Hello, Elena!

Elena: Hi, Carmen. What's new?

Carmona: Well, I have a surprise. Carlos turns thirty-two Saturday.

Elena: Really? How great. Are you going to have a party?

Carmona: Of course. And you're invited!

Elena: Thank you, Carmona. Can I help you?

Carmona: Yes. I need a lot of help.

Elena: Are you going to invite many people?

Carmona: I'm going to invite all our friends and family.

Elena: So many people! What can I bring?

Carmona: Can you bring a small plate of something to eat?

Elena: Of course I can. What else?

Carmona: Nothing else. My parents are going to bring a chicken, and my aunt and uncle are going to bring a big cake.

Elena: Cool! I can't wait.



5.2 Las Citas

Dates

If you're scheduling a party, an appointment, or a date, you need to know how to set up meeting times in Spanish! In this lesson, you're going to learn about how to write up an invitation.

First of all, here are three types of dates you might need to schedule:

una cita	<i>a date, an appointment</i>
una fiesta	<i>a party</i>
una reunión	<i>a meeting, a reunion</i>

The word **cita** can be a bit confusing to English speakers. Whereas we clearly distinguish between a personal date and a professional appointment, the same word (**cita**) means both in Spanish. That means that you actually make a *date* with your doctor.

- **Tengo una cita con el doctor.**

I have an appointment with the doctor.

- **Tengo una cita con mi novio.**

I have a date with my boyfriend.

The word **reunión** also has two meanings: *meeting* and *reunion* (in the sense of a class reunion). For example,

- **Necesitamos tener una reunión pronto.**

We need to have a meeting soon.

- **Tengo una reunión familiar en febrero.**

I have a family reunion in February.

Las Invitaciones

Invitations

Whether you're planning a meeting, a date, or a party, you have to know when and where to meet. You should also know who is coming, what the purpose of the meeting is, and whether food or drink will be offered.

Here are a few useful words to start you on your planning.

invitar	<i>to invite</i>
las invitaciones	<i>the invitations</i>
los invitados	<i>the guests</i>
preparar	<i>to prepare</i>
las preparaciones	<i>the preparations</i>
planear	<i>to plan</i>
los planes	<i>the plans</i>

If you want to convince people to attend your party, you have to make it sound fun. The phrases below will help you do that.

Es un día muy especial (para nosotros).	<i>It's a very special day (for us).</i>
Va a ser un día espectacular.	<i>It will be a spectacular day.</i>
Va a ser muy divertido.	<i>It will be very fun.</i>
Vamos a celebrar.	<i>We're going to celebrate.</i>
Vamos a divertirnos.	<i>We're going to have fun.</i>
Vamos a festejar.	<i>We're going to party.</i>

If you're writing up a party invitation, here is a sample format:

¡Te invito a mi fiesta!

Tema: Vestido formal

Fecha: El 2 de junio

Hora: 5:30pm

Lugar: La casa de Anita

¡No faltes!

I'm inviting you to my party!

Theme: Formal dress

Date: June 2

Time: 5:30pm

Place: Anita's house

Don't miss it!

Here's another sample format for a birthday party.

¡ANITA CUMPLE 23 AÑOS!

¿CUÁNDO? EL 2 DE JUNIO, 5:30PM

¿DÓNDE? SU CASA

¿QUÉ LLEVO? VESTIDO FORMAL

¿QUÉ TRAIGO? SOLO TÚ MISMO

¡TE VEO ALLÍ!

Anita's turning 23!

When? June 2, 5:30pm

Where? Her house

What Do I Wear? Formal dress

What Do I Bring? Just yourself

I'll see you there!

¿Cuándo Nos Encontramos?

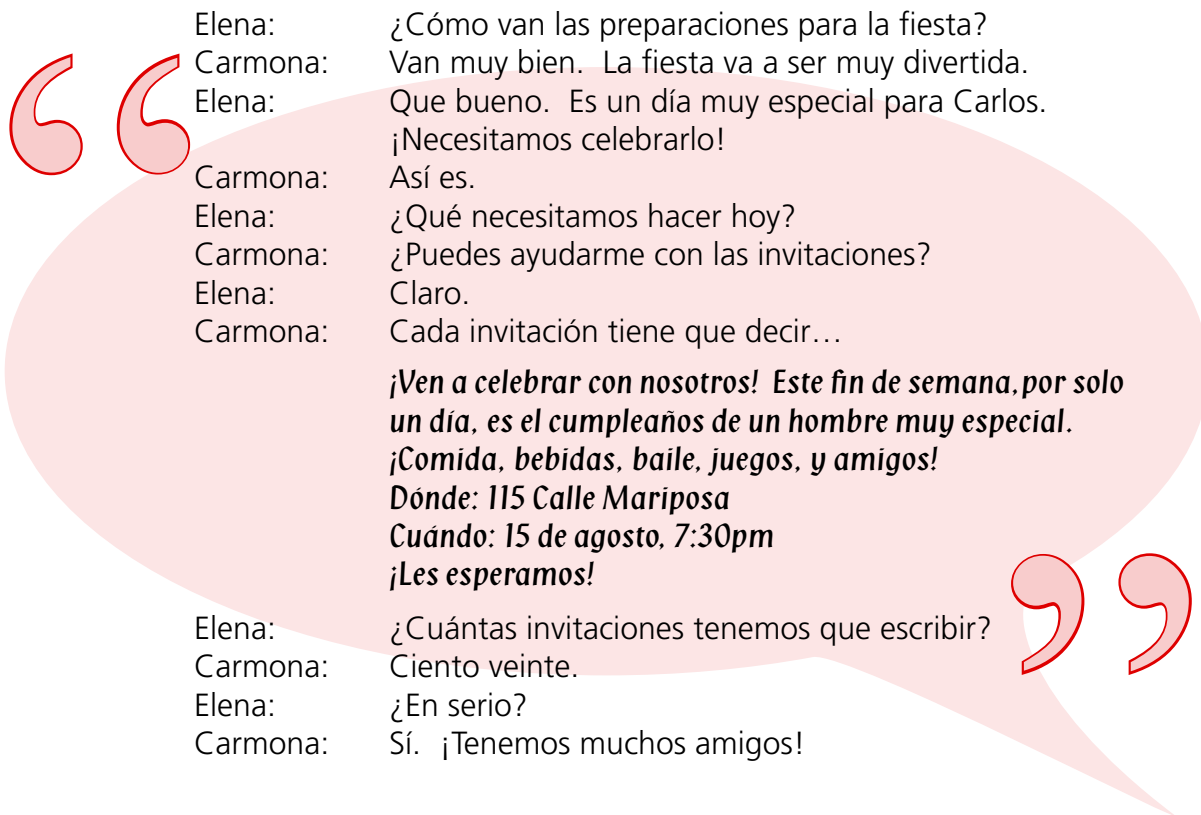
When Should We Meet?

If you're planning to meet up, you'll need to schedule a time. Here are some possible questions you might hear.

¿A qué hora comienza?	What time does it start?
¿A qué hora termina?	What time does it end?
¿A qué hora nos reunimos?	What time should we meet?
¿Cuándo te veo?	When will I see you?
¿Cuándo nos vemos?	When will we see each other?

Conversation Time

Elena has arrived at Carmona's house to help her with the preparations for the birthday party.



Elena: ¿Cómo van las preparaciones para la fiesta?
 Carmona: Van muy bien. La fiesta va a ser muy divertida.
 Elena: Que bueno. Es un día muy especial para Carlos.
 ¡Necesitamos celebrarlo!
 Carmona: Así es.
 Elena: ¿Qué necesitamos hacer hoy?
 Carmona: ¿Puedes ayudarme con las invitaciones?
 Elena: Claro.
 Carmona: Cada invitación tiene que decir...
**¡Ven a celebrar con nosotros! Este fin de semana, por solo un día, es el cumpleaños de un hombre muy especial.
 ¡Comida, bebidas, baile, juegos, y amigos!
 Dónde: 115 Calle Mariposa
 Cuándo: 15 de agosto, 7:30pm
 ¡Les esperamos!**
 Elena: ¿Cuántas invitaciones tenemos que escribir?
 Carmona: Ciento veinte.
 Elena: ¿En serio?
 Carmona: Sí. ¡Tenemos muchos amigos!

