ES

LANGUAGE COURSE

Spanish Basic Conversation 1

12 Chapters

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Generated with Claude

SPANISH BASIC CONVERSATION 1

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Spanish Basic Conversation 1

Chapter 1 · Greetings & Goodbyes

👋 Greetings & Goodbyes — Saludos y despedidas

*Welcome to your first Spanish conversation lesson. By the end of this chapter you will be able to greet people at any time of day, say thank you and sorry, ask how someone is and say goodbye, choosing between the formal and informal style. Spanish spelling is very close to its sounds, so a short **sound guide** (below) is all you need to read the language aloud. Every Spanish line also has an English **respelling beneath it**, with CAPITALS on the stressed syllable. This course uses the Spanish of **Spain** (Castilian), with notes on Latin America.*

① Good Morning (formal) — Buenos días

A:

Buenos días, señor Ruiz.

BWEH-nohs DEE-ahs, seh-NYOR RWEETH.

Good morning, Mr Ruiz.

B:

Buenos días, señora. ¿Cómo está usted?

BWEH-nohs DEE-ahs, seh-NYOH-rah. KOH-moh ehs-TAH oos-TEHD?

Good morning, madam. How are you?

A:

Muy bien, gracias. ¿Y usted?

mwee BYEHN, GRAH-thyahs. ee oos-TEHD?

Very well, thank you. And you?

B:

Bien, gracias.

BYEHN, GRAH-thyahs.

Fine, thank you.

② Meeting a Friend (informal) — ¡Hola!

A:

¡Hola, Ana!

OH-lah, AH-nah!

Hi, Ana!

B:

¡Hola, Pablo! ¿Qué tal?

OH-lah, PAH-bloh! keh TAHL?

Hi, Pablo! How's it going?

A:

Bien, ¿y tú?

BYEHN, ee TOO?

Fine, and you?

B:

Muy bien.

mwee BYEHN.

Very well.

③ Afternoon at the Hotel — Buenas tardes

④ Good Night — Buenas noches

A:

Buenas tardes.

BWEH-nahs TAR-dehs.

Good afternoon. (Philip, arriving)

B:

Buenas tardes. Bienvenido.

BWEH-nahs TAR-dehs. byehn-beh-NEE-doh.

Good afternoon. Welcome.

A:

Gracias.

GRAH-thyahs.

Thank you.

B:

De nada.

deh NAH-dah.

You're welcome.

A:

Buenas noches.

BWEH-nahs NOH-chehs.

Good night.

B:

Buenas noches. Hasta mañana.

BWEH-nahs NOH-chehs. AHS-tah mah-NYAH-nah.

Good night. See you tomorrow.

A:

Hasta mañana.

AHS-tah mah-NYAH-nah.

See you tomorrow.

⑤ Excuse Me — Perdone

A:

Perdone.

pehr-DOH-neh.

Excuse me. (formal)

B:

No pasa nada.

noh PAH-sah NAH-dah.

It's no problem.

A:

Lo siento mucho.

loh SYEHN-toh MOO-choh.

I'm very sorry.

B:

No es nada.

noh ehs NAH-dah.

It's nothing.

⑥ Saying Goodbye to Friends (casual, plural) — Hasta luego

A:

¡Hola, chicos! ¿Cómo estáis?

OH-lah, CHEE-kohs! KOH-moh ehs-TAHYS?

Hi, guys! How are you all?

B:

¡Hola, Pablo! Muy bien. ¿Y tú?

OH-lah, PAH-bloh! mwee BYEHN. ee TOO?

Hi, Pablo! Very well. And you?

A:

Bien. Bueno, hasta luego.

BYEHN. BWEH-noh, AHS-tah LWEH-goh.

Fine. Well, see you later.

B:

¡Adiós! Nos vemos.

ah-DYOHS! nohs BEH-mohs.

Bye! See you.

📢 The Sounds of Spanish — Los sonidos

*Spanish is almost always pronounced **as it is spelled**, and each vowel has one clear sound. Learn this short table and you can read any Spanish word aloud.*

LETTER	SOUND	EXAMPLE
a	"ah", as in "father"	**casa** *KAH-sah* (house)
e	"eh", as in "bed"	**mesa** *MEH-sah* (table)
i	"ee", as in "see"	**sí** *SEE* (yes)
o	"oh", as in "go" (short and clean)	**hola** *OH-lah*
u	"oo", as in "moon"	**tú** *TOO* (you)
h	**silent**	**hola, hasta** *OH-lah, AHS-tah*
j (and **g** before *e, i*)	a throaty "kh", like the end of Scottish "loch"	**hijo, gente** *EE-khoh, KHEHN-teh*
ñ	"ny", as in "canyon"	**mañana, señor** *mah-NYAH-nah, seh-NYOR*
ll	like English "y" in "yes"	**llamar** *yah-MAR*
rr (and **r** at the start of a word)	a rolled "r"	**perro** *PEH-rroh* (dog)

LETTER	SOUND	EXAMPLE
c before *e, i*, and **z**	"th" as in "thin" in Spain ("s" in Latin America)	**gracias, zapato** *GRAH-thyahs, thah-PAH-toh*
c before *a, o, u*, and **qu**	"k"	**casa, queso** *KAH-sah, KEH-soh*
gu before *e, i*	hard "g" (the *u* is silent)	**guerra** *GEH-rrah* (war)
b and **v**	the same sound, a soft "b"	**vaso, bien** *BAH-soh, BYEHN*
ch	"ch", as in "church"	**noches** *NOH-chehs*

WHERE IS THE STRESS?

Words ending in a **vowel, -n or -s** are stressed on the **second-to-last** syllable (*HAS-ta, BUE-nos, HA-blan*). Words ending in any **other consonant** are stressed on the **last** syllable (*us-TED, se-ÑOR*). A **written accent** overrides both rules and shows the stress (*tú, ¿cómo?, adiós*). Questions and exclamations start with an upside-down mark: *¿Qué tal? ¡Hola!*

🔑 Key Phrases — Frases clave

*Spanish has two styles of address. With **friends, family and people your age** you use **tú** (tutear). With **strangers, older people and in formal settings** you use **usted**. In Spain, to several friends you say **vosotros**. Here are the phrases for both.*

SITUATION	FORMAL (USTED)	INFORMAL (TÚ)
Good morning	**Buenos días.** *BWEH-nohs DEE-ahs*	**Buenos días. / Hola.** *BWEH-nohs DEE-ahs / OH-lah*

SITUATION	FORMAL (USTED)	INFORMAL (TÚ)
Good afternoon	**Buenas tardes.** *BWEH-nahs TAR-dehs*	**Hola.** *OH-lah*
Good evening / night	**Buenas noches.** *BWEH-nahs NOH-chehs*	**Hola. / Buenas noches.** *OH-lah / BWEH-nahs NOH-chehs*
How are you?	**¿Cómo está usted?** *KOH-moh ehs-TAH oos-TEHD*	**¿Cómo estás? / ¿Qué tal?** *KOH-moh ehs-TAHS / keh TAHL*
How are you? (several friends, Spain)	**¿Cómo están ustedes?** *KOH-moh ehs-TAHN oos-TEH-dehs*	**¿Cómo estáis?** *KOH-moh ehs-TAHYS*
Thank you	**Gracias.** *GRAH-thyahs*	**Gracias.** *GRAH-thyahs*
Please	**Por favor.** *pohr fah-BOHR*	**Por favor.** *pohr fah-BOHR*
You're welcome	**De nada.** *deh NAH-dah*	**De nada.** *deh NAH-dah*
Excuse me	**Perdone. / Disculpe.** *pehr-DOH-neh / dees-KOOL-peh*	**Perdona. / Disculpa.** *pehr-DOH-nah / dees-KOOL-pah*
Goodbye	**Adiós. / Hasta luego.** *ah-DYOHS / AHS-tah LWEH-goh*	**Adiós. / Hasta luego. / Nos vemos.** *ah-DYOHS / AHS-tah LWEH-goh / nohs BEH-mohs*

Tú or Usted? A Simple Rule

If you would use a person's first name in English, use **tú**. If you would say "sir", "madam", or "Mr / Mrs", use **usted**. In shops, hotels, offices and with older strangers, start with **usted**: nobody will mind, and if they want *tú* they will tell you (*Tutéame, por favor*, "Use tú with me, please"). Among young people in Spain, *tú* is used very freely.

Which Greeting When — Cuándo se dice qué

WHEN	SAY	NOTES
Morning	**Buenos días.** *BWEH-nohs DEE-ahs*	from waking up until about lunchtime
Afternoon, early evening	**Buenas tardes.** *BWEH-nahs TAR-dehs*	from lunchtime until it gets dark
Evening, night	**Buenas noches.** *BWEH-nahs NOH-chehs*	for both "good evening" and "good night"

Spain's Late Lunch

Lunch in Spain is often around 2 or 3 pm, so the "morning" lasts longer than in Britain: you will often hear *buenos días* well after midday, and *buenas tardes* until the evening. *Buenas noches* serves as both "good evening" and "good night".

Titles — Tratamiento

*In Spanish the title comes **before** the surname, as in English: señor Ruiz ("Mr Ruiz"), señora Ruiz ("Mrs Ruiz"). The abbreviations are Sr. and Sra.*

TITLE	USED BEFORE A SURNAME	EXAMPLE
señor *seh-NYOR*	Mr, sir (formal)	**señor Ruiz** *seh-NYOR RWEETH*
señora *seh-NYOH-rah*	Mrs, madam (formal; an adult woman)	**señora García** *seh-NYOH-rah gar-THEE-ah*
(none)	friends and peers: first name only	**Ana, Pablo** *AH-nah, PAH-bloh*

Three Verbs for Greetings — Verbos

Spanish verbs change their ending for each person. Here is the present tense of three useful verbs: ***estar*** *("to be", for how you are),* ***saludar*** *("to greet") and* ***hablar*** *("to speak"). Saludar and hablar are regular* ***-ar*** *verbs (take off -ar, add the endings); estar has an irregular yo form (estoy). Because the ending shows the person, Spanish usually* ***drops the subject pronoun*** *(hablo, not yo hablo), keeping it only for emphasis.*

	ESTAR (TO BE)	SALUDAR (TO GREET)	HABLAR (TO SPEAK)
yo (I) *YOH*	estoy *ehs-TOY*	saludo *sah-LOO-doh*	hablo *AH-bloh*
tú (you, informal) *TOO*	estás *ehs-TAHS*	saludas *sah-LOO-dahs*	hablas *AH-blahs*
él, ella, usted (he, she; you, formal) *EHL, EH-yah, oos-TEHD*	está *ehs-TAH*	saluda *sah-LOO-dah*	habla *AH-blah*
nosotros (we) *noh-SOH-trohs*	estamos *ehs-TAH-mohs*	saludamos *sah-loo-DAH-mohs*	hablamos *ah-BLAH-mohs*
vosotros (you, plural informal; Spain) *boh-SOH-trohs*	estáis *ehs-TAHYS*	saludáis *sah-loo-DAHYS*	habláis *ah-BLAHYS*
ellos, ellas, ustedes (they; you, plural formal) *EH-yohs, EH-yahs, oos-TEH-dehs*	están *ehs-TAHN*	saludan *sah-LOO-dahn*	hablan *AH-blahn*

¿Cómo estás? Why "estar"?

Spanish has two verbs for "to be". For **how you are** (a condition that can change) use **estar**: *¿Cómo estás? Estoy bien.* The other verb, *ser*, is for who you are and what things are like, and comes in Chapter 2. Notice too that *usted* takes the same verb form as *él / ella* (*¿Cómo está usted?*).

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabulario

20 key words. Read the Spanish first, then check the respelling (CAPITALS = the stressed syllable).

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	**hola**	*OH-lah*	hello; hi	phrase
2	**adiós**	*ah-DYOHS*	goodbye	phrase
3	**buenos días**	*BWEH-nohs DEE-ahs*	good morning	phrase
4	**buenas tardes**	*BWEH-nahs TAR-dehs*	good afternoon	phrase
5	**buenas noches**	*BWEH-nahs NOH-chehs*	good evening; good night	phrase
6	**hasta luego**	*AHS-tah LWEH-goh*	see you later	phrase
7	**hasta mañana**	*AHS-tah mah-NYAH-nah*	see you tomorrow	phrase
8	**gracias**	*GRAH-thyahs*	thank you	phrase
9	**de nada**	*deh NAH-dah*	you're welcome	phrase
10	**por favor**	*pohr fah-BOHR*	please	phrase
11	**perdón**	*pehr-DOHN*	sorry; excuse me	phrase
12	**lo siento**	*loh SYEHN-toh*	I'm sorry	phrase
13	**¿qué tal?**	*keh TAHL*	how's it going?	phrase
14	**bien**	*BYEHN*	well; fine	adv
15	**mal**	*MAHL*	badly; bad	adv
16	**sí**	*SEE*	yes	phrase
17	**no**	*NOH*	no; not	phrase
18	**el señor**	*ehl seh-NYOR*	Mr; gentleman	noun
19	**la señora**	*lah seh-NYOH-rah*	Mrs; lady	noun
20	**la tarde**	*lah TAR-deh*	the afternoon	noun

Dos Besos — Two Kisses

In Spain, friends and family greet each other with **dos besos** ("two kisses"): you touch cheeks, right cheek first, and make a kissing sound in the air. It is common between two women, and between a man and a woman; men who know each other well may hug or shake hands instead. With people you meet for the first time in a formal or business setting, a **handshake** is the safe choice.

Latin America Note

In Latin America nobody says *vosotros*: to several people, formal or informal, you say **ustedes** (*¿Cómo están?*). In Latin America, *c* before *e, i* and *z* are pronounced like an English "s", not "th": *gracias* sounds like *GRAH-syahs*. Both pronunciations are correct, and everyone understands both. In some countries *vos* is used instead of *tú*; you will meet it later in the course.

Grammar Pointer

Subject pronouns and forms of address are explained fully in Spanish Grammar 1 9, and the full sound and spelling map is in Spanish Grammar 1 1. You do not need them yet: this chapter gives you what you need to start.

✍️ Try It Yourself — Ejercicios

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. It is morning and you meet an older neighbour, Mr Ruiz. What do you say?

▼ Show answer

Buenos días, señor Ruiz. (BWEH-nohs DEE-ahs, seh-NYOR RWEETH)

2. A friend your age asks how you are. Reply, and ask back.

▼ Show answer

Bien, gracias. ¿Y tú? (BYEHN, GRAH-thyahs. ee TOO?)

3. What is the formal way to say "How are you?", and the informal way?

▼ Show answer

Formal: **¿Cómo está usted?** · informal: **¿Cómo estás?** (or **¿Qué tal?**)

4. You bump into a stranger on the metro. What do you say?

▼ Show answer

Perdone. or **Disculpe.** (or just **Perdón.**)

5. Say goodbye to a friend you will see tomorrow, then to someone you will see later today.

▼ Show answer

Hasta mañana. · **Hasta luego.**

6. Read aloud: *mañana, hijo, llamar, perro*. What is special about the *ñ, h, ll* and *rr* in them?

▼ Show answer

mañana = mah-NYAH-nah (*ñ* = "ny") · hijo = EE-khoh (silent *h*, throaty *j*) · llamar = yah-MAR (*ll* = "y") · perro = PEH-rroh (rolled *rr*).

Coming Up in Chapter 2

Introducing yourself: **Me llamo …** ("my name is"), **Soy …** ("I am"), **¿Cómo te llamas?** and **¿Cómo se llama usted?** ("what is your name?"), **mucho gusto**, and the verb **ser** ("to be"), with two surnames in Spain.

🙋 Introducing Yourself — Presentarse

*In this chapter you will learn to say who you are, ask someone's name, say you are pleased to meet them and introduce a friend. You will also meet the most important verb in Spanish, **ser** ("to be"), and learn why Spanish speakers usually leave out the word for "I". Every Spanish line has an English respelling beneath it, with CAPITALS on the stressed syllable.*

① Meeting for the First Time (formal) — Mucho gusto

A:

Buenos días. Me llamo Carmen Ruiz López.

BWEH-nohs DEE-ahs. meh YAH-moh kar-MEHN RWEETH LOH-pehth.

Good morning. My name is Carmen Ruiz López.

B:

Mucho gusto. Yo soy Javier García.

MOO-choh GOOS-toh. yoh SOY khah-BYEHR gar-THEE-ah.

Pleased to meet you. I'm Javier García.

A:

Encantada, señor García.

ehn-kahn-TAH-dah, seh-NYOR gar-THEE-ah.

Delighted, Mr García. (a woman speaking)

B:

Igualmente, señora Ruiz.

ee-gwahl-MEHN-teh, seh-NYOH-rah RWEETH.

Likewise, Mrs Ruiz.

② Meeting a Peer (informal) — ¿Cómo te llamas?

A:

Hola, ¿cómo te llamas?

OH-lah, KOH-moh teh YAH-mahs?

Hi, what's your name?

B:

Me llamo Lucía. ¿Y tú?

meh YAH-moh loo-THEE-ah. ee TOO?

My name is Lucía. And you?

A:

Yo soy Pablo. Encantado.

yoh SOY PAH-bloh. ehn-kahn-TAH-doh.

I'm Pablo. Delighted. (a man speaking)

B:

Encantada.

ehn-kahn-TAH-dah.

Delighted. (a woman speaking)

③ At the Hotel Desk — ¿Cuál es su apellido?

A:

Buenas tardes. ¿Cómo se llama usted?

BWEH-nahs TAR-dehs. KOH-moh seh YAH-mah oos-TEHD?

Good afternoon. What is your name? (formal)

B:

Me llamo Philip.

meh YAH-moh FEE-leep.

My name is Philip.

A:

¿Y cuál es su apellido?

ee KWAHL ehs soo ah-peh-YEE-doh?

And what is your surname?

B:

Mi apellido es Scott. Gracias.

mee ah-peh-YEE-doh ehs eh-SKOT. GRAH-thyahs.

My surname is Scott. Thank you.

④ Introducing a Friend — Te presento a...

A:

Ana, te presento a Pablo.

AH-nah, teh preh-SEHN-toh ah PAH-bloh.

Ana, let me introduce you to Pablo.

B:

Hola, Pablo. Mucho gusto.

OH-lah, PAH-bloh. MOO-choh GOOS-toh.

Hello, Pablo. Pleased to meet you.

C:

Igualmente, Ana. ¿Qué tal?

ee-gwahl-MEHN-teh, AH-nah. keh TAHL?

Likewise, Ana. How's it going?

B:

Bien, gracias.

BYEHN, GRAH-thyahs.

Fine, thanks.

⑤ Are You...? — ¿Es usted...?

A:

Perdone, ¿es usted el señor Ruiz?

pehr-DOH-neh, ehs oos-TEHD ehl seh-NYOR RWEETH?

Excuse me, are you Mr Ruiz?

B:

No, no soy el señor Ruiz. Soy el señor García.

NOH, noh SOY ehl seh-NYOR RWEETH. SOY ehl seh-NYOR gar-THEE-ah.

No, I'm not Mr Ruiz. I'm Mr García.

⑥ A Group of Friends (casual) — ¿Cómo os llamáis?

A:

¡Hola! Yo soy Pablo y ella es Lucía.

OH-lah! yoh SOY PAH-bloh ee EH-yah ehs loo-THEE-ah.

Hi! I'm Pablo and she is Lucía.

B:

Hola. ¿Cómo os llamáis vosotros?

OH-lah. KOH-moh ohs yah-MAHYS boh-SOH-trohs?

Hi. What are your names? (to two or more people)

A:

Ah, lo siento mucho.

AH, loh SYEHN-toh MOO-choh.

Ah, I'm very sorry.

B:

No pasa nada. El señor Ruiz es él.

noh PAH-sah NAH-dah. ehl seh-NYOR RWEETH ehs EHL.

It's no problem. Mr Ruiz is him.

C:

Nosotros somos Ana y Javier.

noh-SOH-trohs SOH-mohs AH-nah ee khah-BYEHR.

We are Ana and Javier.

A:

Mucho gusto, chicos.

MOO-choh GOOS-toh, CHEE-kohs.

Nice to meet you, guys.

🔑 Key Phrases — Frases clave

SITUATION	FORMAL (USTED)	INFORMAL (TÚ)
What's your name?	**¿Cómo se llama usted?** *KOH-moh seh YAH-mah oos-TEHD*	**¿Cómo te llamas?** *KOH-moh teh YAH-mahs*
My name is...	**Me llamo... / Soy...** *meh YAH-moh / SOY*	**Me llamo... / Soy...** *meh YAH-moh / SOY*
What's your surname?	**¿Cuál es su apellido?** *KWAHL ehs soo ah-peh-YEE-doh*	**¿Cuál es tu apellido?** *KWAHL ehs too ah-peh-YEE-doh*
Pleased to meet you	**Mucho gusto. / Encantado / Encantada.** *MOO-choh GOOS-toh / ehn-kahn-TAH-doh / ehn-kahn-TAH-dah*	**Encantado / Encantada. / Mucho gusto.** *ehn-kahn-TAH-doh / ehn-kahn-TAH-dah / MOO-choh GOOS-toh*
Likewise	**Igualmente.** *ee-gwahl-MEHN-teh*	**Igualmente. / Lo mismo.** *ee-gwahl-MEHN-teh / loh MEES-moh*
Let me introduce you to...	**Le presento a...** *leh preh-SEHN-toh ah*	**Te presento a...** *teh preh-SEHN-toh ah*
Are you...?	**¿Es usted...?** *ehs oos-TEHD*	**¿Eres...?** *EH-rehs*

Encantado or Encantada?

Encantado ("delighted") is an adjective that agrees with the person **speaking**: a man says *encantado*, a woman says *encantada*. **Mucho gusto** does not change: it works for everyone. Plural: *encantados / encantadas*.

👫 Names in Spain — Los apellidos

*Spaniards normally have **two surnames** (apellidos): the first is the **father's first surname** and the second is the **mother's first surname**. So Carmen Ruiz López is the daughter of Mr Ruiz and Mrs López.*

PART	EXAMPLE	NOTES
el nombre *ehl NOHM-breh*	Carmen	first name
el primer apellido *ehl pree-MEHR ah-peh-YEE-doh*	Ruiz	father's surname; the one used in speech
el segundo apellido *ehl seh-GOON-doh ah-peh-YEE-doh*	López	mother's surname; used on documents

In everyday speech people use the **first surname** after a title (*señora Ruiz*) and both surnames on official forms. A woman usually **keeps her own surnames** when she marries.

🔤 Three Verbs for Introductions — Verbos

*Here are **ser** ("to be", for who someone is), **llamarse** ("to be called", literally "to call oneself") and **presentar** ("to introduce"). Presentar is a regular **-ar** verb. Ser is highly irregular and must be learned by heart. Llamarse is a **reflexive** verb: the small word before the verb (me, te, se, nos, os, se) says that the action goes back to the speaker.*

	SER (TO BE)	LLAMARSE (TO BE CALLED)	PRESENTAR (TO INTRODUCE)
yo (I) *YOH*	soy *SOY*	me llamo *meh YAH-moh*	presento *preh-SEHN-toh*
tú (you, informal) *TOO*	eres *EH-rehs*	te llamas *teh YAH-mahs*	presentas *preh-SEHN-tahs*
él, ella, usted (he, she; you, formal) *EHL, EH-yah, oos-TEHD*	es *EHS*	se llama *seh YAH-mah*	presenta *preh-SEHN-tah*
nosotros (we) *noh-SOH-trohs*	somos *SOH-mohs*	nos llamamos *nohs yah-MAH-mohs*	presentamos *preh-sehn-TAH-mohs*
vosotros (you, plural informal; Spain) *boh-SOH-trohs*	sois *SOYS*	os llamáis *ohs yah-MAHYS*	presentáis *preh-sehn-TAHYS*
ellos, ellas, ustedes (they; you, plural formal) *EH-yohs, EH-yahs, oos-TEH-dehs*	son *SOHN*	se llaman *seh YAH-mahn*	presentan *preh-SEHN-tahn*

Drop the Pronoun!

The verb ending already tells you who is speaking, so Spanish leaves out *yo, tú, nosotros*... most of the time: **Soy Pablo** (not *Yo soy Pablo*). Keep the pronoun only for **emphasis or contrast**: *Yo soy Pablo y ella es Lucía*, or *¿Y tú?* The pronouns *usted* and *ustedes* are used more often than the others, to make clear that you are being formal.

Two Ways to Say Your Name

Me llamo Pablo ("I'm called Pablo") and **Soy Pablo** ("I am Pablo") both give your name. *Me llamo* is the usual way to give your name when meeting someone; *soy* is also common, for example when you answer "who is it?" (*Soy Pablo*).

❓ Question Words — Palabras interrogativas

QUESTION WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE
¿cómo? *KOH-moh*	how; what (like)	**¿Cómo te llamas?** What's your name?
¿quién? *KYEHN*	who	**¿Quién es ella?** Who is she?
¿qué? *KEH*	what	**¿Qué tal?** How's it going?
¿cuál? *KWAHL*	which; what (a choice)	**¿Cuál es su apellido?** What is your surname?

Every question word carries a **written accent**, and every question starts with **¿** and ends with **?** To make a yes/no question you can simply raise your voice: *Es usted el señor Ruiz.* → *¿Es usted el señor Ruiz?*

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabulario

20 key words. Read the Spanish first, then check the respelling (CAPITALS = the stressed syllable).

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	**el nombre**	*ehl NOHM-breh*	first name; name	noun
2	**el apellido**	*ehl ah-peh-YEE-doh*	surname	noun
3	**yo**	*YOH*	I	pron
4	**tú**	*TOO*	you (informal)	pron
5	**usted**	*oos-TEHD*	you (formal)	pron
6	**él**	*EHL*	he	pron

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
7	**ella**	*EH-yah*	she	pron
8	**nosotros**	*noh-SOH-trohs*	we	pron
9	**vosotros**	*boh-SOH-trohs*	you (plural, informal; Spain)	pron
10	**ser**	*SEHR*	to be	verb
11	**llamarse**	*yah-MAR-seh*	to be called	verb
12	**presentar**	*preh-sehn-TAR*	to introduce	verb
13	**mucho gusto**	*MOO-choh GOOS-toh*	pleased to meet you	phrase
14	**encantado / encantada**	*ehn-kahn-TAH-doh / -dah*	delighted	adj
15	**igualmente**	*ee-gwahl-MEHN-teh*	likewise	phrase
16	**el amigo / la amiga**	*ehl ah-MEE-goh / lah ah-MEE-gah*	friend	noun
17	**¿cómo?**	*KOH-moh*	how?	q-word
18	**¿quién?**	*KYEHN*	who?	q-word
19	**¿qué?**	*KEH*	what?	q-word
20	**¿cuál?**	*KWAHL*	which?; what?	q-word

Latin America Note

In Latin America, to a group you say **ustedes**, so the question to two or more people is *¿Cómo se llaman ustedes?* rather than *¿Cómo os llamáis?*, and the answer is *Nos llamamos…* or *Somos…* In the countries where *vos* is used instead of *tú*, you will hear *¿Cómo te llamás? Mucho gusto* and *encantado / encantada* are used in both Spain and Latin America.

Grammar Pointer

Ser against *estar* is explained fully in Spanish Grammar 2 3, and reflexive verbs such as *llamarse* in Spanish Grammar 2 6. Subject pronouns and when to drop them are in Spanish Grammar 1 9. Use them as a reference after this chapter. The little words *mi* and *su / tu* in the hotel dialog mean "my" and "your"; possessives are taught in Chapter 5, so for now learn those lines as phrases.

✍️ Try It Yourself — Ejercicios

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. You meet a stranger at a conference. Ask their name politely, then say your own.

▼ Show answer

¿Cómo se llama usted? Me llamo Philip. (KOH-moh seh YAH-mah oos-TEHD? meh YAH-moh FEE-leep)

2. You meet a student your age. Ask their name, then say you are pleased to meet them (you are a woman).

▼ Show answer

¿Cómo te llamas? Encantada. (a man would say *Encantado*)

3. Complete with the right form of *ser*: "Yo ____ Pablo." · "Ella ____ Lucía." · "Nosotros ____ amigos."

▼ Show answer

soy · es · somos.

4. Introduce your friend Ana to a friend, Pablo, informally.

▼ Show answer

Pablo, te presento a Ana. (PAH-bloh, teh preh-SEHN-toh ah AH-nah)

5. Carmen Ruiz López: which surname is the father's, and which would you use after *señora*?

▼ Show answer

Ruiz is the father's surname, and it is the one used after the title: *señora Ruiz*. López is the mother's surname.

6. Make a question from "Es usted el señor Ruiz." and answer "no".

▼ Show answer

¿Es usted el señor Ruiz? · **No, no soy el señor Ruiz.** (NOH, noh SOY ehl seh-NYOR RWEETH)

Coming Up in Chapter 3

Numbers, age and contact details: the numbers from 0 to 100 and beyond, **Tengo veintiocho años** ("I am 28 years old"), phone numbers (said in groups of two or three digits), and the Spanish identity numbers, the **DNI** and the **NIE**.

🔢 Numbers, Age & Contact Details — Números, edad y datos de contacto

*This chapter is in three parts: **Part 1** teaches the numbers 0 to 100, **Part 2** the hundreds and how to say your age, and **Part 3** phone numbers, email addresses and the identity numbers used in Spain. Every Spanish line has an English respelling beneath it, with CAPITALS on the stressed syllable (in Spain, c before e, i and z are "th").*

① How Old Are You? (informal) — ¿Cuántos años tienes?

A:

¿Cuántos años tienes, Lucía?
KWAHN-tohs AH-nyohs TYEH-nehs, loo-THEE-ah?
How old are you, Lucía?

B:

Tengo veintiocho años. ¿Y tú?
TEHN-goh bayn-TYOH-choh AH-nyohs. ee TOO?
I'm 28. And you?

A:

Tengo treinta y dos.
TEHN-goh TRAYN-tah ee DOHS.
I'm 32.

B:

¡Qué bien!
keh BYEHN!
How nice!

② How Old Are You? (formal) — ¿Cuántos años tiene usted?

A:

Perdone, ¿cuántos años tiene usted?
pehr-DOH-neh, KWAHN-tohs AH-nyohs TYEH-neh oos-TEHD?
Excuse me, how old are you? (for a form)

B:

Tengo cuarenta y cinco años.
TEHN-goh kwah-REHN-tah ee THEEN-koh AH-nyohs.
I'm 45 years old.

A:

Muy bien, gracias.
mwee BYEHN, GRAH-thyahs.
Very good, thank you.

③ A Phone Number — Mi número de teléfono

A:

¿Cuál es tu número de teléfono?

KWAHL ehs too NOO-meh-roh deh teh-LEH-foh-noh?

What's your phone number?