*Elena: How are the preparations going for the party?
 Carmona: They're going very well. The party is going to be very fun.
 Elena: Great. It's a special day for Carlos. We need to celebrate!
 Carmona: That's right.
 Elena: What do we need to do today?
 Carmona: Can you help me with the invitations?
 Elena: Of course.
 Carmona: Each invitation has to say...
**Come celebrate with us! This weekend, for only one day, is the birthday of a very special man. Food, drinks, dance, games, and friends!
 Where: 115 Butterfly Street
 When: August 15, 7:30pm
 We're waiting for you!**
 Elena: How many invitations do we have to write?
 Carmona: One hundred twenty.
 Elena: Serious?
 Carmona: Yes. We have many friends!*



5.3

Juegos y Premios *Games and Prizes*

One of the most fun parts of any party is playing games! In this lesson, you'll learn some fun words, like *game* and *prize*.

Let's start out with some basic words related to games.

árbitro	<i>referee</i>
competencia	<i>competition</i>
deportes	<i>sports</i>
equipo (favorito)	<i>(favorite) team</i>
juego	<i>game</i>
jugador	<i>player</i>
partido	<i>game (in sports)</i>
pelota	<i>ball</i>

Be careful with the difference between **juego** and **partido**, since they both mean "game."

- ✓ **Juego** refers to types of games, such as frisbee or Pin the Tail on the Donkey.
- ✓ **Partido** is used in sports to refer to a game of football, volleyball, etc.

With these words, you can say sentences like:

- **Necesitamos más jugadores.** *We need more players.*
- **Mi equipo favorito juega mañana.** *My favorite team plays tomorrow.*
- **No tengo una pelota para jugar.** *I don't have a ball to play.*

Ganadores y Perdedores

Winners and Losers

Once you play a game, you need to be able to talk about who won, who lost, or who got the grand prize. Here are some useful words to express the outcome of a game.

el ganador	<i>the winner</i>
ganar	<i>to win</i>
perder	<i>to lose</i>
el premio	<i>prize</i>
el gran premio	<i>grand prize</i>
el título nacional	<i>the national title</i>

el primer puesto (<i>also lugar</i>)	<i>first place</i>
el segundo puesto (<i>also lugar</i>)	<i>second place</i>
el tercer puesto (<i>also lugar</i>)	<i>third place</i>
el último puesto (<i>also lugar</i>)	<i>last place</i>

To express who won or lost, you need to be able to speak in the past tense. Here are a few sample sentences using the words in the list above.

- **Gané la competencia.** *I won the competition.*
- **Gané el gran premio.** *I won the grand prize.*
- **Mi equipo ganó el título.** *My team won the title.*
- **Ganamos el partido.** *We won the game.*

Los Juegos

Games

¿Qué juegas tú? What do you play? You can answer the question with one of the following:

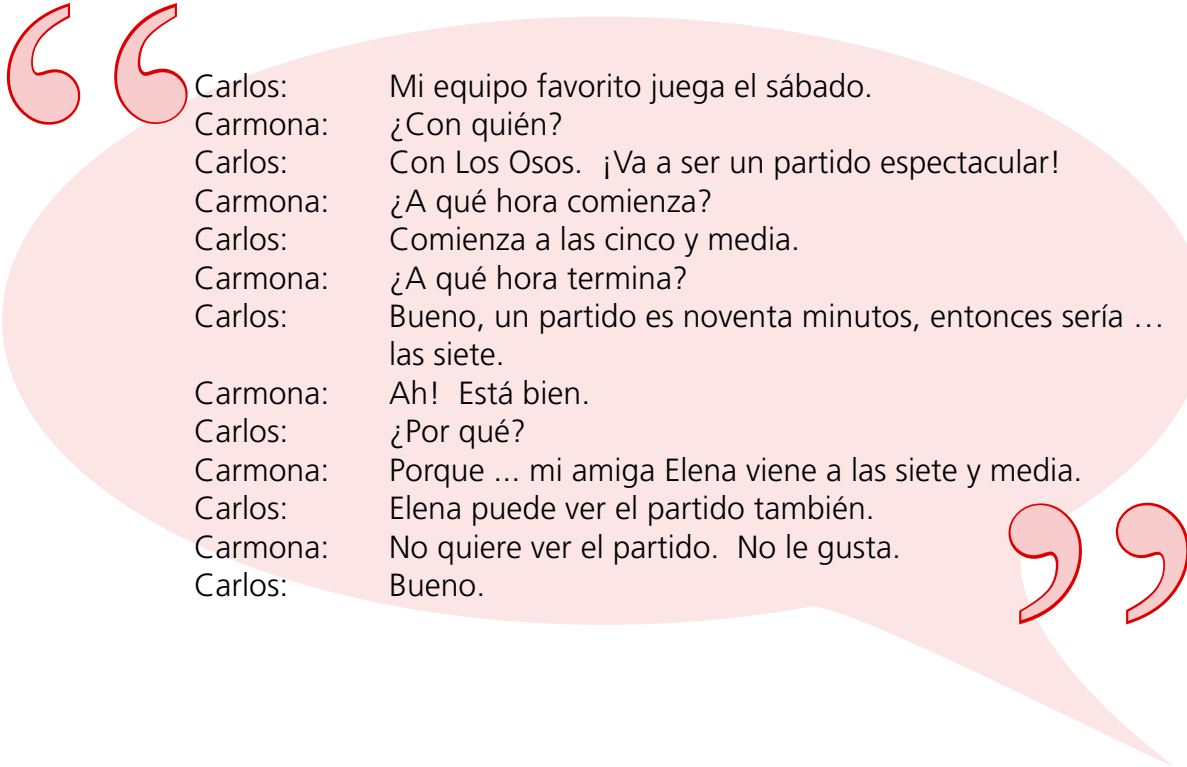
Juego a las cartas.	<i>I play cards.</i>
Juego básquetbol.	<i>I play basketball.</i>
Juego béisbol.	<i>I play baseball.</i>
Juego fútbol americano.	<i>I play American football.</i>
Juego fútbol.	<i>I play football (soccer).</i>
Juego golf.	<i>I play golf.</i>
Juego tenis.	<i>I play tennis.</i>
Juego voleibol.	<i>I play volleyball.</i>

If you play music, make sure that you don't use *jugar*. Use *tocar* instead.

Toco el clarinete.	<i>I play the clarinet.</i>
Toco el piano.	<i>I play the piano.</i>
Toco el teclado.	<i>I play the keyboard.</i>
Toco el trombón.	<i>I play the trombone.</i>
Toco los tambores. (<i>also la batería</i>)	<i>I play the drums.</i>
Toco la flauta.	<i>I play the flute.</i>
Toco la guitarra.	<i>I play the guitar.</i>
Toco la trompeta.	<i>I play the trumpet.</i>

Conversation Time

Carlos, unaware that Carmona is planning a surprise birthday party for him on Saturday, is planning to watch the football. She has to convince him otherwise.



“ Carlos: Mi equipo favorito juega el sábado.
Carmona: ¿Con quién?
Carlos: Con Los Osos. ¡Va a ser un partido espectacular!
Carmona: ¿A qué hora comienza?
Carlos: Comienza a las cinco y media.
Carmona: ¿A qué hora termina?
Carlos: Bueno, un partido es noventa minutos, entonces sería ... las siete.
Carmona: Ah! Está bien.
Carlos: ¿Por qué?
Carmona: Porque ... mi amiga Elena viene a las siete y media.
Carlos: Elena puede ver el partido también.
Carmona: No quiere ver el partido. No le gusta.
Carlos: Bueno.”