B:

Es el seis, uno, dos, tres, cuatro, cinco, seis, siete, ocho.

ehs ehl SAYS, OO-noh, DOHS, TREHS, KWAH-troh, THEEN-koh, SAYS, SYEH-teh, OH-choh.

It's 6, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. (612 345 678)

A:

Perfecto. Te llamo mañana.

pehr-FEHK-toh. teh YAH-moh mah-NYAH-nah.

Perfect. I'll call you tomorrow.

B:

Vale. Hasta mañana.

BAH-leh. AHS-tah mah-NYAH-nah.

OK. See you tomorrow.

④ At the Hotel Desk — Su pasaporte, por favor

A:

Buenas tardes. ¿Su pasaporte, por favor?

BWEH-nahs TAR-dehs. soo pah-sah-POHR-teh, pohr fah-BOHR?

Good afternoon. Your passport, please?

B:

Aquí tiene.

ah-KEE TYEH-neh.

Here you are.

A:

Gracias. ¿Y su número de móvil?

GRAH-thyahs. ee soo NOO-meh-roh deh MOH-beel?

Thank you. And your mobile number?

B:

Es el siete, uno, uno, dos, dos, dos, tres, tres, tres.

ehs ehl SYEH-teh, OO-noh, OO-noh, DOHS, DOHS, DOHS, TREHS, TREHS, TREHS.

It's 7, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3. (711 222 333)

⑤ An Email Address — Mi correo electrónico

A:

¿Cuál es su correo electrónico?

KWAHL ehs soo koh-RREH-oh eh-lehk-TROH-nee-koh?

What is your email address? (formal)

B:

⑥ Swapping Numbers (casual) — ¿Me das tu número?

A:

Oye, ¿me das tu número?

OH-yeh, meh dahs too NOO-meh-roh?

Hey, will you give me your number?

B:

Claro. Es el seis, cero, cero, diez, veinte, treinta.

Ana punto Ruiz arroba ejemplo punto es.

AH-nah POON-toh RWEETH ah-RROH-bah eh-KHEHM-ploh POON-toh EHS.

ana.ruiz@ejemplo.es

A:

Muchas gracias. Le escribo hoy.

MOO-chahs GRAH-thyahs. leh ehs-KREE-boh OY.

Thank you very much. I'll write to you today.

B:

De nada.

deh NAH-dah.

You're welcome.

KLAH-roh. ehs ehl SAYS, THEH-roh, THEH-roh, DYEHTH, BAYN-teh, TRAYN-tah.

Sure. It's 6, 0, 0, 10, 20, 30. (600 102 030)

A:

Genial. Te escribo luego.

kheh-NYAHL. teh ehs-KREE-boh LWEH-goh.

Great. I'll message you later.

B:

Vale. ¡Hasta luego!

BAH-leh. AHS-tah LWEH-goh!

OK. See you later!

🔢 Part 1 — Numbers 0 to 100 — Los números

0–10	11–20
0 cero *THEH-roh*	11 once *OHN-theh*
1 uno *OO-noh*	12 doce *DOH-theh*
2 dos *DOHS*	13 trece *TREH-theh*
3 tres *TREHS*	14 catorce *kah-TOR-theh*
4 cuatro *KWAH-troh*	15 quince *KEEN-theh*
5 cinco *THEEN-koh*	16 dieciséis *dyeh-thee-SAYS*
6 seis *SAYS*	17 diecisiete *dyeh-thee-SYEH-teh*
7 siete *SYEH-teh*	18 dieciocho *dyeh-THYOH-choh*
8 ocho *OH-choh*	19 diecinueve *dyeh-thee-NWEH-beh*
9 nueve *NWEH-beh*	20 veinte *BAYN-teh*
10 diez *DYEHTH*	

21–29: ONE WORD	TENS
21 veintiuno *bayn-TYOO-noh*	30 treinta *TRAYN-tah*
22 veintidós *bayn-tee-DOHS*	40 cuarenta *kwah-REHN-tah*

21–29: ONE WORD	TENS
23 **veintitrés** *bayn-tee-TREHS*	50 **cincuenta** *theen-KWEHN-tah*
24 **veinticuatro** *bayn-tee-KWAH-troh*	60 **sesenta** *seh-SEHN-tah*
25 **veinticinco** *bayn-tee-THEEN-koh*	70 **setenta** *seh-TEHN-tah*
26 **veintiséis** *bayn-tee-SAYS*	80 **ochenta** *oh-CHEHN-tah*
27 **veintisiete** *bayn-tee-SYEH-teh*	90 **noventa** *noh-BEHN-tah*
28 **veintiocho** *bayn-TYOH-choh*	100 **cien** *THYEHN*
29 **veintinueve** *bayn-tee-NWEH-beh*	

THE PATTERN FROM 31

From 31 to 99, write the tens and the units as **separate words joined by y** ("and"): *treinta y uno* (31), *cuarenta y cinco* (45), *noventa y nueve* (99). The numbers **16–19** and **21–29** are **single words** (*dieciséis*, *veintidós*), and several take a written accent: *dieciséis*, *veintidós*, *veintitrés*, *veintiséis*.

Uno Becomes Un

Uno shortens to **un** before a masculine noun and becomes **una** before a feminine one: *un año*, *una hora*. The same applies at the end of 21, 31 etc.: *veintiún años* (21 years), *treinta y un años* (31 years), but *veintiuna personas*.

💯 Part 2 — The Hundreds and Age — Los cientos y la edad

NUMBER	SPANISH	SAY IT
100	**cien** (alone) / **ciento** (before more)	*THYEHN / THYEHN-toh*
101	**ciento uno**	*THYEHN-toh OO-noh*
200	**doscientos**	*dohs-THYEHN-tohs*
300	**trescientos**	*trehs-THYEHN-tohs*
400	**cuatrocientos**	*kwah-troh-THYEHN-tohs*

NUMBER	SPANISH	SAY IT
500	**quinientos**	*kee-NYEHN-tohs*
600	**seiscientos**	*says-THYEHN-tohs*
700	**setecientos**	*seh-teh-THYEHN-tohs*
800	**ochocientos**	*oh-choh-THYEHN-tohs*
900	**novecientos**	*noh-beh-THYEHN-tohs*
1000	**mil**	*MEEL*

The hundreds are one word and **agree in gender** with the noun: *doscientos euros* but *doscientas personas*. Notice the irregular **quinientos** (not *cincocientos*), **setecientos** and **novecientos**. Put the smaller numbers after the hundreds with no *y*: *ciento veinte* (120), *trescientos cuarenta y cinco* (345).

Age with tener

QUESTION	ANSWER
¿Cuántos años tienes? (informal) *KWAHN-tohs AH-nyohs TYEH-nehs*	**Tengo veintiocho años.** *TEHN-goh bayn-TYOH-choh AH-nyohs*
¿Cuántos años tiene usted? (formal) *KWAHN-tohs AH-nyohs TYEH-neh oos-TEHD*	**Tengo cuarenta y cinco años.** *TEHN-goh kwah-REHN-tah ee THEEN-koh AH-nyohs*
¿Cuántos años tiene tu hijo? (about a child)	**Tiene seis años.** *TYEH-neh SAYS AH-nyohs*

Spanish "Has" Years

English says "I *am* 28". Spanish says "I *have* 28 years": **tengo veintiocho años**. Never use *ser* or *estar* for age: ✗ *Soy veintiocho*. The word **años** must be there in the question (*¿Cuántos años…?*), and is usually dropped in the answer (*Tengo veintiocho*).

Three Verbs for Contact Details — Verbos

__Tener__ ("to have") is irregular: it has tengo, and its vowel changes e → ie in the singular forms and in ellos (tienes, tiene, tienen). __Llamar__ ("to call; to phone") and __escribir__ ("to write") are regular, an __-ar__ and an __-ir__ verb.

	TENER (TO HAVE)	LLAMAR (TO CALL)	ESCRIBIR (TO WRITE)
yo (I)	tengo *TEHN-goh*	llamo *YAH-moh*	escribo *ehs-KREE-boh*
tú (you, informal)	tienes *TYEH-nehs*	llamas *YAH-mahs*	escribes *ehs-KREE-behs*
él, ella, usted	tiene *TYEH-neh*	llama *YAH-mah*	escribe *ehs-KREE-beh*
nosotros (we)	tenemos *teh-NEH-mohs*	llamamos *yah-MAH-mohs*	escribimos *ehs-kree-BEE-mohs*
vosotros (Spain)	tenéis *teh-NAYS*	llamáis *yah-MAHYS*	escribís *ehs-kree-BEES*
ellos, ellas, ustedes	tienen *TYEH-nehn*	llaman *YAH-mahn*	escriben *ehs-KREE-behn*

Part 3 — Contact Details and ID — Datos de contacto

DETAIL	SPANISH	EXAMPLE
phone number	**el número de teléfono** *ehl NOO-meh-roh deh teh-LEH-foh-noh*	a landline (in Spain: 9 digits)
mobile number	**el número de móvil** *ehl NOO-meh-roh deh MOH-beel*	9 digits, usually starting with 6 or 7

DETAIL	SPANISH	EXAMPLE
email address	**el correo electrónico** *ehl koh-RREH-oh eh-lehk-TROH-nee-koh*	**ana punto ruiz arroba ejemplo punto es**
@	**arroba** *ah-RROH-bah*	
. (dot)	**punto** *POON-toh*	
- (hyphen)	**guion** *GYOHN*	
passport	**el pasaporte** *ehl pah-sah-POHR-teh*	ask for it at hotels

SAYING A PHONE NUMBER

A Spanish number has **nine digits** (*612 345 678*). You can say the digits one by one, as in dialog ③ (*seis, uno, dos, tres…*), or in short groups of two or three digits, for example *seiscientos doce, trescientos cuarenta y cinco, seiscientos setenta y ocho*. Both are heard; in a noisy shop, single digits are the clearest. The international code for Spain is **+34** (*más treinta y cuatro*).

The DNI and the NIE

DOCUMENT	FULL NAME	FORM
DNI *said as letters: DEH, EH-neh, EE*	**Documento Nacional de Identidad**	the identity card of Spanish citizens: 8 digits and a letter (e.g. *12345678Z*)
NIE *said as letters: EH-neh, EE, EH*	**Número de Identidad de Extranjero**	the number given to foreigners: a letter (X, Y or Z), 7 digits and a letter (e.g. *X1234567L*)

You will need your **passport** as a visitor. If you ever live or work in Spain, you will be asked for an **NIE** on contracts, bank accounts and tax forms, and Spanish citizens give their **DNI**.

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabulario

20 key words. Read the Spanish first, then check the respelling (CAPITALS = the stressed syllable).

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	**el número**	*ehl NOO-meh-roh*	number	noun
2	**el teléfono**	*ehl teh-LEH-foh-noh*	telephone	noun
3	**el móvil**	*ehl MOH-beel*	mobile phone	noun
4	**el correo electrónico**	*ehl koh-RREH-oh eh-lehk-TROH-nee-koh*	email	noun
5	**el pasaporte**	*ehl pah-sah-POHR-teh*	passport	noun
6	**el año**	*ehl AH-nyoh*	year	noun
7	**cero**	*THEH-roh*	zero	number
8	**uno**	*OO-noh*	one	number
9	**diez**	*DYEHTH*	ten	number
10	**veinte**	*BAYN-teh*	twenty	number
11	**cien**	*THYEHN*	one hundred	number
12	**mil**	*MEEL*	one thousand	number
13	**tener**	*teh-NEHR*	to have	verb
14	**llamar**	*yah-MAR*	to call; to phone	verb
15	**escribir**	*ehs-kree-BEER*	to write	verb
16	**¿cuántos?**	*KWAHN-tohs*	how many?	q-word
17	**arroba**	*ah-RROH-bah*	the @ sign	noun

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
18	**punto**	*POON-toh*	dot; point	noun
19	**claro**	*KLAH-roh*	of course; sure	phrase
20	**el DNI**	*ehl deh EH-neh EE*	Spanish identity card	noun

Latin America Note

In Latin America the mobile phone is usually **el celular** rather than *el móvil*, and the numbers have the same names, with *c* and *z* pronounced "s": *cinco* sounds like *SEEN-koh*, *diez* like *DYEHS*. Phone-number formats and identity documents differ from country to country (the DNI and NIE are Spain's), so ask *¿Cuál es su número de identificación?* if you are not sure.

Grammar Pointer

Numbers are covered in full in Spanish Grammar 1 8, and *tener* with its vowel change in Spanish Grammar 2 4 and Spanish Grammar 2 5. The little words *su* and *tu* ("your") in this chapter are taught as possessives in Chapter 5.

✍️ Try It Yourself — Ejercicios

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Say these numbers in Spanish: 13, 22, 45, 99.

▼ Show answer

trece · veintidós · cuarenta y cinco · noventa y nueve.

2. Say these numbers in Spanish: 100, 250, 500, 1000.

▼ Show answer

cien · doscientos cincuenta · quinientos · mil.

3. Ask a friend how old they are, and say you are 30.

▼ Show answer

¿Cuántos años tienes? Tengo treinta años. (KWAHN-tohs AH-nyohs TYEH-nehs? TEHN-goh TRAYN-tah AH-nyohs)

4. Complete with the right form of *tener*: "Yo ____ veinte años." · "Ella ____ treinta." · "Nosotros ____ cuarenta."

▼ Show answer

tengo · tiene · tenemos.

5. Ask for a phone number (formally), then give 611 222 333 digit by digit.

▼ Show answer

¿Cuál es su número de teléfono? Es el seis, uno, uno, dos, dos, dos, tres, tres, tres.

6. Say aloud the email *pablo@ejemplo.es*.

▼ Show answer

pablo arroba ejemplo punto es (PAH-bloh ah-RROH-bah eh-KHEHM-ploh POON-toh EHS)

Coming Up in Chapter 4

Where you're from: **Soy de Escocia** ("I'm from Scotland"), countries and nationalities with their masculine and feminine forms (**escocés / escocesa**), **vivo en…** ("I live in…"), and the regions of Spain.

🌎 Where You're From — De dónde eres

*In this chapter you will say **where you come from** and **where you live**, name countries and nationalities (which change for masculine and feminine, singular and plural), and get to know the regions of Spain. Every Spanish line has an English respelling beneath it, with CAPITALS on the stressed syllable.*

① Where Are You From? (formal) — ¿De dónde es usted?

A:

Perdone, ¿de dónde es usted?
pehr-DOH-neh, deh DOHN-deh ehs oos-TEHD?
Excuse me, where are you from?

B:

Soy de Escocia, de Edimburgo. Soy escocés.
SOY deh ehs-KOH-thyah, deh eh-deem-BOOR-goh. SOY ehs-koh-THEHS.
I'm from Scotland, from Edinburgh. I'm Scottish.

A:

¡Qué interesante! Yo soy española, de Sevilla.
keh een-teh-reh-SAHN-teh! yoh SOY ehs-pah-NYOH-lah, deh seh-BEE-yah.
How interesting! I'm Spanish, from Seville.

B:

Mucho gusto.
MOO-choh GOOS-toh.
Pleased to meet you.

② Meeting a Peer (informal) — ¿De dónde eres?

A:

Hola, ¿de dónde eres?
OH-lah, deh DOHN-deh EH-rehs?
Hi, where are you from?

B:

Soy de Argentina. ¿Y tú?
SOY deh ahr-khehn-TEE-nah. ee TOO?
I'm from Argentina. And you?

A:

Yo soy inglés, de Londres.
yoh SOY een-GLEHS, deh LOHN-drehs.
I'm English, from London.

B:

¡Qué bien!
keh BYEHN!
How nice!