Carlos: My favorite team plays Saturday.
Carmona: With who?
Carlos: With the Bears. It's going to be a spectacular game!
Carmona: When does it start?
Carlos: It starts at five thirty.
Carmona: When does it end?
Carlos: Well, a game is 90 minutes, so it would be ... seven o'clock.
Carmona: Ah! Okay.
Carlos: Why?
Carmona: Because ... my friend Elena is coming at seven thirty.
Carlos: Elena can watch the game, too.
Carmona: She doesn't want to watch the game. She doesn't like it.
Carlos: Fine.



5.4 Los Regalos Presents

Although the party games may be the most fun part of a party for the guests, the best part of a birthday for the man/woman of honor is arguably the presents! The following words and phrases will help you select the perfect gift.

¿Qué quiere para su cumpleaños?

What does he/she want for his/her birthday?

¿Qué le doy?

What do I give him/her?

Necesito comprar un regalo.

I need to buy a present.

Estoy buscando un regalo de cumpleaños.

I'm looking for a birthday present.

El regalo es para...

The present is for...

...un hombre

...a man.

...una mujer

...a woman.

...un niño

...a boy.

...una niña

...a girl.

Regalos Típicos

Typical Presents

Here are some typical presents that you might give to children, women, or men.

Para Niños ... For Children

bicicleta

bicycle

cachorro

puppy

gatito

kitten

juguete

toy

muñeca

doll

oso de peluche

teddy bear

pelota

ball

Para Mujeres ... For Women

anillo

ring

animal peluche

stuffed animal

bombones

chocolate bonbons

collar

necklace

perfume

perfume

pulsera

bracelet

rosas

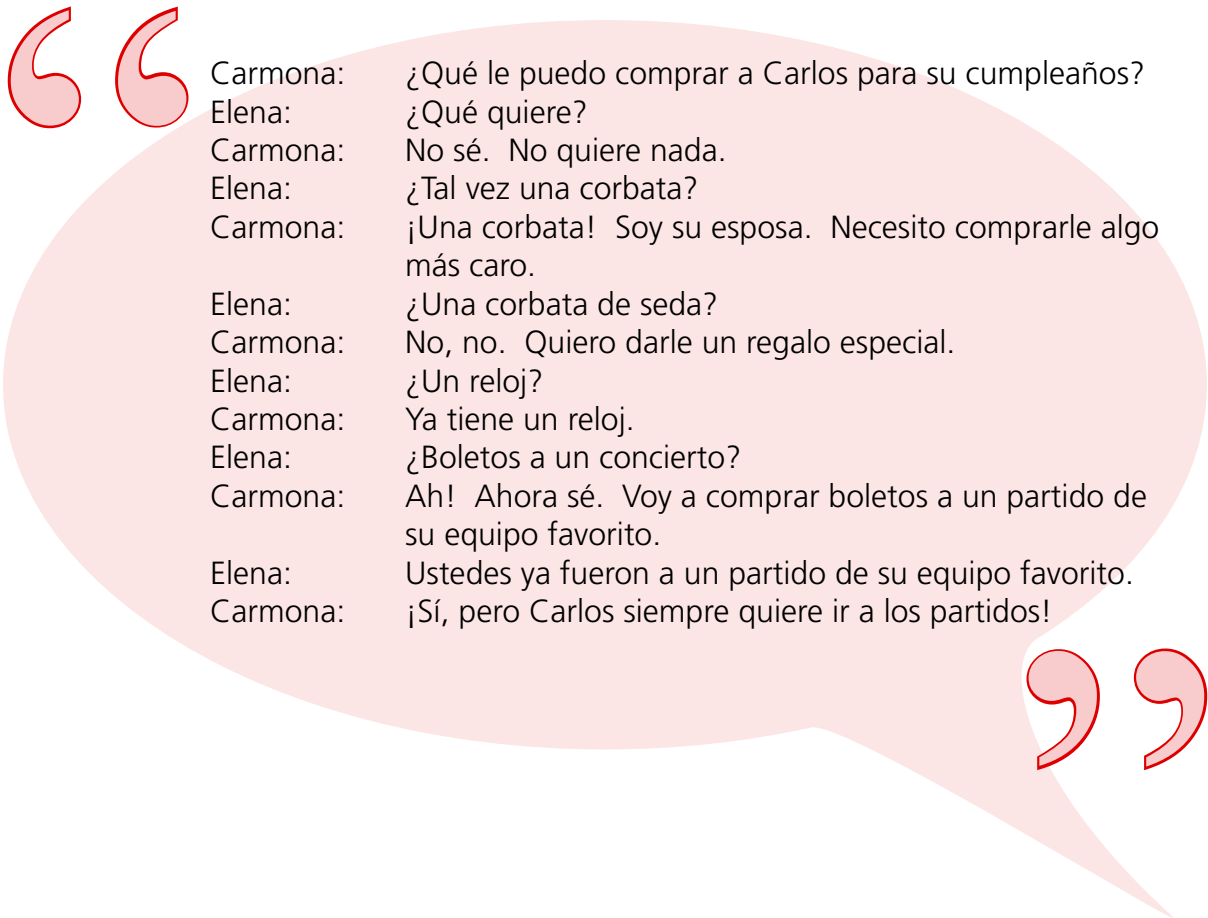
roses

Para Hombres ... For Men

colonia	: cologne
boletos a un partido de su equipo favorito	: tickets to a game of his favorite team
calcetines	: socks
camisa	: shirt
corbata	: tie
maquinilla eléctrica	: electric razor
reloj	: watch

Conversation Time

Carmona is agonizing over what she should buy Carlos for his birthday. She enlists the help of her friend Elena to make a decision.



“ “

Carmona: ¿Qué le puedo comprar a Carlos para su cumpleaños?
 Elena: ¿Qué quiere?
 Carmona: No sé. No quiere nada.
 Elena: ¿Tal vez una corbata?
 Carmona: ¡Una corbata! Soy su esposa. Necesito comprarle algo más caro.
 Elena: ¿Una corbata de seda?
 Carmona: No, no. Quiero darle un regalo especial.
 Elena: ¿Un reloj?
 Carmona: Ya tiene un reloj.
 Elena: ¿Boletos a un concierto?
 Carmona: Ah! Ahora sé. Voy a comprar boletos a un partido de su equipo favorito.
 Elena: Ustedes ya fueron a un partido de su equipo favorito.
 Carmona: ¡Sí, pero Carlos siempre quiere ir a los partidos!

” ”

Carmona: What can I buy Carlos for his birthday?
 Elena: What does he want?
 Carmona: I don't know. He doesn't want anything.
 Elena: Maybe a tie?
 Carmona: A tie! I'm his wife. I need to buy something more expensive.
 Elena: A silk tie?
 Carmona: No, no. I want to give him a special gift.
 Elena: A watch?
 Carmona: He already has a watch.
 Elena: Tickets to a concert?
 Carmona: Ah! Now I know. I am going to buy tickets to a game of his favorite team.
 Elena: You already went to a game of his favorite team.
 Carmona: Yes, but Carlos always wants to go to the games!

5.5 ¡Festejemos! Let's Party!

When you're ready for a party, you've got to have all the elements in place: the cake, the candles, the balloons. In this lesson, you're going to learn basic party vocabulary. You'll also learn how to deal with late guests, or how to explain that you'll be arriving late yourself.

Los Componentes de una Fiesta Ideal

The Components of an Ideal Party

Here's a list of 10 essential elements for a perfect party.

muchos invitados	<i>many guests</i>
la torta, el pastel	<i>the cake</i>
sabor de chocolate (vainilla)	<i>chocolate (vanilla) flavor</i>
helado	<i>ice cream</i>
velas	<i>candles</i>
dulces, golosinas	<i>sweets</i>
regalos	<i>presents</i>
juegos	<i>games</i>
globos	<i>balloons</i>
serpentina	<i>streamers</i>

¿Qué Hacemos en la Fiesta?