③ Where Do You Live? — ¿Dónde vives?

A:

¿Dónde vives?

DOHN-deh BEE-behs?

Where do you live?

B:

Vivo en Madrid, pero soy de Galicia.

BEE-boh ehn mah-DREED, PEH-roh SOY deh gah-LEE-thyah.

I live in Madrid, but I'm from Galicia.

A:

Yo vivo en Edimburgo.

yoh BEE-boh ehn eh-deem-BOOR-goh.

I live in Edinburgh.

B:

¿Edimburgo está en Escocia?

eh-deem-BOOR-goh ehs-TAH ehn ehs-KOH-thyah?

Is Edinburgh in Scotland?

④ Two Couples — Somos de Francia

A:

¿Sois franceses?

SOYS frahn-THEH-sehs?

Are you French? (to two or more people)

B:

Sí, somos de Francia. Ella es francesa y yo soy francés.

SEE, SOH-mohs deh FRAHN-thyah. EH-yah ehs frahn-THEH-sah ee yoh SOY frahn-THEHS.

Yes, we're from France. She is French and I am French.

A:

Y ellos son de México. Son mexicanos.

ee EH-yohs SOHN deh MEH-khee-koh. SOHN meh-khee-KAH-nohs.

And they are from Mexico. They are Mexican.

B:

¡Qué interesante!

keh een-teh-reh-SAHN-teh!

How interesting!

⑤ At the Hotel Desk — ¿De dónde viene?

A:

Buenas tardes. ¿Cuál es su nacionalidad?

BWEH-nahs TAR-dehs. KWAHL ehs soo nah-thyoh-nah-lee-DAHD?

Good afternoon. What is your nationality?

B:

Soy británico. Vengo de Edimburgo.

⑥ Friends at a Party (casual) — ¿Eres español?

A:

¿Eres español?

EH-rehs ehs-pah-NYOHL?

Are you Spanish?

B:

No, soy portugués. Y ella es italiana.

NOH, SOY pohr-too-GEHS. ee EH-yah ehs ee-tah-LYAH-nah.

SOY bree-TAH-nee-koh. BEHN-goh deh eh-deem-BOOR-goh.

I'm British. I come from Edinburgh.

A:

Muy bien. ¿Y dónde vive usted?

mwee BYEHN. ee DOHN-deh BEE-beh oos-TEHD?

Very good. And where do you live?

B:

Vivo en Escocia.

BEE-boh ehn ehs-KOH-thyah.

I live in Scotland.

No, I'm Portuguese. And she is Italian.

A:

¿De dónde es ella?

deh DOHN-deh ehs EH-yah?

Where is she from?

B:

Es de Roma. Vive en Lisboa.

ehs deh ROH-mah. BEE-beh ehn lees-BOH-ah.

She's from Rome. She lives in Lisbon.

🔑 Key Phrases — Frases clave

SITUATION	FORMAL (USTED)	INFORMAL (TÚ)
Where are you from?	**¿De dónde es usted?** *deh DOHN-deh ehs oos-TEHD*	**¿De dónde eres?** *deh DOHN-deh EH-rehs*
I'm from...	**Soy de... / Vengo de...** *SOY deh / BEHN-goh deh*	**Soy de... / Vengo de...** *SOY deh / BEHN-goh deh*
Where do you live?	**¿Dónde vive usted?** *DOHN-deh BEE-beh oos-TEHD*	**¿Dónde vives?** *DOHN-deh BEE-behs*
I live in...	**Vivo en...** *BEE-boh ehn*	**Vivo en...** *BEE-boh ehn*
What's your nationality?	**¿Cuál es su nacionalidad?** *KWAHL ehs soo nah-thyoh-nah-lee-DAHD*	**¿De qué nacionalidad eres?** *deh keh nah-thyoh-nah-lee-DAHD EH-rehs*
I'm Scottish	**Soy escocés / escocesa.** *SOY ehs-koh-THEHS / ehs-koh-THEH-sah*	**Soy escocés / escocesa.** *SOY ehs-koh-THEHS / ehs-koh-THEH-sah*

Soy de… or Vivo en…?

Soy de (*ser* + *de*) tells where you are **originally from**; **vivo en** tells where you **live now**. Use **de** for origin and **en** for being in a place: *Soy de Galicia, pero vivo en Madrid. Vengo de…* ("I come from") is also common, especially for where you have just travelled from.

🏳️ Countries and Nationalities — Países y nacionalidades

COUNTRY	MASCULINE	FEMININE
España *ehs-PAH-nyah*	español *ehs-pah-NYOHL*	española *ehs-pah-NYOH-lah*
Escocia *ehs-KOH-thyah*	escocés *ehs-koh-THEHS*	escocesa *ehs-koh-THEH-sah*
Inglaterra *een-glah-TEH-rrah*	inglés *een-GLEHS*	inglesa *een-GLEH-sah*
Gales *GAH-lehs*	galés *gah-LEHS*	galesa *gah-LEH-sah*
Irlanda *eer-LAHN-dah*	irlandés *eer-lahn-DEHS*	irlandesa *eer-lahn-DEH-sah*
el Reino Unido *ehl RAY-noh oo-NEE-doh*	británico *bree-TAH-nee-koh*	británica *bree-TAH-nee-kah*
Francia *FRAHN-thyah*	francés *frahn-THEHS*	francesa *frahn-THEH-sah*
Alemania *ah-leh-MAH-nyah*	alemán *ah-leh-MAHN*	alemana *ah-leh-MAH-nah*
Italia *ee-TAH-lyah*	italiano *ee-tah-LYAH-noh*	italiana *ee-tah-LYAH-nah*
Portugal *pohr-too-GAHL*	portugués *pohr-too-GEHS*	portuguesa *pohr-too-GEH-sah*

COUNTRY	MASCULINE	FEMININE
México *MEH-khee-koh*	mexicano *meh-khee-KAH-noh*	mexicana *meh-khee-KAH-nah*
Argentina *ahr-khehn-TEE-nah*	argentino *ahr-khehn-TEE-noh*	argentina *ahr-khehn-TEE-nah*
los Estados Unidos *lohs ehs-TAH-dohs oo-NEE-dohs*	estadounidense (same for both) *ehs-tah-doh-oo-nee-DEHN-seh*	

HOW NATIONALITIES CHANGE

1. Nationalities ending in **-o** change to **-a** for the feminine: *italiano → italiana*. **2.** Those ending in a **consonant** add **-a** for the feminine: *español → española, alemán → alemana, inglés → inglesa* (the written accent disappears). **3.** Those ending in **-e** or in **-a** (as in *estadounidense, belga*) do not change. **Plural:** add **-s** after a vowel (*italianos*), **-es** after a consonant (*españoles, escoceses, alemanes*).

No Capital Letters

In Spanish, **nationalities and languages are written with a small letter**: *Soy escocés, hablo español.* Countries and cities, as in English, take a capital: *España, Edimburgo.*

Three Verbs for Origin and Place — Verbos

Estar *("to be", for where something is),* ***vivir*** *("to live") and* ***venir*** *("to come") are the verbs of place. Vivir is a regular* ***-ir*** *verb. Estar has an irregular yo form, and venir is irregular (vengo and e → ie).*

	ESTAR (TO BE)	VIVIR (TO LIVE)	VENIR (TO COME)
yo (I)	estoy *ehs-TOY*	vivo *BEE-boh*	vengo *BEHN-goh*
tú (you, informal)	estás *ehs-TAHS*	vives *BEE-behs*	vienes *BYEH-nehs*

	ESTAR (TO BE)	VIVIR (TO LIVE)	VENIR (TO COME)
él, ella, usted	está *ehs-TAH*	vive *BEE-beh*	viene *BYEH-neh*
nosotros (we)	estamos *ehs-TAH-mohs*	vivimos *bee-BEE-mohs*	venimos *beh-NEE-mohs*
vosotros (Spain)	estáis *ehs-TAHYS*	vivís *bee-BEES*	venís *beh-NEES*
ellos, ellas, ustedes	están *ehs-TAHN*	viven *BEE-behn*	vienen *BYEH-nehn*

Ser or Estar for Places? A First Look

Use **ser de** for where someone is *from* (*Soy de Escocia*), and **estar en** for where a place or a person *is located*: *Edimburgo* ***está en*** *Escocia. Estoy en Madrid.* The two verbs both mean "to be", and the difference is explained step by step in Spanish Grammar 2 3.

🗺️ The Regions of Spain — Las comunidades autónomas

Spain is divided into ***17 autonomous communities*** *(comunidades autónomas), plus the two autonomous cities of* ***Ceuta*** *and* ***Melilla*** *on the coast of North Africa. Here is the list, with the best-known ones in respelling.*

COMMUNITY	SAY IT	MAIN CITY (EXAMPLES)
Andalucía	*ahn-dah-loo-THEE-ah*	Sevilla, Málaga
Aragón	*ah-rah-GOHN*	Zaragoza
Asturias	*ahs-TOO-ryahs*	Oviedo
las Islas Baleares	*lahs EES-lahs bah-leh-AH-rehs*	Palma
Canarias	*kah-NAH-ryahs*	Las Palmas
Cantabria	*kahn-TAH-bryah*	Santander

COMMUNITY	SAY IT	MAIN CITY (EXAMPLES)
Castilla-La Mancha	*kahs-TEE-yah lah MAHN-chah*	Toledo
Castilla y León	*kahs-TEE-yah ee leh-OHN*	Valladolid
Cataluña	*kah-tah-LOO-nyah*	Barcelona
la Comunidad Valenciana	*lah koh-moo-nee-DAHD bah-lehn-THYAH-nah*	Valencia
Extremadura	*ehks-treh-mah-DOO-rah*	Mérida
Galicia	*gah-LEE-thyah*	Santiago de Compostela
La Rioja	*lah ree-OH-khah*	Logroño
la Comunidad de Madrid	*lah koh-moo-nee-DAHD deh mah-DREED*	Madrid
la Región de Murcia	*lah reh-KHYOHN deh MOOR-thyah*	Murcia
Navarra	*nah-BAH-rrah*	Pamplona
el País Vasco	*ehl pah-EES BAHS-koh*	Bilbao, San Sebastián

Madrid is the capital and the largest city. Barcelona (in Cataluña), Valencia and Sevilla are the next biggest cities. Several communities have their own co-official language alongside Spanish, for example Catalan in Cataluña, Galician in Galicia and Basque in the País Vasco.

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabulario

20 key words. Read the Spanish first, then check the respelling (CAPITALS = the stressed syllable).

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	el país	*ehl pah-EES*	country	noun

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
2	**la ciudad**	*lah thyoo-DAHD*	city; town	noun
3	**la nacionalidad**	*lah nah-thyoh-nah-lee-DAHD*	nationality	noun
4	**¿de dónde?**	*deh DOHN-deh*	from where?	q-word
5	**¿dónde?**	*DOHN-deh*	where?	q-word
6	**de**	*deh*	of; from	prep
7	**en**	*ehn*	in; at	prep
8	**vivir**	*bee-BEER*	to live	verb
9	**venir**	*beh-NEER*	to come	verb
10	**pero**	*PEH-roh*	but	conj
11	**España**	*ehs-PAH-nyah*	Spain	noun
12	**Escocia**	*ehs-KOH-thyah*	Scotland	noun
13	**español / española**	*ehs-pah-NYOHL / -NYOH-lah*	Spanish	adj
14	**escocés / escocesa**	*ehs-koh-THEHS / -THEH-sah*	Scottish	adj
15	**inglés / inglesa**	*een-GLEHS / -GLEH-sah*	English	adj
16	**francés / francesa**	*frahn-THEHS / -THEH-sah*	French	adj
17	**alemán / alemana**	*ah-leh-MAHN / -MAH-nah*	German	adj
18	**italiano / italiana**	*ee-tah-LYAH-noh / -nah*	Italian	adj
19	**mexicano / mexicana**	*meh-khee-KAH-noh / -nah*	Mexican	adj

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
20	estadounidense	*ehs-tah-doh-oo-nee-DEHN-seh*	American (from the USA)	adj

Latin America Note

The nationality words follow the same rules across Latin America: *colombiano, peruano, chileno, cubano, venezolano* (all with *-o / -a*). **México** and **mexicano** are spelled with an *x* but pronounced with the throaty "kh" sound: *MEH-khee-koh*. In Latin America the plural "you" is always *ustedes*, so the question to two people is *¿De dónde son ustedes?* rather than *¿De dónde sois?*

Grammar Pointer

The agreement of adjectives is covered in Spanish Grammar 1 5, and the prepositions *de* and *en* in Spanish Grammar 1 10. *Ser* and *estar* are in Spanish Grammar 2 3. Use them as a reference after this chapter.

✍️ Try It Yourself — Ejercicios

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. A stranger asks where you are from (formally). You are from Edinburgh in Scotland. What do you say?

▼ Show answer

Soy de Edimburgo, en Escocia. (SOY deh eh-deem-BOOR-goh, ehn ehs-KOH-thyah) — or *Soy escocés / escocesa.*

2. Give the feminine form: *español, alemán, inglés, italiano, estadounidense.*

▼ Show answer

española · alemana · inglesa · italiana · estadounidense (no change).

3. Make these plural: *español, escocesa, alemán, italiano.*

▼ Show answer

españoles · escocesas · alemanes · italianos.

4. Say: "I live in Madrid, but I'm from Galicia."

▼ Show answer

Vivo en Madrid, pero soy de Galicia. (BEE-boh ehn mah-DREED, PEH-roh SOY deh gah-LEE-thyah)

5. Complete with the right form: "Ana es ____ (Italia → feminine)." · "Pablo y Javier son ____ (México → plural)."

▼ Show answer

italiana · mexicanos.

6. Ser or estar? "Yo ____ de Escocia." · "Edimburgo ____ en Escocia."

▼ Show answer

soy · está.

Coming Up in Chapter 5

Talking about your family: **madre, padre, hermano, hermana, abuelo, tío, primo**, the possessives **mi, tu, su, nuestro**, **tengo dos hermanos**, and the way Spanish families use two surnames.

👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 Your Family — Mi familia

*In this chapter you will talk about your family: who is in it, how many brothers and sisters you have, and how old they are. You will learn the possessives **mi, tu, su, nuestro, vuestro** ("my, your, his/her/their, our, your") and the useful little word **hay** ("there is, there are"). From this chapter on, the dialogs no longer have a respelling under each line (you have practised reading Spanish aloud for four chapters now); the tables still give the respelling, and a **Hard words** box helps with the trickiest words.*

① Brothers and Sisters (informal) — ¿Tienes hermanos?

A:

¿Tienes hermanos?

Do you have brothers or sisters?

B:

Sí, tengo dos hermanos y una hermana.

Yes, I have two brothers and a sister.

A:

¿Cómo se llaman?

What are they called?

B:

Mis hermanos se llaman Pablo y Javier, y mi hermana se llama Ana.

My brothers are called Pablo and Javier, and my sister is called Ana.

A:

Yo no tengo hermanos. Soy hijo único.

② Children (formal) — ¿Tiene usted hijos?

A:

Perdone, ¿tiene usted hijos?

Excuse me, do you have children?

B:

Sí, tengo una hija y un hijo.

Yes, I have a daughter and a son.

A:

¿Cuántos años tienen?

How old are they?

B:

Mi hija tiene doce años y mi hijo tiene nueve.

My daughter is twelve and my son is nine.

I don't have any brothers or sisters. I'm an only child.

③ A Family Photo — ¿Quién es ella?

A:

¿Quién es ella?

Who is she?

B:

Es mi madre. Y él es mi padre.