What Do We Do at the Party?

Here are five activities that you may find people doing at a party.

Estamos bailando.	<i>We're dancing.</i>
Estamos comiendo.	<i>We're eating.</i>
Estamos conversando.	<i>We're talking (conversing).</i>
Estamos jugando.	<i>We're playing.</i>
Estamos tomando.	<i>We're drinking.</i> <i>(Usually refers to alcoholic beverages)</i>

¡Estoy Atrasado!

I'm Late!

If you end up running late to a party, a meeting, or a date, you're going to have to inform the host! Here are some useful phrases to have on hand in case of problems.

Estoy atrasado.	<i>I'm late.</i>
Estoy en el camino.	<i>I'm on my way.</i>
Estoy allí en X minutos.	<i>I'll be there in X minutes.</i>
Te veo pronto.	<i>I'll see you soon.</i>
¿Puedes esperarme?	<i>Can you wait for me?</i>

Conversation Time

The *fiesta* is in full swing, and Carmona's friend Sara calls her to tell her she'll be late.

“

Carmona: Buenas noches.
Sara: ¡Hola, Carmona!
Carmona: ¡Hola, Sara! ¿Cómo estás?
Sara: Bien, gracias. ¿Cómo está Carlos?
Carmona: Está muy feliz con su fiesta.
Sara: ¿Está abriendo los regalos?
Carmona: No todavía. Estamos comiendo torta y helado.
Sara: Estoy atrasada. Tengo un regalo para Carlos.
Voy a estar allí en veinte minutos.
Carmona: No hay problema, Sara. Te esperamos.
Sara: Gracias, Carmona. ¡Hasta pronto!

”

Carmona: Good evening.
Sara: Hello, Carmona!
Carmona: Hi, Sara! How are you?
Sara: Fine, thanks. How is Carlos?
Carmona: He's very happy with his party.
Sara: Is he opening presents?
Carmona: Not yet. We're eating cake and ice cream.
Sara: I'm late. I have a present for Carlos.
I am going to be there in twenty minutes.
Carmona: No problem, Sara. We'll wait for you.
Sara: Thanks, Carmona. See you soon!

Part Six:

Las Conversaciones

Conversations

In this section of the course, you're going to learn how to have a more extended conversation than you've had previously. You'll learn how to talk about your hobbies, how to thank someone for a fabulous vacation, and how to explain what countries you've been to.



6.1

Conversar Como Experto

Have a Conversation like an Expert

When you started this course, you learned some conversation starters like, "What's your name? Where are you from?" Unfortunately, after exchanging personal details like how many brothers or sisters you have, a conversation can often run dry. That's why, in this section, you're going to learn how to keep a conversation going.

Imagine that you've taken a trip to a Spanish-speaking country, and you've met someone you'd like to talk with further. Here's a review of some basic questions that you might be asked or might want to ask.

¿Cómo te llamas?	<i>What's your name?</i>
¿De dónde eres?	<i>Where are you from?</i>
¿De qué parte?	<i>From what part? (A common follow-up question.)</i>
¿Eres de aquí?	<i>Are you from here?</i>
¿Estás de vacaciones?	<i>Are you on vacation?</i>
¿Estás de viaje?	<i>Are you traveling?</i>
¿Hace cuánto tiempo que llegaste?	<i>How long ago did you arrive?</i>
¿Por cuánto tiempo estás aquí?	<i>For how long are you here?</i>
¿Qué haces? ¿En qué trabajas?	<i>What do you for a living?</i>
¿Te gusta aquí?	<i>Do you like it here?</i>

One great way to get to know someone better is to talk about what you have in common. You may want to talk about places you've both been, or hobbies that you share, or people you know in common.

To do this, you need to know how to use the two verbs **conocer** and **saber**. You'll use **conocer** to talk about places that you've been to or know well. You'll also use it to talk about people you know. You'll use **saber** to talk about things you know how to do. You'll learn more about **saber** in the next lesson. For now, we'll concentrate on the myriad ways you can use **conocer**.

¿Dónde Has Estado?

Where Have You Been?

How do you tell someone where you've been? Often, when you're traveling, people will want to know where else you've been, what parts of their country you've visited, and where exactly you live. Here are some possible answers.

Conozco Valencia.	<i>I know Valencia. (I've been there before.)</i>
He estado en Valencia.	<i>I've been in Valencia.</i>

He ido a Valencia.	<i>I've gone to Valencia.</i>
He viajado a Valencia.	<i>I've traveled to Valencia.</i>
He visitado Valencia.	<i>I've visited Valencia.</i>
Soy de Valencia.	<i>I'm from Valencia.</i>

The easiest way to talk about where you've been is to use the word **conocer**. Literally, *conocer* means *to know*. But, when used to refer to locations, it means to have been there or to know a place well.

You'll often hear this word in conversations. Your friend may be talking about somewhere that he or she has been, then ask you, "Have you been there?" *¿Conoces?* Here are some more examples of this question in use.

¿Conoces...

África?	<i>Have you ever been to Africa?</i>
América del Sur?	<i>Have you ever been to South America?</i>
España?	<i>Have you ever been to Spain?</i>
Europa?	<i>Have you ever been to Europe?</i>
Los Estados Unidos?	<i>Have you ever been to the U.S.?</i>
mi casa?	<i>Have you ever been to my house? (Do you know where it is?)</i>
la ciudad?	<i>Have you been to the city? (Do you know it well?)</i>
el restaurante La Cueva?	<i>Have you ever been to the restaurant "The Cave"?</i>

Your answer will start with **Conozco...**

- **Sí, conozco tu casa.** *Yes, I've been to your house before.*
- **Yo conozco París.** *I have been to Paris.*
- **No conozco ese restaurante.** *I haven't been to that restaurant before.*

¿A Quién Conozco?

Who Do I Know?

You can also use **conocer** to talk about who you know. For example, a friend may be talking about a favorite band and ask you, *¿Los conoces?* Do you know them? Are you familiar with their music?

Or you may see someone that seems familiar, but you're not sure if you've met them before. You can ask, "*¿Te conozco?*" Do I know you?

It can be a bit confusing at times to know whether *conocer* refers to knowing people personally or just being familiar with them. Here are some more examples of this versatile word in use.

¿Conoces...

el grupo Los Lobos Chilenos?	<i>Are you familiar with the group The Chilean Wolves?</i>
a mi hermana?	<i>Do you know my sister?</i>
a nuestro presidente?	<i>Do you know our president?</i>
a Anita?	<i>Do you know Anita?</i>
a Antonio?	<i>Do you know Antonio?</i>
a la señora Torres?	<i>Do you know Mrs. Torres?</i>
al señor Romero?	<i>Do you know Mr. Romero?</i>

A common follow-up question might be, "How do you know So-and-So?"

¿Cómo conoces a ...?	<i>How do you know ... ?</i>
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If you don't know someone personally, you can clarify yourself by saying:

He escuchado el nombre.	<i>I've heard the name.</i>
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Notice that if you are talking about a person, you always use the phrase:

¿Conoces a ...?

That is because, in Spanish, you must always include an "a" before talking about a human being.

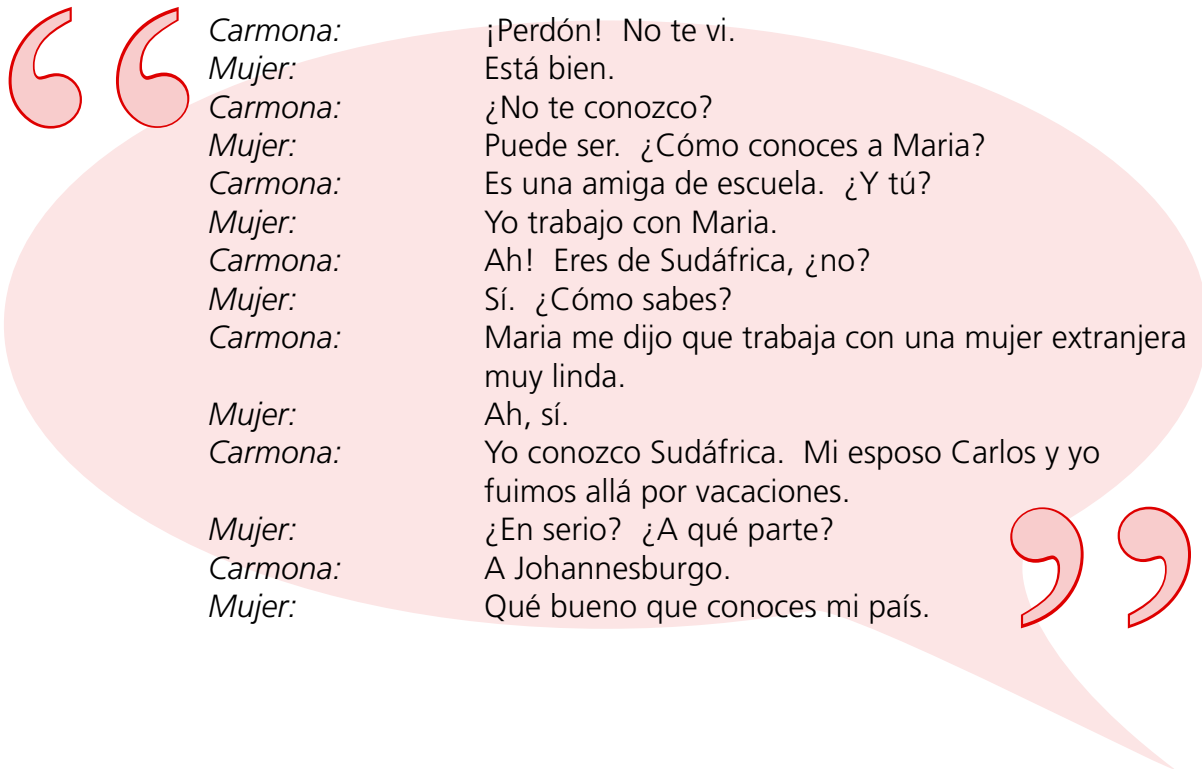
Un Gusto Conocerte

A Pleasure Meeting You

That's not the end of this useful word! **Conocer** can also be used to talk about meeting someone. You'll hear it most often in the phrase *Un gusto conocerte*, a pleasure meeting you.

Conversation Time

In this conversation, Carmona is at her friend Maria's party. She is walking to the bathroom when she bumps into someone who seems familiar.



“
Carmona: ¡Perdón! No te vi.
Mujer: Está bien.
Carmona: ¿No te conozco?
Mujer: Puede ser. ¿Cómo conoces a Maria?
Carmona: Es una amiga de escuela. ¿Y tú?
Mujer: Yo trabajo con Maria.
Carmona: Ah! Eres de Sudáfrica, ¿no?
Mujer: Sí. ¿Cómo sabes?
Carmona: Maria me dijo que trabaja con una mujer extranjera muy linda.
Mujer: Ah, sí.
Carmona: Yo conozco Sudáfrica. Mi esposo Carlos y yo fuimos allá por vacaciones.
Mujer: ¿En serio? ¿A qué parte?
Carmona: A Johannesburg.
Mujer: Qué bueno que conoces mi país.”

Carmona: Excuse me! I didn't see you.
Woman: It's okay.
Carmona: Don't I know you?
Woman: Could be. How do you know Maria?
Carmona: She's a friend from school. And you?
Woman: I work with Maria.
Carmona: Ah! You're from South Africa, aren't you?
Woman: Yes. How do you know?
Carmona: Maria told me that she works with a very nice foreign woman.
Woman: Ah, yes.
Carmona: I've been to South Africa. My husband Carlos and I went there on vacation.
Woman: Serious? What part?
Carmona: To Johannesburg.
Woman: How great that you've been to my country.

6.2 Los Pasatiempos Pastimes

In addition to talking about places you've been to and people you know in common, a great way to establish common ground with someone new is to talk about hobbies you have in common. In this lesson, you'll learn how to do exactly that.

First of all, let's get some basic vocabulary out of the way.

las actividades favoritas	<i>favorite activities</i>
los pasatiempos	<i>pastimes, hobbies</i>
los ratos libres	<i>free time</i>
ser aficionado a ...	<i>to be a fan of ...</i>

¿Qué Te Gusta Hacer?

What Do You Like to Do?

If you want to know what another person's hobbies are, you rarely come out and say, "What are your hobbies?" *¿Cuáles son tus pasatiempos?* More often, people say,

¿Qué te gusta hacer?
What do you like to do?

Or this variation:

¿Qué te gusta hacer en tus ratos libres?
What do you like to do in your free time?

You may answer that you like fishing, or swimming, or reading, or clubbing. Here are some things that you may enjoy doing.

Me gusta...

cantar.	<i>I like to sing.</i>
cocinar.	<i>I like to cook.</i>
correr.	<i>I like to run.</i>
coser.	<i>I like to sew.</i>
escuchar música.	<i>I like to listen to music.</i>
hacer ejercicio.	<i>I like to exercise.</i>
jugar básquetbol.	<i>I like to play basketball.</i>
jugar béisbol.	<i>I like to play baseball.</i>
leer.	<i>I like to read.</i>

nadar.	<i>I like to swim.</i>
pescar.	<i>I like to fish.</i>
sacar fotos.	<i>I like to take photographs.</i>
surfear la internet.	<i>I like to surf the internet.</i>
tocar música.	<i>I like to play music.</i>
trabajar en la huerta.	<i>I like to garden.</i>
ver la televisión / películas.	<i>I like to watch television / movies.</i>
viajar.	<i>I like to travel.</i>

You can talk about what you love doing by exchanging the phrase **Me encanta** for *Me gusta*.

Me encanta ...
I love ...

Only use this phrase for inanimate objects or activities. (If you want to say that you love a person, you'll use "*quiero*" or "*amo*.")

- **Me encanta leer.** *I love to read.*
- **Me encanta la música.** *I love the music.*
- **Me encanta tu vestido.** *I love your dress.*

¿Qué Sabes Hacer?

What Do You Know How to Do?

Often, if you like one activity a lot, you'll want to share it with your new friends. You can see if they know how to do it, too, by asking:

¿Sabes ... ?
Do you know how to ... ?

For example,

¿Sabes...	
bucear?	<i>Do you know how to scuba dive?</i>
esquiar?	<i>Do you know how to ski?</i>
jugar?	<i>Do you know how to play?</i>
jugar fútbol?	<i>Do you know how to play soccer?</i>
usar la computadora?	<i>Do you know how to use a computer?</i>

If you want to say that you know how to scuba dive or ski, you'd say...

- **Sé bucear.** *I know how to scuba dive.*
- **Sé esquiar.** *I know how to ski.*
- **Sé jugar fútbol.** *I know how to play soccer.*

You can also use **sé** to talk about more complex things you know how to do.

- **Sé cocinar una torta.** *I know how to bake a cake.*
- **Sé como hacerlo.** *I know how to do it.*
- **Sé que decir.** *I know what to say.*

Conversation Time

Let's see if you can follow this conversation, in which Carlos is talking with his friend Diego about what they would like to do if they had more free time.