She's my mother. And he is my father.

A:

¿Y ellos?

And them?

B:

Son mis abuelos, los padres de mi madre.

They're my grandparents, my mother's parents.

④ Where Your Family Lives — Mis padres viven en Sevilla

A:

¿Dónde viven tus padres?

Where do your parents live?

B:

Mis padres viven en Sevilla y mis tíos viven en Madrid.

My parents live in Seville and my aunt and uncle live in Madrid.

A:

¿Visitas mucho a tu familia?

Do you visit your family a lot?

B:

Sí, visito a mi familia muy a menudo. Quiero mucho a mi familia.

Yes, I visit my family very often. I love them very much.

⑤ A Big Family — Somos seis

A:

Tenemos una familia grande. Somos seis.

We have a big family. There are six of us.

B:

¿Quiénes?

Who?

⑥ Two Sisters Chatting (casual, plural) — Nuestros padres

A:

Vuestros padres, ¿de dónde son?

Your parents, where are they from?

B:

Nuestra madre es de Sevilla y nuestro padre es de Londres.

A:

Mis padres, mis dos hermanos, mi abuela y yo.

My parents, my two brothers, my grandmother and me.

B:

En mi casa hay cuatro personas. Mi familia es pequeña.

In my house there are four people. My family is small.

Our mother is from Seville and our father is from London.

A:

¡Qué interesante! ¿Y vuestros abuelos?

How interesting! And your grandparents?

B:

Nuestros abuelos viven en España.

Our grandparents live in Spain.

🔑 Key Phrases — Frases clave

SITUATION	FORMAL (USTED)	INFORMAL (TÚ)
Do you have brothers or sisters?	**¿Tiene usted hermanos?** *TYEH-neh oos-TEHD ehr-MAH-nohs*	**¿Tienes hermanos?** *TYEH-nehs ehr-MAH-nohs*
How many…?	**¿Cuántos hijos tiene?** *KWAHN-tohs EE-khohs TYEH-neh*	**¿Cuántos hermanos tienes?** *KWAHN-tohs ehr-MAH-nohs TYEH-nehs*
I have…	**Tengo dos hijos.** *TEHN-goh dohs EE-khohs*	**Tengo un hermano.** *TEHN-goh oon ehr-MAH-noh*
What is your mother called?	**¿Cómo se llama su madre?** *KOH-moh seh YAH-mah soo MAH-dreh*	**¿Cómo se llama tu madre?** *KOH-moh seh YAH-mah too MAH-dreh*
My mother is called…	**Mi madre se llama Carmen.** *mee MAH-dreh seh YAH-mah kar-MEHN*	**Mi madre se llama Carmen.** *mee MAH-dreh seh YAH-mah kar-MEHN*
I'm an only child	**Soy hijo único. / Soy hija única.** *SOY EE-khoh OO-nee-koh / SOY EE-khah OO-nee-kah*	**Soy hijo único. / Soy hija única.** *SOY EE-khoh OO-nee-koh / SOY EE-khah OO-nee-kah*

👨‍👩‍👧 Family Words — Vocabulario de la familia

MASCULINE	FEMININE	PLURAL (BOTH TOGETHER)
el padre *ehl PAH-dreh* (father)	**la madre** *lah MAH-dreh* (mother)	**los padres** *lohs PAH-drehs* (parents)
el hermano *ehl ehr-MAH-noh* (brother)	**la hermana** *lah ehr-MAH-nah* (sister)	**los hermanos** *lohs ehr-MAH-nohs* (brothers and sisters)
el hijo *ehl EE-khoh* (son)	**la hija** *lah EE-khah* (daughter)	**los hijos** *lohs EE-khohs* (children)
el abuelo *ehl ah-BWEH-loh* (grandfather)	**la abuela** *lah ah-BWEH-lah* (grandmother)	**los abuelos** *lohs ah-BWEH-lohs* (grandparents)
el tío *ehl TEE-oh* (uncle)	**la tía** *lah TEE-ah* (aunt)	**los tíos** *lohs TEE-ohs* (aunt and uncle)
el primo *ehl PREE-moh* (male cousin)	**la prima** *lah PREE-mah* (female cousin)	**los primos** *lohs PREE-mohs* (cousins)
el marido / el esposo *ehl mah-REE-doh / ehl ehs-POH-soh* (husband)	**la mujer / la esposa** *lah moo-KHEHR / lah ehs-POH-sah* (wife)	**los esposos** *lohs ehs-POH-sohs* (husband and wife)
el novio *ehl NOH-byoh* (boyfriend)	**la novia** *lah NOH-byah* (girlfriend)	**los novios** *lohs NOH-byohs* (boyfriend and girlfriend)

The Masculine Plural Includes Everyone

The masculine plural covers a mixed group: **los hermanos** can mean "brothers" or "brothers and sisters", **los padres** is "parents", **los abuelos** "grandparents", **los tíos** "aunt and uncle". To say "my brothers and sisters" you can just say *mis hermanos*.

👉 Possessives — Los posesivos

OWNER	WITH A SINGULAR NOUN	WITH A PLURAL NOUN
my	**mi** *MEE* (mi madre, mi padre)	**mis** *MEES* (mis padres)
your (tú)	**tu** *TOO* (tu madre)	**tus** *TOOS* (tus padres)
his, her, its, your (usted), their	**su** *SOO* (su madre)	**sus** *SOOS* (sus padres)
our	**nuestro / nuestra** *NWEHS-troh / NWEHS-trah* (nuestro padre, nuestra madre)	**nuestros / nuestras** *NWEHS-trohs / NWEHS-trahs* (nuestros padres)
your (vosotros; Spain)	**vuestro / vuestra** *BWEHS-troh / BWEHS-trah*	**vuestros / vuestras** *BWEHS-trohs / BWEHS-trahs*

THE POSSESSIVE AGREES WITH THE THING OWNED

In English "his" and "her" depend on **who owns** the thing. In Spanish the possessive depends on **what is owned**: singular or plural, and for *nuestro / vuestro* also masculine or feminine. So *su madre* can be "his mother", "her mother", "your mother" (usted) or "their mother", and *mis hermanos* is "my brothers (and sisters)" whoever you are.

Which "su"?

Because *su* has so many meanings, Spanish speakers clarify when needed with **de + person**: *la madre **de él**, la madre **de ella**, la madre **de usted**, la madre **de ellos***. Usually the context makes it clear.

🔤 Three Verbs for Family Talk — Verbos

***Tener** ("to have") you met in Chapter 3. **Querer** ("to want"; with a person, "to love") has the vowel change e → ie in all forms except nosotros and vosotros. **Visitar** ("to visit") is regular. When the object of querer or visitar is a **person**, Spanish puts **a** before it: Quiero **a** mi madre. Visito **a** mis abuelos.*

	TENER (TO HAVE)	QUERER (TO WANT; TO LOVE)	VISITAR (TO VISIT)
yo (I)	tengo *TEHN-goh*	quiero *KYEH-roh*	visito *bee-SEE-toh*
tú (you, informal)	tienes *TYEH-nehs*	quieres *KYEH-rehs*	visitas *bee-SEE-tahs*
él, ella, usted	tiene *TYEH-neh*	quiere *KYEH-reh*	visita *bee-SEE-tah*
nosotros (we)	tenemos *teh-NEH-mohs*	queremos *keh-REH-mohs*	visitamos *bee-see-TAH-mohs*
vosotros (Spain)	tenéis *teh-NAYS*	queréis *keh-RAYS*	visitáis *bee-see-TAHYS*
ellos, ellas, ustedes	tienen *TYEH-nehn*	quieren *KYEH-rehn*	visitan *bee-SEE-tahn*

🏠 Tener and Hay — Tener y hay

USE	EXAMPLE
tener: what someone has	**Tengo dos hermanos.** I have two brothers (or brothers and sisters). **Mi hermana tiene tres hijos.** My sister has three children.
hay (*AY*): there is / there are	**En mi familia hay cinco personas.** There are five people in my family. **¿Hay un hotel aquí?** Is there a hotel here? **No hay problema.** There's no problem.

Hay never changes: it is the same for one thing or many (*hay un hermano*, *hay dos hermanos*). The question is *¿Hay…?* and the negative is *no hay*.

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabulario

20 key words. Read the Spanish first, then check the respelling (CAPITALS = the stressed syllable).

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	**la familia**	*lah fah-MEE-lyah*	family	noun
2	**la madre**	*lah MAH-dreh*	mother	noun
3	**el padre**	*ehl PAH-dreh*	father	noun
4	**los padres**	*lohs PAH-drehs*	parents	noun
5	**el hermano**	*ehl ehr-MAH-noh*	brother	noun
6	**la hermana**	*lah ehr-MAH-nah*	sister	noun
7	**el hijo**	*ehl EE-khoh*	son	noun
8	**la hija**	*lah EE-khah*	daughter	noun
9	**el abuelo**	*ehl ah-BWEH-loh*	grandfather	noun
10	**la abuela**	*lah ah-BWEH-lah*	grandmother	noun
11	**el tío**	*ehl TEE-oh*	uncle	noun
12	**la tía**	*lah TEE-ah*	aunt	noun
13	**el primo**	*ehl PREE-moh*	male cousin	noun
14	**la prima**	*lah PREE-mah*	female cousin	noun
15	**el marido**	*ehl mah-REE-doh*	husband	noun
16	**la mujer**	*lah moo-KHEHR*	wife; woman	noun
17	**el novio**	*ehl NOH-byoh*	boyfriend; fiancé	noun
18	**la novia**	*lah NOH-byah*	girlfriend; fiancée	noun
19	**hay**	*AY*	there is; there are	verb

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
20	mi / mis	*MEE / MEES*	my	possessive

Hard Words

The dialogs no longer have respelling lines, so here are the words most likely to trip you up. *hermano* = *ehr-MAH-noh* (silent *h*) · *hija* = *EE-khah* (silent *h*, throaty *j*) · *abuela* = *ah-BWEH-lah* · *tío* = *TEE-oh* (two syllables, written accent) · *quiero* = *KYEH-roh* (*qu* = k) · *nuestro* = *NWEHS-troh* · *vuestro* = *BWEHS-troh* (*v* = soft b) · *mujer* = *moo-KHEHR*.

Spanish Families and Surnames

All the children in a Spanish family normally share the **same two surnames** (their father's first surname, then their mother's first surname), so brother and sister are, for example, *Pablo Ruiz López* and *Ana Ruiz López*. Family ties are strong in Spain, and grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins are often a regular part of everyday life.

Latin America Note

In Latin America the plural "you" is **ustedes** and its possessive is **su / sus**, so *¿De dónde son sus padres?* replaces *¿De dónde son vuestros padres?* (*vuestro* is Spain only). *Mamá* and *papá* are the usual affectionate words for "mum" and "dad" everywhere, and in many Latin American countries *los papás* is common for "the parents".

Grammar Pointer

Possessives and demonstratives are explained fully in Spanish Grammar 1 7, *tener* and the other irregular verbs in Spanish Grammar 2 4, and the vowel change of *querer* in Spanish Grammar 2 5. Use them as a reference after this chapter.

✍️ Try It Yourself — Ejercicios

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Ask a friend if they have brothers or sisters, then say you have two sisters.

▼ Show answer

¿Tienes hermanos? Tengo dos hermanas. (TYEH-nehs ehr-MAH-nohs? TEHN-goh dohs ehr-MAH-nahs)

2. Introduce your mother and your father in a photo.

▼ Show answer

Es mi madre. Él es mi padre. (ehs mee MAH-dreh. EHL ehs mee PAH-dreh)

3. Choose the possessive: "Ana y yo vivimos con ____ padres." · "¿Dónde viven ____ abuelos?" (tú)

▼ Show answer

nuestros · tus.

4. Say in Spanish: "My parents live in Seville." · "Our mother is from London."

▼ Show answer

Mis padres viven en Sevilla. · Nuestra madre es de Londres.

5. Complete with *tener* or *hay*: "Mi hermana ____ tres hijos." · "En mi familia ____ cinco personas."

▼ Show answer

tiene · hay.

6. Say: "I visit my grandparents" and "I love my family." (with the personal *a*)

▼ Show answer

Visito a mis abuelos. · Quiero a mi familia.

Coming Up in Chapter 6

Talking about your job: **Trabajo como…** ("I work as…"), professions with masculine and feminine forms (**el / la médico**), **soy informático / informática**, **trabajo en una empresa**, and the regular **-ar, -er, -ir** verbs.

💼 Your Job — Mi trabajo

*In this chapter you will say what you do for a living, where you work and what you study, and ask other people the same. You will also learn the three groups of regular verbs (**-ar, -er, -ir**), which gives you the pattern for hundreds of Spanish verbs. The tables give the respelling; a short **Hard words** box helps with the trickiest words.*

① What Do You Do? (formal) — ¿A qué se dedica usted?

A:

Perdone, ¿a qué se dedica usted?
Excuse me, what do you do (for a living)?

B:

Soy ingeniera. Trabajo en una empresa de Madrid. ¿Y usted?
I'm an engineer. I work for a company in Madrid. And you?

A:

Soy profesor. Trabajo en un colegio.
I'm a teacher. I work at a school.

B:

Mucho gusto.
Pleased to meet you.

② Two New Colleagues (informal) — ¿En qué trabajas?

A:

¿En qué trabajas?
What do you do? (What do you work in?)

B:

Soy informático. Trabajo en soporte técnico en Edimburgo. ¿Y tú?
I'm an IT specialist. I work in tech support in Edinburgh. And you?

A:

Soy camarera. Trabajo en un restaurante.
I'm a waitress. I work in a restaurant.

B:

¡Qué interesante!
How interesting!

③ Student or Worker? — ¿Estudias o trabajas?

A:

④ Working for Yourself — Soy autónomo

A:

Soy autónomo. Trabajo en casa.
I'm self-employed. I work from home.

¿Estudias o trabajas?

Do you study or work?

B:

Estudio y trabajo. Estudio medicina en la universidad.

Both. I study medicine at university.

A:

¿Y dónde trabajas?

And where do you work?

B:

Trabajo en una tienda por las tardes.

I work in a shop in the afternoons.

B:

¿Trabajas con tu familia?

Do you work with your family?

A:

Sí, trabajo con mi hermana. Ella es abogada.

Yes, I work with my sister. She's a lawyer.

B:

¿Y abres tú la oficina?

And do you open the office?

⑤ Your Parents' Jobs — ¿A qué se dedican tus padres?

A:

¿A qué se dedican tus padres?

What do your parents do?

B:

Mi padre está jubilado y mi madre es enfermera.

My father is retired and my mother is a nurse.

A:

¿Dónde trabaja tu madre?

Where does your mother work?

B:

Trabaja en un hospital de Sevilla.

She works in a hospital in Seville.

⑥ Friends Together (casual, plural) — ¿A qué os dedicáis?

A:

¿Y vosotros? ¿A qué os dedicáis?

And you two? What do you do?

B:

Somos estudiantes. Estudiamos informática.

We're students. We study computing.

A:

Yo trabajo y ella estudia.

I work and she studies.

B:

¡Genial! Hasta luego.

Great! See you later.