“

Diego: Sabes, Carlos, necesito más tiempo libre.
 Carlos: Yo también, amigo.
 Diego: Necesito más tiempo para hacer ciclismo.
 Carlos: Bueno, por mi parte, me gustaría quedarme en casa un poco más. Descansar. Tomar más cerveza, ver más televisión.
 Diego: ¿En serio? Hombre, hay que vivir la vida.
 Carlos: ¿Y hacer qué?
 Diego: Mira, puedes jugar fútbol, puedes ir de excursión, puedes—
 Carlos: —No me gusta el ejercicio.
 Diego: Vale. Entonces, ¿qué sabes hacer?
 Carlos: ¿Yo? Todo. ...Bueno, sé pescar.
 Diego: Tienes que salir a pescar más, entonces.
 Carlos: Sé tomar cerveza.
 Diego: Todo el mundo sabe tomar cerveza.
 Carlos: Sí, pero yo soy experto.”

Diego: You know, Carlos, I need more free time.
 Carlos: Me too, friend.
 Diego: I need more time to go biking.
 Carlos: Well, as far as I'm concerned, I'd like to stay at home more. Rest. Drink more beer, watch more television.
 Diego: Serious? Man, you gotta live life.
 Carlos: And do what?
 Diego: Look, you can play soccer, you can go hiking, you can—
 Carlos: —I don't like exercise.
 Diego: Okay. So, what do you know how to do?
 Carlos: Me? Everything. ..Well, I know how to fish.
 Diego: You have to go fishing more, then.
 Carlos: I know how to drink beer.
 Diego: Everyone in the whole world knows how to drink beer.
 Carlos: Yes, but I'm an expert.



6.3 Las Mejores Vacaciones de la Vida

The Best Vacations of One's Life

If you spend any length of time abroad, you'll have a lot of goodbyes to say when you leave. In this lesson, you'll learn how to tell someone how wonderful your vacation was and thank them for everything.

Las Vacaciones Ideales

The Ideal Vacation

If you're going to explain how wonderful your vacation was, you need to know why. What are some of the components of a perfect vacation? Well, for me they are...

Hace mucho sol.	<i>It's very sunny.</i>
Hace calor.	<i>It's hot.</i>
No tengo que despertarme temprano.	<i>I don't have to get up early.</i>
Me levanto tarde todos los días.	<i>I get up late everyday.</i>
Me quedo todo el día en la playa.	<i>I spend all day at the beach.</i>
Mis mejores amigos están conmigo.	<i>My best friends are with me.</i>
Tomo el sol, nado, y buceo.	<i>I sunbathe, swim, and scuba dive.</i>
Como mucho.	<i>I eat a lot.</i>
Tomo mucho.	<i>I drink a lot.</i>
No tengo que trabajar.	<i>I don't have to work.</i>

Does that sound like your ideal vacation? If it *has* been the perfect vacation, you can tell people:

Estas han sido las mejores vacaciones de mi vida.	<i>This has been the best vacation of my life.</i>
Espero volver pronto.	<i>I hope to come back soon.</i>
No quiero irme.	<i>I don't want to go.</i>
No quiero que se terminen estas vacaciones.	<i>I don't want this vacation to end.</i>

Agradecimiento

Gratitude

When you're leaving a place, whether you've stayed there several days or several weeks, you'll need to say goodbye to the new friends you have made.

If you want to thank them for their hospitality, use the phrase...

Gracias por...

Thank you for...

Or, you might want to say...

Muchas gracias por...

Many thanks for...

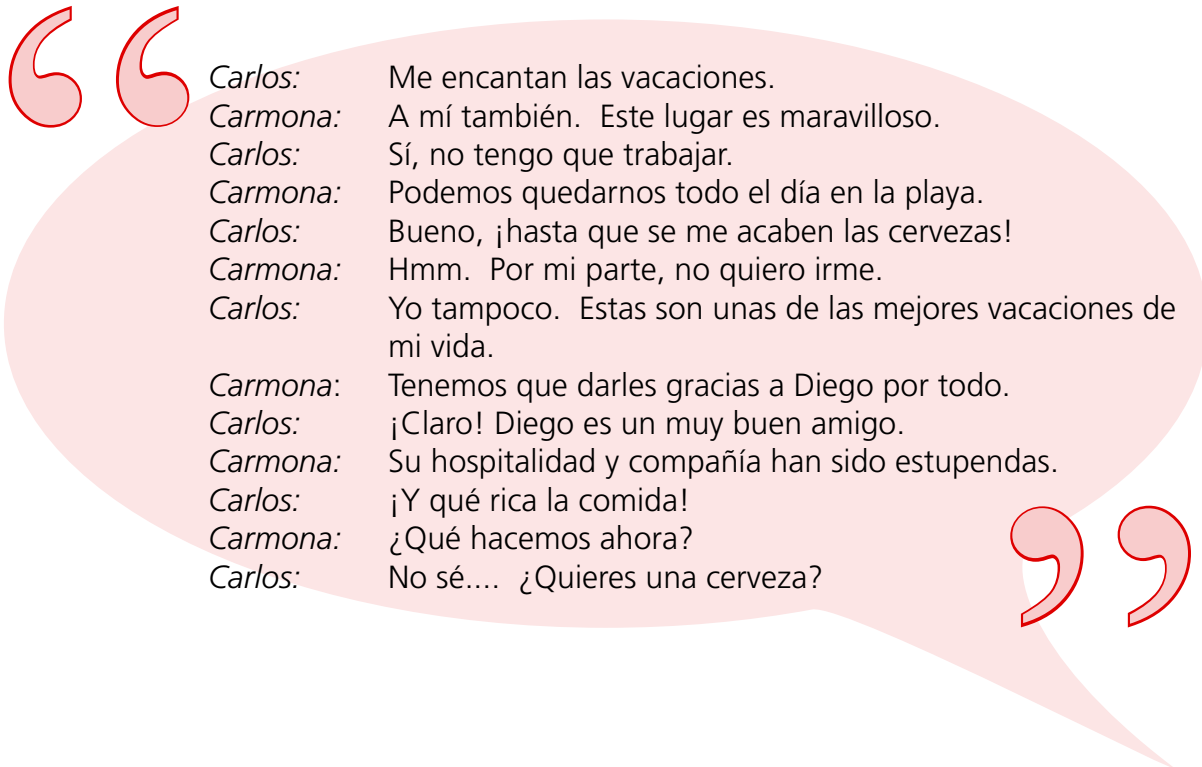
Here are some examples.

Gracias por...

todo.	<i>Thanks for everything.</i>
la comida tan rica.	<i>Thanks for the delicious food.</i>
mostrarme tu país.	<i>Thanks for showing me your country.</i>
ser un buen amigo / una buena amiga.	<i>Thanks for being a good friend.</i>
tu compañía.	<i>Thanks for your company. (informal)</i>
un tiempo maravilloso.	<i>Thanks for a marvelous time.</i>
vuestra hospitalidad.	<i>Thanks for your hospitality. (plural)</i>

Conversation Time

Carlos and Carmona are on vacation at the beach. While Carmona sits under an umbrella with her book, Carlos reaches into his cooler for one more cold drink.



Carlos: Me encantan las vacaciones.
 Carmona: A mí también. Este lugar es maravilloso.
 Carlos: Sí, no tengo que trabajar.
 Carmona: Podemos quedarnos todo el día en la playa.
 Carlos: Bueno, ¡hasta que se me acaben las cervezas!
 Carmona: Hmm. Por mi parte, no quiero irme.
 Carlos: Yo tampoco. Estas son unas de las mejores vacaciones de mi vida.
 Carmona: Tenemos que darles gracias a Diego por todo.
 Carlos: ¡Claro! Diego es un muy buen amigo.
 Carmona: Su hospitalidad y compañía han sido estupendas.
 Carlos: ¡Y qué rica la comida!
 Carmona: ¿Qué hacemos ahora?
 Carlos: No sé.... ¿Quieres una cerveza?

Carlos: *I love vacation.*
 Carmona: *Me, too. This place is marvelous.*
 Carlos: *Yes, I don't have to work.*
 Carmona: *We can stay all day at the beach.*
 Carlos: *Well, until I run out of beer!*
 Carmona: *Hmm. As far as I'm concerned, I don't want to go.*
 Carlos: *Me neither. This is one of the best vacations of my life.*
 Carmona: *We have to thank Diego for everything.*
 Carlos: *Of course! Diego is a very good friend.*
 Carmona: *His hospitality and company have been superb.*
 Carlos: *And what delicious food!*
 Carmona: *What do we do now?*
 Carlos: *I don't know... Do you want a beer?*

Part Seven:

La Vida Familiar

Family Life

In this final section of the course, you're going to learn about what makes family life tick. A host family experience is an essential component of any immersion learning course, so if you see yourself living with a Spanish-speaking family in the future, this section is essential! You'll learn about chores and the home. You'll even learn how to argue and how to talk about your goals and dreams.

7.1 **La Introducción a la Familia** *Introduction to the Family*

By this stage in the course, you know how to greet and carry on a conversation with one person. But what happens when you're in a group?

Introductions are much simpler when you're just introduced to one person at a time, but you'll find that things get tricky when you are introduced to a group of people at once. Usually, you'll have to greet each person in the group individually, and if you've just memorized one Spanish phrase for "Nice to meet you," you'll find it wearing thin after about the fifth time you say it! That's why it's important to be familiar with a variety of phrases you can use during introductions.

Encantado. / Encantada.	<i>A pleasure, delighted.</i>
Mucho gusto.	<i>A great pleasure.</i>
El gusto es mío.	<i>The pleasure is mine.</i>
Un gusto conocerte.	<i>A pleasure meeting you.</i>
Un placer.	<i>A pleasure.</i>
Un placer conocerte.	<i>A pleasure meeting you.</i>

You can also use one of the classic greetings below.

Hola.	<i>Hello.</i>
Buenos días.	<i>Good morning.</i>
Buenas tardes.	<i>Good afternoon.</i>
Buenas noches.	<i>Good evening.</i>

La Vida Familiar *Family Life*

You may discover that Latin American families seem a bit different from your own. There is no "typical" Latin American family, due to the variety of cultures within Latin America and the shift from traditional to more modern lifestyles. Nevertheless, some broad generalizations can be made.

Latin American families are often quite large, closely knit, and bound in common traditions like church-going. More often than not, you will find the grandparents living in the family house, rather than living by themselves. Children usually live with their parents until they marry ... which can lead to the strange situation of seeing 30-year-old bachelors still living with their folks!

Here's a list of family members in Spanish.

Male Members of the Family

esposo	<i>spouse (husband)</i>
marido	<i>husband</i>
padre	<i>father</i>
papá, papi	<i>dad (nickname)</i>
hermano	<i>brother</i>
hermano mayor	<i>older brother</i>
hermano menor	<i>younger brother</i>
hijo	<i>son</i>
abuelo	<i>grandfather</i>
tío	<i>uncle</i>
sobrino	<i>nephew</i>
primo	<i>cousin</i>
nieto	<i>grandson</i>
cuñado	<i>brother-in-law</i>

Female Members of the Family

esposa	<i>spouse (wife)</i>
mujer	<i>wife</i>
madre	<i>mother</i>
mamá, mami	<i>mom (nickname)</i>
hermana	<i>sister</i>
hermana mayor	<i>older sister</i>
hermana menor	<i>younger sister</i>
hija	<i>daughter</i>
abuela	<i>grandmother</i>
tía	<i>aunt</i>
sobrina	<i>niece</i>
prima	<i>cousin</i>
nieta	<i>granddaughter</i>
cuñada	<i>sister-in-law</i>

Conversation Time

A special event has occurred in Carlos' life, and in this conversation he shares it with Carmona.

“

Carlos: Carmona, tenemos que ir a ver a mi familia.
 Carmona: ¿Por qué?
 Carlos: Mi hermano mayor tuvo su primer hijo.
 Carmona: ¡Ah, qué fabuloso! ¡Somos tíos!
 Carlos: ¡Claro! Es el primer nieto de mis padres.
 Carmona: ¿Cómo se llama?
 Carlos: Mi nuevo sobrino se llama Simón.
 Carmona: Qué lindo nombre.
 Carlos: Sí, mi cuñada eligió el nombre.
 Carmona: ¿Carlos, cuándo le daremos a Simón un primo?
 Carlos: Ja, ja.

”

Carlos: Carmona, we have to go see my family.
 Carmona: Why?
 Carlos: My older brother had his first son.
 Carmona: Ah, how fabulous! We're aunts and uncles!
 Carlos: Of course! He's my parents' first grandchild.
 Carmona: What's he called?
 Carlos: My new nephew is called Simon.
 Carmona: What a pretty name.
 Carlos: Yes, my sister-in-law chose the name.
 Carmona: Carlos, when will we give Simon a cousin?
 Carlos: Ha, ha.

7.2 Los Deberes Chores

Rarely will you find a messy or dirty house in Latin America, as *el hogar* (the home) is something that Latinos pride themselves for. Traditionally, the wife (*la esposa*) and the children (*los hijos*) are responsible for keeping the house in order. But when things get out of control, you might hear the following:

La casa está desordenada.	<i>The house is messy.</i>
La casa está sucia.	<i>The house is dirty.</i>

Then, this is what you have to do to get it back in order again.

Tengo que...

barrer el piso.	<i>I have to sweep the floor.</i>
cocinar la cena.	<i>I have to cook the meal.</i>
hacer la cama.	<i>I have to make the bed.</i>
hacer las compras.	<i>I have to do the shopping.</i>
lavar el carro.	<i>I have to wash the car.</i>
lavar la ropa.	<i>I have to wash clothes.</i>
lavar los platos.	<i>I have to wash the dishes.</i>
limpiar la casa.	<i>I have to clean the house.</i>
ordenar la casa. (<i>also arreglar la casa</i>)	<i>I have to pick up the house.</i>
pasar la aspiradora.	<i>I have to vacuum.</i>
sacar la basura.	<i>I have to take out the garbage.</i>

At last, everything is clean. *Todo está limpio.*

La casa está limpia.	<i>The house is clean.</i>
La casa está ordenada. (<i>also arreglada</i>)	<i>The house is tidy</i>

La Casa

The House

When you are invited into someone's house, you will may get the grand tour of their home (*el hogar*). Here is a list of some of the places.

baño	<i>bathroom</i>
cocina	<i>kitchen</i>
comedor	<i>dining room</i>
dormitorio	<i>bedroom</i>
habitación, cuarto	<i>room</i>
sala	<i>living room</i>
pasillo	<i>hallway</i>
escalera	<i>stairs</i>