🔑 Key Phrases — Frases clave

SITUATION	FORMAL (USTED)	INFORMAL (TÚ)
What do you do?	**¿A qué se dedica usted?** *ah KEH seh deh-DEE-kah oos-TEHD*	**¿A qué te dedicas? / ¿En qué trabajas?** *ah KEH teh deh-DEE-kahs / ehn KEH trah-BAH-khahs*
Where do you work?	**¿Dónde trabaja usted?** *DOHN-deh trah-BAH-khah oos-TEHD*	**¿Dónde trabajas?** *DOHN-deh trah-BAH-khahs*
Do you study or work?	**¿Estudia o trabaja?** *ehs-TOO-dyah oh trah-BAH-khah*	**¿Estudias o trabajas?** *ehs-TOO-dyahs oh trah-BAH-khahs*
I'm a...	**Soy ingeniero / ingeniera.** *SOY een-kheh-NYEH-roh / -rah*	**Soy ingeniero / ingeniera.** *SOY een-kheh-NYEH-roh / -rah*
I work as a...	**Trabajo como camarero.** *trah-BAH-khoh KOH-moh kah-mah-REH-roh*	**Trabajo como camarera.** *trah-BAH-khoh KOH-moh kah-mah-REH-rah*
I work in / for...	**Trabajo en una empresa.** *trah-BAH-khoh ehn OO-nah ehm-PREH-sah*	**Trabajo en un hospital.** *trah-BAH-khoh ehn oon ohs-pee-TAHL*

No "a" or "an" Before a Job

In Spanish you **drop the article** before a profession after *ser*: **Soy médico** ("I am a doctor"), not ✗ *Soy un médico*. If you add a descriptive word, the article returns: *Soy un médico muy bueno* ("I am a very good doctor").

👩‍💼 Professions — Profesiones

ENGLISH	MASCULINE	FEMININE
doctor	**médico** *MEH-dee-koh*	**médica** *MEH-dee-kah*
nurse	**enfermero** *ehn-fehr-MEH-roh*	**enfermera** *ehn-fehr-MEH-rah*
teacher	**profesor** *proh-feh-SOR*	**profesora** *proh-feh-SOH-rah*
lawyer	**abogado** *ah-boh-GAH-doh*	**abogada** *ah-boh-GAH-dah*
engineer	**ingeniero** *een-kheh-NYEH-roh*	**ingeniera** *een-kheh-NYEH-rah*
IT specialist	**informático** *een-fohr-MAH-tee-koh*	**informática** *een-fohr-MAH-tee-kah*
waiter / waitress	**camarero** *kah-mah-REH-roh*	**camarera** *kah-mah-REH-rah*
cook, chef	**cocinero** *koh-thee-NEH-roh*	**cocinera** *koh-thee-NEH-rah*
architect	**arquitecto** *ar-kee-TEHK-toh*	**arquitecta** *ar-kee-TEHK-tah*
self-employed	**autónomo** *ow-TOH-noh-moh*	**autónoma** *ow-TOH-noh-mah*
civil servant	**funcionario** *foon-thyoh-NAH-ryoh*	**funcionaria** *foon-thyoh-NAH-ryah*
retired	**jubilado** *khoo-bee-LAH-doh*	**jubilada** *khoo-bee-LAH-dah*
student	**estudiante** *ehs-too-DYAHN-teh* (same for both)	
journalist	**periodista** *peh-ryoh-DEES-tah* (same for both)	
police officer	**policía** *poh-lee-THEE-ah* (el / la policía)	
electrician	**electricista** *eh-lehk-tree-THEES-tah* (same for both)	

MASCULINE AND FEMININE JOBS

1. Jobs in **-o** change to **-a**: *abogado → abogada*. **2.** Jobs ending in a **consonant** add **-a**: *profesor → profesora*. **3.** Jobs in **-ista** and many in **-e** are the **same** for both: *el / la periodista, el / la estudiante*. Only the article changes (*el* or *la*). Use the **feminine** form when talking about a woman: *mi madre es enfermera*.

🏢 Places of Work — Lugares de trabajo

PLACE	SAY IT	ENGLISH
la empresa	*lah ehm-PREH-sah*	company; firm
la oficina	*lah oh-fee-THEE-nah*	office
el hospital	*ehl ohs-pee-TAHL*	hospital
el colegio	*ehl koh-LEH-khyoh*	school
la universidad	*lah oo-nee-behr-thee-DAHD*	university
la tienda	*lah TYEHN-dah*	shop
el restaurante	*ehl rrehs-tow-RAHN-teh*	restaurant
el banco	*ehl BAHN-koh*	bank

Use **en** for the place: *Trabajo **en** un hospital*. Use **como** for the job ("as"): *Trabajo **como** enfermera*. You can also say *Soy enfermera*, which means the same.

🔤 The Three Regular Verb Groups — Verbos regulares

*Spanish verbs belong to three groups by the ending of the infinitive: **-ar**, **-er** and **-ir**. Remove the ending to get the **stem**, then add the endings of the group. Learn the three patterns and you can use hundreds of verbs. Here are **trabajar** ("to work", -ar), **aprender** ("to learn", -er) and **abrir** ("to open", -ir).*

	TRABAJAR (-AR)	APRENDER (-ER)	ABRIR (-IR)
yo (I)	trabajo *trah-BAH-khoh*	aprendo *ah-PREHN-doh*	abro *AH-broh*
tú (you, informal)	trabajas *trah-BAH-khahs*	aprendes *ah-PREHN-dehs*	abres *AH-brehs*

	TRABAJAR (-AR)	APRENDER (-ER)	ABRIR (-IR)
él, ella, usted	trabaja *trah-BAH-khah*	aprende *ah-PREHN-deh*	abre *AH-breh*
nosotros (we)	trabajamos *trah-bah-KHAH-mohs*	aprendemos *ah-prehn-DEH-mohs*	abrimos *ah-BREE-mohs*
vosotros (Spain)	trabajáis *trah-bah-KHAHYS*	aprendéis *ah-prehn-DAYS*	abrís *ah-BREES*
ellos, ellas, ustedes	trabajan *trah-BAH-khahn*	aprenden *ah-PREHN-dehn*	abren *AH-brehn*

THE ENDINGS AT A GLANCE

-ar: -o, -as, -a, -amos, -áis, -an. **-er:** -o, -es, -e, -emos, -éis, -en. **-ir:** -o, -es, -e, -imos, -ís, -en. The *yo* form always ends in **-o**, and the *-er* and *-ir* groups differ only in *nosotros* and *vosotros*. Other regular verbs you know: *hablar, saludar, llamar, visitar, estudiar* (-ar); *vivir, escribir* (-ir).

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabulario

20 key words. Read the Spanish first, then check the respelling (CAPITALS = the stressed syllable).

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	el trabajo	*ehl trah-BAH-khoh*	work; job	noun
2	trabajar	*trah-bah-KHAR*	to work	verb
3	estudiar	*ehs-too-DYAR*	to study	verb
4	la empresa	*lah ehm-PREH-sah*	company	noun
5	la oficina	*lah oh-fee-THEE-nah*	office	noun
6	el hospital	*ehl ohs-pee-TAHL*	hospital	noun

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
7	**el colegio**	*ehl koh-LEH-khyoh*	school	noun
8	**la tienda**	*lah TYEHN-dah*	shop	noun
9	**el médico / la médica**	*ehl MEH-dee-koh / lah MEH-dee-kah*	doctor	noun
10	**el profesor / la profesora**	*ehl proh-feh-SOR / lah proh-feh-SOH-rah*	teacher	noun
11	**el enfermero / la enfermera**	*ehl ehn-fehr-MEH-roh / lah ehn-fehr-MEH-rah*	nurse	noun
12	**el ingeniero / la ingeniera**	*ehl een-kheh-NYEH-roh / lah een-kheh-NYEH-rah*	engineer	noun
13	**el informático / la informática**	*ehl een-fohr-MAH-tee-koh / lah een-fohr-MAH-tee-kah*	IT specialist	noun
14	**el camarero / la camarera**	*ehl kah-mah-REH-roh / lah kah-mah-REH-rah*	waiter / waitress	noun
15	**el abogado / la abogada**	*ehl ah-boh-GAH-doh / lah ah-boh-GAH-dah*	lawyer	noun
16	**el / la estudiante**	*ehl / lah ehs-too-DYAHN-teh*	student	noun
17	**autónomo / autónoma**	*ow-TOH-noh-moh / -mah*	self-employed	adj
18	**jubilado / jubilada**	*khoo-bee-LAH-doh / -dah*	retired	adj
19	**como**	*KOH-moh*	as; like	prep
20	**¿A qué se dedica?**	*ah KEH seh deh-DEE-kah*	what do you do (for a living)?	phrase

Hard Words

trabajo = *trah-BAH-khoh* (*j* = throaty "kh") · *ingeniero* = *een-kheh-NYEH-roh* (*g* before *e* = "kh") · *jubilado* = *khoo-bee-LAH-doh* · *informático* = *een-fohr-MAH-tee-koh* (stress on *MAH*, shown by the accent) · *autónomo* = *ow-TOH-noh-moh*

Autónomo — Working for Yourself

In Spain a self-employed person is an **autónomo** (*Soy autónomo / Soy autónoma*). It is a very common situation, and you will hear *trabajar por cuenta propia* ("to work on your own account") as well. Working *en una empresa* means working for a company, as an employee.

Latin America Note

The words for the jobs in this chapter are used throughout the Spanish-speaking world, and *¿A qué se dedican ustedes?* replaces *¿A qué os dedicáis?* for a group in Latin America. Word choices differ for some jobs and for "unemployed": in Spain you will hear *estar en paro*, while elsewhere *estar desempleado* or *sin trabajo* is used.

Grammar Pointer

The three regular verb groups are covered in Spanish Grammar 2 2, and the gender of nouns and professions in Spanish Grammar 1 2. Use them as a reference after this chapter.

✍️ Try It Yourself — Ejercicios

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Ask a colleague, informally, what they do, then say you are an IT specialist (man or woman).

▼ Show answer

¿A qué te dedicas? Soy informático / informática.

2. Give the feminine: *abogado, profesor, camarero, cocinero, estudiante*.

▼ Show answer

abogada · profesora · camarera · cocinera · estudiante (no change; la estudiante).

3. Say in Spanish: "My mother is a nurse. She works in a hospital."

▼ Show answer

Mi madre es enfermera. Trabaja en un hospital.

4. Complete with the right form: "Yo (trabajar) en una tienda." · "Ellos (aprender) español." · "Nosotros (abrir) la oficina."

▼ Show answer

trabajo · aprenden · abrimos.

5. Say: "I'm self-employed. I work from home." (man or woman)

▼ Show answer

Soy autónomo / autónoma. Trabajo en casa.

6. What is wrong? ✗ *Soy un ingeniero.* Correct it.

▼ Show answer

No article is used before a profession after *ser*: **Soy ingeniero.** (or *Soy ingeniera*)

Coming Up in Chapter 7

Days, dates and telling the time: **lunes, martes…**, the months, **¿Qué hora es?** and **Son las tres y media**, and the verb **ir** with **ir a** + infinitive ("going to").

🗓️ Days, Dates & Time — Días, fechas y horas

*This chapter is in three parts: **Part 1** covers the days, months and dates, **Part 2** telling the time, and **Part 3** the verb **ir** ("to go") and **ir a** + infinitive ("to be going to"), with Spanish meal times. The tables give the respelling, and a **Hard words** box helps with the trickiest words.*

① Asking the Time (formal) — ¿Qué hora es?

A:

Perdone, ¿qué hora es?

Excuse me, what time is it?

B:

Son las tres y media.

It's half past three.

A:

Gracias. ¿A qué hora abre la tienda?

Thank you. What time does the shop open?

B:

Abre a las cinco.

It opens at five.

② A Birthday (informal) — ¿Cuándo es tu cumpleaños?

A:

¿Qué día es hoy?

What day is it today?

B:

Hoy es martes. ¿Cuándo es tu cumpleaños?

Today is Tuesday. When is your birthday?

A:

Mi cumpleaños es el doce de junio. ¿Y tú?

My birthday is on 12 June. And you?

B:

Es el primero de mayo.

It's on 1 May.

③ The Date — ¿Qué fecha es hoy?

A:

¿Qué fecha es hoy?

What's the date today?

B:

④ Plans — ¿Qué vas a hacer mañana?

A:

¿Qué vas a hacer mañana?

What are you going to do tomorrow?

B:

Hoy es el quince de marzo.

Today is 15 March.

A:

¿Y la fiesta?

And the party?

B:

La fiesta es el sábado veinte de marzo.

The party is on Saturday 20 March.

Voy a trabajar por la mañana. ¿Y tú?

I'm going to work in the morning. And you?

A:

Voy a visitar a mi familia.

I'm going to visit my family.

B:

¡Qué bien! Hasta el lunes.

How nice! See you on Monday.

⑤ Dinner Time — ¿A qué hora cenamos?

A:

¿A qué hora cenamos esta noche?

What time are we having dinner tonight?

B:

Cenamos a las nueve y media.

We have dinner at half past nine.

A:

¡Qué tarde! En mi país cenamos a las siete.

How late! In my country we have dinner at seven.

B:

En España es normal.

In Spain it's normal.

⑥ Arranging to Meet (casual, plural) — ¿Vais a la fiesta?

A:

¿Vais a la fiesta el sábado?

Are you going to the party on Saturday?

B:

Sí, vamos. ¿A qué hora empieza?

Yes, we're going. What time does it start?

A:

Empieza a las ocho.

It starts at eight.

B:

Vale. Nos vemos a las ocho.

OK. See you at eight.

🗓️ Part 1 — Days, Months and Dates — Días, meses y fechas

THE DAYS	THE MONTHS
lunes *LOO-nehs* (Monday)	**enero** *eh-NEH-roh* (January)
martes *MAR-tehs* (Tuesday)	**febrero** *feh-BREH-roh* (February)
miércoles *MYEHR-koh-lehs* (Wednesday)	**marzo** *MAR-thoh* (March)
jueves *KHWEH-behs* (Thursday)	**abril** *ah-BREEL* (April)
viernes *BYEHR-nehs* (Friday)	**mayo** *MAH-yoh* (May)
sábado *SAH-bah-doh* (Saturday)	**junio** *KHOO-nyoh* (June)
domingo *doh-MEEN-goh* (Sunday)	**julio** *KHOO-lyoh* (July)
	agosto *ah-GOHS-toh* (August)
	septiembre *sehp-TYEHM-breh* (September)
	octubre *ohk-TOO-breh* (October)
	noviembre *noh-BYEHM-breh* (November)
	diciembre *dee-THYEHM-breh* (December)

DAYS AND MONTHS: SMALL LETTERS, "EL" FOR "ON"

Days and months are written with a **small letter**. The week starts on **Monday** on Spanish calendars. Use **el** for "on" with a single day (*el lunes* = "on Monday") and **los** for "every" (*los lunes* = "on Mondays"). The days (except *sábado* and *domingo*) are the same in singular and plural: *el martes, los martes*.

The date

QUESTION	ANSWER
¿Qué día es hoy? (day of the week) *keh DEE-ah ehs OY*	**Hoy es lunes.** *OY ehs LOO-nehs*
¿Qué fecha es hoy? (the date) *keh FEH-chah ehs OY*	**Hoy es el quince de marzo.** *OY ehs ehl KEEN-theh deh MAR-thoh*
¿Cuándo es tu cumpleaños? *KWAHN-doh ehs too koom-pleh-AH-nyohs*	**Es el doce de junio.** *ehs ehl DOH-theh deh KHOO-nyoh*

HOW TO SAY A DATE

The order is **day + de + month (+ de + year)**, with the cardinal number you know from Chapter 3: *el quince de marzo, el veinte de abril de dos mil veintiséis*. Only the **first**

of the month uses an ordinal: **el primero de mayo** (or *el uno de mayo*). Written in figures, the order is **day/month/year**: *15/03/2026*.