Las Discusiones

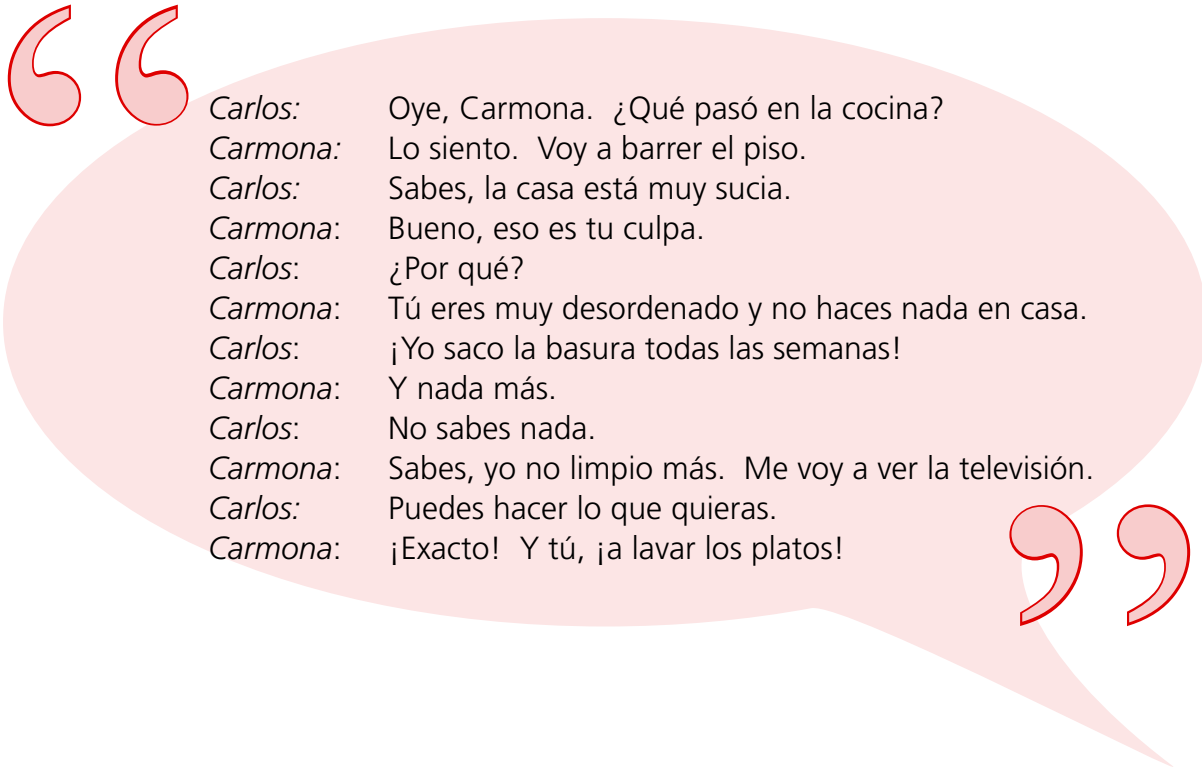
Arguments

Like any family, Latin families get into arguments about chores! Latin people can be very passionate, so there is no telling when you might accidentally (or deliberately!) get yourself into an argument. Here are some phrases that you might need to have on hand in the heat of the discussion.

Tienes razón.	<i>You're right.</i>
Lo siento, es mi culpa.	<i>I'm sorry, it's my fault.</i>
Es tu culpa.	<i>It's your fault.</i>
Es tu responsabilidad.	<i>It's your responsibility.</i>
No es mi culpa.	<i>It's not my fault.</i>
No sabes nada.	<i>You don't know anything.</i>
No te entiendo.	<i>I don't understand you.</i>
Puedes hacer lo que quieras.	<i>You can do what you want.</i>

Conversation Time

Like all married couples, Carlos and Carmona get into arguments from time to time.



Carlos: Oye, Carmona. ¿Qué pasó en la cocina?
 Carmona: Lo siento. Voy a barrer el piso.
 Carlos: Sabes, la casa está muy sucia.
 Carmona: Bueno, eso es tu culpa.
 Carlos: ¿Por qué?
 Carmona: Tú eres muy desordenado y no haces nada en casa.
 Carlos: ¡Yo saco la basura todas las semanas!
 Carmona: Y nada más.
 Carlos: No sabes nada.
 Carmona: Sabes, yo no limpio más. Me voy a ver la televisión.
 Carlos: Puedes hacer lo que quieras.
 Carmona: ¡Exacto! Y tú, ¡a lavar los platos!

Carlos: Hey, Carmona. What happened in the kitchen?
 Carmona: I'm sorry. I'm going to sweep the floor.
 Carlos: You know, the house is very dirty.
 Carmona: Well, that's your fault.
 Carlos: Why?
 Carmona: You're really messy and you don't do anything at home.
 Carlos: I take out the garbage every week!
 Carmona: And nothing else.
 Carlos: You don't know anything.
 Carmona: You know, I'm not cleaning any more. I'm going to watch television.
 Carlos: You can do what you want.
 Carmona: Exactly! And you, go wash the dishes!



7.3 Las Metas

Goals

An important part of life is dreaming about the future. Couples create dreams together and encourage their children to imagine what they will be someday. It is easy to talk about what you would like to do someday in Spanish. In fact, you'll already know how to do it! Just use the phrase, **Me gustaría**.

Let's start out with some basic vocabulary.

las aspiraciones	<i>aspirations</i>
las metas	<i>goals</i>
los objetivos	<i>objectives</i>
los planes para el futuro	<i>plans for the future</i>
los sueños	<i>dreams</i>

If you want to talk about achieving your aspirations, goals, or dreams, use either of these verbs:

lograr	<i>to achieve</i>
realizar	<i>to achieve, to fulfill</i>

Talking about your plans for the future can be an excellent conversation topic. Someone may ask you, "What would you like to do in the future?"

¿Qué te gustaría hacer en el futuro?

Your answer could look like one of the following.

Me gustaría...

casarme.	<i>I'd like to get married.</i>
comprar una casa.	<i>I'd like to buy a house.</i>
ganar la lotería.	<i>I'd like to win the lottery.</i>
ganar mucho dinero.	<i>I'd like to earn a lot of money.</i>
hablar otra idioma.	<i>I'd like to speak another language.</i>
ser doctor / abogado / actor / atleta profesional.	<i>I'd like to be a doctor / lawyer / actor / professional athlete.</i>
ser famoso.	<i>I'd like to be famous.</i>
ser presidente.	<i>I'd like to be president.</i>
ser rico / millonario.	<i>I'd like to be rich / a millionaire.</i>
ser superhéroe.	<i>I'd like to be a superhero.</i>
tener hijos.	<i>I'd like to have children.</i>
tener negocio propio.	<i>I'd like to have my own business.</i>
tener una carrera.	<i>I'd like to have a career.</i>
viajar a otros países.	<i>I'd like to travel to other countries.</i>
volver a estudiar.	<i>I'd like to go back to school.</i>

Conversation Time

Carmona has been wondering whether or not she and Carlos should have greater aspirations than simply one vacation a year at the beach.

“

Carmona: Carlos, necesitamos tener metas.
 Carlos: ¿Para qué?
 Carmona: ¡Para lograr nuestros sueños!
 Carlos: Bueno.
 Carmona: ¿No tienes aspiraciones?
 Carlos: Claro que sí. Me gustaría ganar la lotería.
 Carmona: ¿Nada más?
 Carlos: Bueno, la verdad es que me gustaría comprar una casa.
 Carmona: ¡Ja! ¿Con qué dinero?
 Carlos: Con lo que gane en la lotería.
 Carmona: ¡No seas tonto! A mí, me gustaría volver a estudiar.
 Carlos: ¿Para qué?
 Carmona: Para ser abogada.
 Carlos: ¡Eso sí que es un sueño!

”

Carmona: Carlos, we need to have goals.
 Carlos: For what?
 Carmona: To achieve our dreams!
 Carlos: Okay.
 Carmona: Don't you have aspirations?
 Carlos: Of course. I'd like to win the lottery.
 Carmona: Nothing else?
 Carlos: Well, the truth is that I would like to buy a house.
 Carmona: Hah! With what money?
 Carlos: With what I win in the lottery.
 Carmona: Don't be silly! For me, I'd like to go back to school.
 Carlos: What for?
 Carmona: To be a lawyer.
 Carlos: Now, that's a dream!

So Long!

You've reached the end of the Rocket Spanish Conversation Course. This course has provided you with a wealth of information about frequently-used phrases in Spanish. Don't just stop your studies here, though. An understanding of the grammatical concepts behind the language can help you not only remember how to say the phrases included but also create new ones of your own.

Spanish is such a fun language to speak that I hope you have piles of opportunities to use what you have learned here. Remember that Spanish, just like English, can be used to joke, to tease, to flirt, to chat up people, and much more! With a sense of humor and some creativity, you'll may easily find yourself enjoying Spanish just as much as you enjoy speaking English.

Until next time! *¡Hasta la próxima!*

Mauricio