🕐 Part 2 — Telling the Time — La hora

TIME	SPANISH	SAY IT
1:00	**Es la una.**	*ehs lah OO-nah*
2:00	**Son las dos.**	*sohn lahs DOHS*
3:00	**Son las tres en punto.**	*sohn lahs TREHS ehn POON-toh*
3:05	**Son las tres y cinco.**	*sohn lahs TREHS ee THEEN-koh*
3:15	**Son las tres y cuarto.**	*sohn lahs TREHS ee KWAR-toh*
3:30	**Son las tres y media.**	*sohn lahs TREHS ee MEH-dyah*
3:45	**Son las cuatro menos cuarto.**	*sohn lahs KWAH-troh MEH-nohs KWAR-toh*
3:50	**Son las cuatro menos diez.**	*sohn lahs KWAH-troh MEH-nohs DYEHTH*
12:00 noon	**Es mediodía.**	*ehs meh-dyoh-DEE-ah*
12:00 midnight	**Es medianoche.**	*ehs meh-dyah-NOH-cheh*

ES LA UNA, SON LAS DOS

The time is expressed with **ser** and the feminine word *hora* understood: **Es la una** (singular, for one o'clock) but **Son las dos, las tres…** (plural). **Up to the half hour** add minutes with **y** ("past"): *y cinco, y diez, y cuarto, y media*. **After the half hour** subtract minutes from the **next hour** with **menos** ("to"): *las cuatro menos cuarto* (a quarter to four).

At what time? And morning, afternoon, night

QUESTION / PHRASE	EXAMPLE
¿A qué hora…? *ah KEH OH-rah*	¿A qué hora abre el banco? — Abre **a las** nueve. (*a la una* for one o'clock)
de la mañana *deh lah mah-NYAH-nah*	las ocho de la mañana (8 a.m.)
de la tarde *deh lah TAR-deh*	las cinco de la tarde (5 p.m.)
de la noche *deh lah NOH-cheh*	las diez de la noche (10 p.m.)

12-Hour and 24-Hour Clocks

In conversation Spaniards use the **12-hour clock** with *de la mañana / de la tarde / de la noche* to say which half of the day. The **24-hour clock** is used on timetables, tickets and in official announcements (*las dieciocho treinta* = 18:30). You will meet it again in Chapter 12.

🚶 Part 3 — Going and Starting — Ir, empezar, cenar

Ir *("to go") is completely irregular and must be learned by heart.* ***Empezar*** *("to begin") changes e → ie in all forms except nosotros and vosotros.* ***Cenar*** *("to have dinner") is a regular* ***-ar*** *verb.*

	IR (TO GO)	EMPEZAR (TO BEGIN)	CENAR (TO HAVE DINNER)
yo (I)	voy *BOY*	empiezo *ehm-PYEH-thoh*	ceno *THEH-noh*
tú (you, informal)	vas *BAHS*	empiezas *ehm-PYEH-thahs*	cenas *THEH-nahs*
él, ella, usted	va *BAH*	empieza *ehm-PYEH-thah*	cena *THEH-nah*
nosotros (we)	vamos *BAH-mohs*	empezamos *ehm-peh-THAH-mohs*	cenamos *theh-NAH-mohs*

	IR (TO GO)	EMPEZAR (TO BEGIN)	CENAR (TO HAVE DINNER)
vosotros (Spain)	vais *BAYS*	empezáis *ehm-peh-THAHYS*	cenáis *theh-NAHYS*
ellos, ellas, ustedes	van *BAHN*	empiezan *ehm-PYEH-thahn*	cenan *THEH-nahn*

PATTERN	MEANING	EXAMPLE
ir a + place	to go to a place	**Voy a la oficina.** I'm going to the office. **Vamos a Madrid.** We're going to Madrid.
ir a + infinitive	to be going to (the near future)	**Voy a trabajar mañana.** I'm going to work tomorrow. **¿Qué vas a hacer?** What are you going to do?

The pattern **ir a + infinitive** is the easiest way to talk about the future in Spanish: take the right form of *ir*, add *a*, and finish with the infinitive: *Voy a comer, vas a comer, va a comer…* It does not change.

Meals in Spain

MEAL	SAY IT	TYPICAL TIME IN SPAIN
el desayuno (breakfast)	*ehl deh-sah-YOO-noh*	between 7 and 9 in the morning
la comida / **el almuerzo** (lunch)	*lah koh-MEE-dah / ehl ahl-MWEHR-thoh*	between about 2 and 3.30 in the afternoon
la merienda (afternoon snack)	*lah meh-RYEHN-dah*	about 5 or 6 in the evening
la cena (dinner)	*lah THEH-nah*	between about 9 and 10.30 at night

A Late Country

Meals in Spain are generally **later than in Britain**: lunch comes in the early afternoon and dinner is often at nine or later (the times in the table are typical, not fixed). The word for lunch also differs: *la comida* is common in Spain, and *el almuerzo* can mean lunch or a mid-morning snack.

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabulario

20 key words. Read the Spanish first, then check the respelling (CAPITALS = the stressed syllable).

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	**el día**	*ehl DEE-ah*	day	noun
2	**la semana**	*lah seh-MAH-nah*	week	noun
3	**el mes**	*ehl MEHS*	month	noun
4	**la fecha**	*lah FEH-chah*	date	noun
5	**hoy**	*OY*	today	adv
6	**ayer**	*ah-YEHR*	yesterday	adv
7	**mañana**	*mah-NYAH-nah*	tomorrow; morning	adv / noun
8	**el cumpleaños**	*ehl koom-pleh-AH-nyohs*	birthday	noun
9	**lunes**	*LOO-nehs*	Monday	noun
10	**domingo**	*doh-MEEN-goh*	Sunday	noun
11	**enero**	*eh-NEH-roh*	January	noun
12	**diciembre**	*dee-THYEHM-breh*	December	noun
13	**la hora**	*lah OH-rah*	hour; time	noun
14	**¿qué hora es?**	*keh OH-rah ehs*	what time is it?	phrase
15	**y media**	*ee MEH-dyah*	half past	phrase

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
16	**menos cuarto**	*MEH-nohs KWAR-toh*	quarter to	phrase
17	**en punto**	*ehn POON-toh*	exactly; on the dot	phrase
18	**ir**	*EER*	to go	verb
19	**cenar**	*theh-NAR*	to have dinner	verb
20	**la cena**	*lah THEH-nah*	dinner; supper	noun

Hard Words

miércoles = *MYEHR-koh-lehs* (stress on *MIER*, written accent) · *jueves* = *KHWEH-behs* (*j* = throaty "kh", *v* = soft "b") · *septiembre* = *sehp-TYEHM-breh* · *diciembre* = *dee-THYEHM-breh* · *cumpleaños* = *koom-pleh-AH-nyohs* · *mañana* = *mah-NYAH-nah* (*ñ* = "ny") · *ayer* = *ah-YEHR* (*y* as in "yes"). *¿Qué vas a hacer?* = *keh BAHS ah ah-THEHR* (*hacer*, "to do", is only a phrase here; it gets its own chapter later).

Mañana — Tomorrow or Morning?

Mañana means both "tomorrow" and "morning". Context decides: *Mañana voy a trabajar* ("Tomorrow I'm going to work") against *por la mañana* ("in the morning") and *las ocho de la mañana* ("8 a.m.").

Latin America Note

Days, months and the way of telling the time are the same in Latin America. For the plural "you" the question is *¿Van a la fiesta el sábado?* (*ustedes*) instead of *¿Vais…?* In much of Latin America **el almuerzo** is the usual word for lunch.

Grammar Pointer

Numbers are explained in Spanish Grammar 1 8, *ir* in Spanish Grammar 2 4, and *ir a* + infinitive in Spanish Grammar 2 11. Use them as a reference after this chapter.

✍️ Try It Yourself — Ejercicios

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Say in Spanish: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday.

▼ Show answer

lunes · miércoles · viernes · domingo.

2. Say these dates: 1 May, 15 March, 25 December.

▼ Show answer

el primero de mayo · el quince de marzo · el veinticinco de diciembre.

3. Say these times: 1:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45.

▼ Show answer

Es la una · Son las cuatro y cuarto · Son las seis y media · Son las nueve menos cuarto.

4. Ask what time it is (formally), and what time the bank opens.

▼ Show answer

Perdone, ¿qué hora es? ¿A qué hora abre el banco?

5. Complete with *ir*: "Yo ___ a la oficina." · "Nosotros ___ a trabajar." · "Ellos ___ a cenar."

▼ Show answer

voy · vamos · van.

6. Say: "Tomorrow I'm going to visit my family." · "What time does the party start?"

▼ Show answer

Mañana voy a visitar a mi familia. · ¿A qué hora empieza la fiesta?

Coming Up in Chapter 8

Ordering food and drink at a café: **un café con leche, un cortado, una caña, unas tapas, la carta, el menú del día, la cuenta**, **quisiera…** ("I would like…"), and tipping in Spain.

☕ Ordering at a Café — En el bar

*In Spain the **bar** is a café, bar and snack place in one, open from breakfast to late evening. This chapter covers ordering a drink and something to eat, politely asking for what you want with **quisiera** and **me gustaría**, and asking for the bill. The tables give the respelling, and a **Hard words** box helps with the trickiest words.*

① Breakfast (formal) — Un café con leche

A:

Buenos días. ¿Qué desea?

Good morning. What would you like?

B:

Quisiera un café con leche y una tostada, por favor.

I'd like a white coffee and a piece of toast, please.

A:

Muy bien. ¿Algo más?

Very good. Anything else?

B:

No, nada más. Gracias.

No, nothing else. Thank you.

② A Small Coffee (informal) — Un cortado

A:

Hola. ¿Qué te pongo?

Hello. What can I get you?

B:

Un cortado, por favor.

A cortado, please.

A:

¿Quieres algo de comer?

Do you want something to eat?

B:

Sí, un bocadillo de jamón.

Yes, a ham sandwich.

③ Drinks with Friends — Una caña

A:

¿Qué tomáis?

What are you having?

B:

④ Lunch (formal) — El menú del día

A:

Buenas tardes. ¿Tienen menú del día?

Good afternoon. Do you have a set menu?

Yo una caña. ¿Y tú, Marta?

I'll have a small beer. And you, Marta?

C:

Un agua con gas, por favor.

A sparkling water, please.

A:

Dos cañas y un agua con gas. Y unas tapas.

Two small beers and a sparkling water. And some tapas.

B:

Sí. Primero, sopa o ensalada. Segundo, pollo o pescado.

Yes. First, soup or salad. Second, chicken or fish.

A:

Me gustaría ensalada y pescado, por favor.

I'd like salad and fish, please.

B:

¿Y para beber?

And to drink?

⑤ Likes — Me gusta el café

A:

¿Te gusta el café?

Do you like coffee?

B:

Sí, me gusta mucho. ¿Y a ti?

Yes, I like it a lot. And you?

A:

A mí me gusta el té, pero no me gusta la leche.

I like tea, but I don't like milk.

B:

Entonces, un té solo.

Then, a tea with no milk.

⑥ The Bill (formal) — La cuenta, por favor

A:

Perdone, la cuenta, por favor.

Excuse me, the bill, please.

B:

Enseguida. Son once euros con cincuenta.

Right away. That's 11 euros 50.

A:

¿Puedo pagar con tarjeta?

Can I pay by card?

B:

Sí, claro.

Yes, of course.

🗣️ Key Phrases — Frases clave

ENGLISH	FORMAL (USTED)	INFORMAL (TÚ)
What would you like?	**¿Qué desea?** *keh deh-SEH-ah*	**¿Qué quieres? / ¿Qué te pongo?** *keh KYEH-rehs / keh teh POHN-goh*
I'd like…	**Quisiera un café, por favor. / Me gustaría un café.** *kee-SYEH-rah oon kah-FEH / meh goos-tah-REE-ah oon kah-FEH*	
Anything else?	**¿Algo más?** *AHL-goh MAHS*	**¿Algo más?**
The bill, please.	**La cuenta, por favor.** *lah KWEHN-tah por fah-BOR*	

QUISIERA AND ME GUSTARÍA: POLITE "I'D LIKE"

Quiero ("I want", from *querer*, Chapter 5) is correct but blunt. **Quisiera** and **me gustaría** both mean "I would like" and sound politer. For now learn them as ready-made phrases; each is followed by the thing you want (*quisiera un café*) or an infinitive (*me gustaría comer*). In a busy bar you will also hear and say simply **"Un café, por favor."**

🍽️ Food and Drink on the Menu — La carta

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
un café solo	*oon kah-FEH SOH-loh*	a small black espresso
un cortado	*oon kor-TAH-doh*	an espresso with a little milk
un café con leche	*oon kah-FEH kohn LEH-cheh*	coffee with (more) milk
una caña	*OO-nah KAH-nyah*	a small draught beer
un agua (con gas / sin gas)	*oon AH-gwah (kohn GAHS / seen GAHS)*	water (sparkling / still)
un bocadillo	*oon boh-kah-DEE-yoh*	a sandwich (in a bread roll)

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
unas tapas	*OO-nahs TAH-pahs*	some small snacks
el menú del día	*ehl meh-NOO dehl DEE-ah*	the set-price lunch

UN AGUA, NOT UNA AGUA

Agua is feminine, but in the singular it takes **un** / **el** to avoid two *a* sounds together: *un agua*, *el agua*. Adjectives stay feminine (*el agua fría*) and the plural is regular: *las aguas*.

🔤 Verbs — Pedir, tomar, beber

Pedir *("to ask for, to order") changes e → i in every form except nosotros and vosotros.* ***Tomar*** *("to have, to take") is a regular* ***-ar*** *verb and* ***beber*** *("to drink") a regular* ***-er*** *verb (Chapter 6).*

	PEDIR (TO ORDER)	TOMAR (TO HAVE, TAKE)	BEBER (TO DRINK)
yo (I)	pido *PEE-doh*	tomo *TOH-moh*	bebo *BEH-boh*
tú (you, informal)	pides *PEE-dehs*	tomas *TOH-mahs*	bebes *BEH-behs*
él, ella, usted	pide *PEE-deh*	toma *TOH-mah*	bebe *BEH-beh*
nosotros (we)	pedimos *peh-DEE-mohs*	tomamos *toh-MAH-mohs*	bebemos *beh-BEH-mohs*
vosotros (Spain)	pedís *peh-DEES*	tomáis *toh-MAHYS*	bebéis *beh-BAYS*
ellos, ellas, ustedes	piden *PEE-dehn*	toman *TOH-mahn*	beben *BEH-behn*

A first look at gustar — "to like"

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
Me gusta el café.	*meh GOOS-tah ehl kah-FEH*	I like coffee.
¿Te gusta el té?	*teh GOOS-tah ehl TEH*	Do you like tea?
No me gusta la leche.	*noh meh GOOS-tah lah LEH-cheh*	I don't like milk.
Me gustan las tapas.	*meh GOOS-tahn lahs TAH-pahs*	I like tapas.

GUSTAR WORKS "BACKWARDS"

Gustar literally means "to be pleasing (to)". The thing you like is the subject, so the verb agrees with *it*: **me gusta** + singular thing (*el café*), **me gustan** + plural things (*las tapas*). For "you like" use **te gusta**. This is only a first look; the full pattern comes later, and Spanish Grammar 2 7 explains it in detail.

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabulario

20 key words. Read the Spanish first, then check the respelling (CAPITALS = the stressed syllable).

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	el bar	*ehl BAR*	bar, café	noun
2	la carta	*lah KAR-tah*	menu (the full list)	noun
3	la cuenta	*lah KWEHN-tah*	the bill	noun
4	la propina	*lah proh-PEE-nah*	tip	noun
5	el camarero / la camarera	*kah-mah-REH-roh / kah-mah-REH-rah*	waiter / waitress	noun
6	la leche	*lah LEH-cheh*	milk	noun
7	el té	*ehl TEH*	tea	noun

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
8	**el zumo**	*ehl THOO-moh*	juice	noun
9	**la tostada**	*lah tohs-TAH-dah*	toast	noun
10	**el jamón**	*ehl khah-MOHN*	ham	noun
11	**la ensalada**	*lah ehn-sah-LAH-dah*	salad	noun
12	**el pescado**	*ehl pehs-KAH-doh*	fish	noun
13	**el pollo**	*ehl POH-yoh*	chicken	noun
14	**pedir**	*peh-DEER*	to order, ask for	verb
15	**tomar**	*toh-MAR*	to have, take	verb
16	**beber**	*beh-BEHR*	to drink	verb
17	**pagar**	*pah-GAR*	to pay	verb
18	**con / sin**	*kohn / seen*	with / without	prep
19	**¿Algo más?**	*AHL-goh MAHS*	anything else?	phrase
20	**enseguida**	*ehn-seh-GEE-dah*	right away	adv

Hard Words

cortado = *kor-TAH-doh* · *caña* = *KAH-nyah* (*ñ* = "ny") · *bocadillo* = *boh-kah-DEE-yoh* (*ll* like English "y" in "yes") · *jamón* = *khah-MOHN* (*j* = throaty "kh") · *zumo* = *THOO-moh* (Spain: *z* = "th") · *camarero* = *kah-mah-REH-roh* (single *r* is a quick tap) · *enseguida* = *ehn-seh-GEE-dah*. In the dialogs, *¿Quieres algo de comer?* = *KYEH-rehs AHL-goh deh koh-MEHR* and *¿Puedo pagar con tarjeta?* = *PWEH-doh pah-GAR kohn tar-KHEH-tah* are phrases for now (*puedo* comes in a later chapter).

How the Bar Works

In a bar you can stand at the **counter** or sit at a table, and you often pay **at the end** rather than on each order, so ask for *la cuenta* when you want to leave. To get a waiter's attention, *Perdone* ("excuse

me") is a safe, polite choice. The **menú del día** is a fixed-price lunch, usually served on weekdays, with a first course, a second course, bread, a drink and a dessert or coffee. Practices differ by place and region.

Tipping in Spain

Tipping (*la propina*) is **not obligatory** and is smaller than in some countries. For a coffee or a beer, leaving small coins or nothing is common. For a meal, rounding up or leaving a few coins is typical. Treat these as rough guides, not rules.

Latin America Note

In Latin America a common word for "the bill" is also *la cuenta*, and for the plural "you" people say *¿Qué van a tomar?* instead of *¿Qué tomáis?* Words differ by country: *zumo* (juice) is mostly Spain, where much of Latin America says *jugo*, and *caña* and *cortado* are very Spanish usage. Tipping customs also vary by country, and in some places a service charge may be added.

Grammar Pointer

Gustar is explained in Spanish Grammar 2 7, and the conditional (*me gustaría*) in Spanish Grammar 3 10. The imperfect subjunctive form *quisiera* is covered in Spanish Grammar 4 4. Use them as references after this chapter.

✍️ Try It Yourself — Ejercicios

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Politely order a white coffee and a piece of toast.

▼ Show answer

Quisiera un café con leche y una tostada, por favor. (or *Me gustaría…*)

2. Say: "A cortado and a ham sandwich, please."

▼ Show answer

Un cortado y un bocadillo de jamón, por favor.

3. Complete: "Yo ____ un café." (tomar) · "Nosotros ____ una caña." (pedir) · "Ellos ____ agua." (beber)

▼ Show answer

tomo · pedimos · beben.

4. Say: "I like coffee, but I don't like tea." and "Do you like tapas?"

▼ Show answer

Me gusta el café, pero no me gusta el té. · ¿Te gustan las tapas?

5. Ask for a sparkling water, then ask the waiter for the bill.

▼ Show answer

Un agua con gas, por favor. … Perdone, la cuenta, por favor.

6. The waiter says *¿Algo más?* and you want nothing else. What do you answer?

▼ Show answer

No, nada más. Gracias.

Coming Up in Chapter 9

Shopping and prices: **¿Cuánto cuesta? ¿Tiene…? Me lo llevo**, euros and cents, buying bread and fruit, **las rebajas** (sales) and the market (**el mercado**).

🛒 Shopping & Prices — De compras

*This chapter covers asking whether a shop has something, asking the price, saying amounts and prices in **euros and cents**, buying bread and fruit, clothes shopping, and the words for sales and markets. The tables give the respelling, and a **Hard words** box helps with the trickiest words.*

① At the Bakery (formal) — Una barra de pan

A:

Buenos días. ¿Qué desea?

Good morning. What would you like?

B:

Una barra de pan, por favor.

A loaf of bread, please.

A:

Aquí tiene. Son un euro con veinte.

Here you are. That's 1 euro 20.

B:

Tenga. Gracias, adiós.

Here you are. Thank you, goodbye.

② Fruit by the Kilo — Un kilo de naranjas

A:

¿Cuánto cuestan las naranjas?

How much are the oranges?

B:

Dos euros el kilo.

Two euros a kilo.

A:

Pues, un kilo y medio de naranjas, por favor.

Well, a kilo and a half of oranges, please.

B:

¿Algo más? ¿Manzanas, plátanos?

Anything else? Apples, bananas?

③ At the Market — En el mercado

A:

Buenas tardes. ¿Tiene tomates?

Good afternoon. Do you have tomatoes?

B:

Sí, tengo tomates muy buenos.

Yes, I have very good tomatoes.

④ A Shirt (formal) — Me lo llevo

A:

Perdone, ¿cuánto cuesta esta camisa?

Excuse me, how much does this shirt cost?

B:

Cuesta veinticinco euros.

A:

Medio kilo, por favor. ¿Cuánto es?

Half a kilo, please. How much is it?

B:

Son tres euros con cincuenta.

That's 3 euros 50.

⑤ In the Sales (informal) — Las rebajas

A:

¿Están de rebajas?

Are you having a sale?

B:

Sí. Los zapatos están a cuarenta euros.

Yes. The shoes are 40 euros.

A:

¡Qué barato! Me los llevo.

How cheap! I'll take them.

B:

¿Va a pagar con tarjeta o en efectivo?

Are you paying by card or in cash?

It costs 25 euros.

A:

¿Tiene una talla más grande?

Do you have a bigger size?

B:

Sí. Aquí tiene.

Yes. Here you are.

⑥ Too Expensive — Es muy caro

A:

¿Cuánto cuesta este bolso?

How much does this bag cost?

B:

Cuesta setenta y cinco euros.

It costs 75 euros.

A:

Es muy caro. No lo quiero, gracias.

It's very expensive. I don't want it, thank you.

B:

De nada. Hasta luego.

You're welcome. See you later.

Key Phrases — Frases clave

ENGLISH	FORMAL (USTED)	INFORMAL (TÚ)
Do you have...?	**¿Tiene...?** *TYEH-neh*	**¿Tienes...?** *TYEH-nehs*

ENGLISH	FORMAL (USTED)	INFORMAL (TÚ)
How much is it? (one thing)	**¿Cuánto cuesta? / ¿Cuánto es?** *KWAHN-toh KWEHS-tah / KWAHN-toh EHS*	
How much are they? (several)	**¿Cuánto cuestan?** *KWAHN-toh KWEHS-tahn*	
I'll take it.	**Me lo llevo.** (a masculine thing) / **Me la llevo.** (a feminine thing) *meh loh YEH-boh / meh lah YEH-boh*	
It's too expensive.	**Es muy caro.** *ehs mwee KAH-roh*	
I'm just looking.	**Solo estoy mirando.** *SOH-loh ehs-TOY mee-RAHN-doh*	

ME LO LLEVO: A READY-MADE PHRASE

Llevarse means "to take (away)". In the shop the phrase is **me lo llevo** (masculine singular), **me la llevo** (feminine singular), **me los llevo** and **me las llevo** (plurals). The little word *lo / la / los / las* means "it / them" and matches the gender and number of the thing. For now learn it as a phrase; Spanish Grammar 2 9 explains these pronouns.

💶 Money and Amounts — Euros y céntimos

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
un euro	*oon eh-OO-roh*	1 euro
dos euros con cincuenta	*dohs eh-OO-rohs kohn theen-KWEHN-tah*	2 euros 50 (€2.50)
noventa y cinco céntimos	*noh-BEHN-tah ee THEEN-koh THEHN-tee-mohs*	95 cents
un kilo de manzanas	*oon KEE-loh deh mahn-THAH-nahs*	a kilo of apples
medio kilo de tomates	*MEH-dyoh KEE-loh deh toh-MAH-tehs*	half a kilo of tomatoes

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
una barra de pan	*OO-nah BAH-rrah deh PAHN*	a loaf of bread (long)

HOW TO SAY PRICES

Use the numbers from Chapter 3. Say the euros, then **con** ("with") and the cents: *tres euros con cincuenta* (€3.50). When the price is for the whole bill use **Son…** (*Son tres euros con cincuenta*); for one thing use **Cuesta…**. In writing, Spanish often puts the euro sign after the figure and uses a comma for the decimals: *3,50 €*. **Medio** is "half": *medio kilo*, *un kilo y medio* ("one and a half kilos").

🔤 Verbs — Costar, comprar, llevar

Costar *("to cost") changes o → ue in every form except nosotros and vosotros, but you will mostly use only cuesta and cuestan.* ***Comprar*** *("to buy") and* ***llevar*** *("to take, to carry, to wear") are regular* ***-ar*** *verbs (Chapter 6).*

	COSTAR (TO COST)	COMPRAR (TO BUY)	LLEVAR (TO TAKE)
yo (I)	cuesto *KWEHS-toh*	compro *KOHM-proh*	llevo *YEH-boh*
tú (you, informal)	cuestas *KWEHS-tahs*	compras *KOHM-prahs*	llevas *YEH-bahs*
él, ella, usted	cuesta *KWEHS-tah*	compra *KOHM-prah*	lleva *YEH-bah*
nosotros (we)	costamos *kohs-TAH-mohs*	compramos *kohm-PRAH-mohs*	llevamos *yeh-BAH-mohs*
vosotros (Spain)	costáis *kohs-TAHYS*	compráis *kohm-PRAHYS*	lleváis *yeh-BAHYS*
ellos, ellas, ustedes	cuestan *KWEHS-tahn*	compran *KOHM-prahn*	llevan *YEH-bahn*

This, that: pointing at things

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
este bolso / esta camisa	*EHS-teh BOHL-soh / EHS-tah kah-MEE-sah*	this bag / this shirt
estos zapatos / estas naranjas	*EHS-tohs thah-PAH-tohs / EHS-tahs nah-RAHN-khahs*	these shoes / these oranges
¿Cuánto cuesta esto?	*KWAHN-toh KWEHS-tah EHS-toh*	How much is this? (unknown thing)

Use **este** / **esta** / **estos** / **estas** before the noun, matching its gender and number; **esto** is for "this thing" when you don't name it. The full set (including *ese* and *aquel*) is in Spanish Grammar 1 7.

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabulario

20 key words. Read the Spanish first, then check the respelling (CAPITALS = the stressed syllable).

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	la tienda	*lah TYEHN-dah*	shop	noun
2	el mercado	*ehl mehr-KAH-doh*	market	noun
3	las rebajas	*lahs reh-BAH-khahs*	the sales	noun
4	el precio	*ehl PREH-thyoh*	price	noun
5	el dinero	*ehl dee-NEH-roh*	money	noun
6	el euro	*ehl eh-OO-roh*	euro	noun
7	el céntimo	*ehl THEHN-tee-moh*	cent	noun
8	el pan	*ehl PAHN*	bread	noun

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
9	**la fruta**	*lah FROO-tah*	fruit	noun
10	**la naranja**	*lah nah-RAHN-khah*	orange	noun
11	**la manzana**	*lah mahn-THAH-nah*	apple	noun
12	**el kilo**	*ehl KEE-loh*	kilo	noun
13	**la talla**	*lah TAH-yah*	size (clothes)	noun
14	**la tarjeta**	*lah tar-KHEH-tah*	card	noun
15	**en efectivo**	*ehn eh-fehk-TEE-boh*	in cash	phrase
16	**caro / barato**	*KAH-roh / bah-RAH-toh*	expensive / cheap	adj
17	**grande / pequeño**	*GRAHN-deh / peh-KEH-nyoh*	big / small	adj
18	**comprar**	*kohm-PRAR*	to buy	verb
19	**costar**	*kohs-TAR*	to cost	verb
20	**llevar**	*yeh-BAR*	to take; to carry	verb

Hard Words

rebajas = *reh-BAH-khahs* (*j* = throaty "kh") · *céntimo* = *THEHN-tee-moh* (stress on *CEN*, Spain *c* = "th") · *euro* = *eh-OO-roh* (three syllables) · *efectivo* = *eh-fehk-TEE-boh* (*v* = soft "b") · *naranja* = *nah-RAHN-khah* · *manzana* = *mahn-THAH-nah* · *talla* = *TAH-yah* (*ll* like English "y"). In the dialogs *plátanos* = *PLAH-tah-nohs* and *zapatos* = *thah-PAH-tohs*. Phrases for now: *¿Están de rebajas?* = *ehs-TAHN deh reh-BAH-khahs* and *Solo estoy mirando* (forms of *estar*, "to be", come in Chapter 10), and *Aquí tiene / Tenga* = "Here you are".

Sales and Markets

Las rebajas are the sales, and the big seasons are generally around **January and July**, though dates vary by region and by shop. Most towns have a **mercado**, an indoor food market. Big-city shops may stay open through the day, while in some smaller towns shops close for a few hours in the

afternoon, and on Sundays many are closed. Small shops and kiosks may take only cash, so it is worth carrying some.

Latin America Note

Latin American countries use many different currencies, so *euro* is for Spain only; the verbs and the phrases *¿Cuánto cuesta?* and *¿Tiene…?* work everywhere. Some words differ: *zapatos* and *naranjas* are universal, but "bag" may be *bolso* (Spain) or *cartera / bolsa* elsewhere, and "banana" is *plátano* in Spain but *banana* or *guineo* in some countries. Decimal commas and points also vary by country.

Grammar Pointer

Demonstratives (*este, ese, aquel*) are explained in Spanish Grammar 1 7, stem-changing verbs such as *costar* in Spanish Grammar 2 5, and object pronouns (*me lo llevo*) in Spanish Grammar 2 9. Use them as a reference after this chapter.

✍️ Try It Yourself — Ejercicios

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Say these prices: €1.20, €3.50, €12, €0.95.

▼ Show answer

un euro con veinte · tres euros con cincuenta · doce euros · noventa y cinco céntimos.

2. Ask the price of one shirt, then of some oranges.

▼ Show answer

¿Cuánto cuesta la camisa? ¿Cuánto cuestan las naranjas?

3. Buy half a kilo of tomatoes and a loaf of bread.

▼ Show answer

Medio kilo de tomates y una barra de pan, por favor.

4. Complete: "Yo ____ una camisa." (comprar) · "La camisa ____ veinte euros." (costar) · "Nosotros ____ el pan." (llevar)

▼ Show answer

compro · cuesta · llevamos.

5. You like a shirt (*la camisa*) and decide to buy it. What do you say? And if it is too expensive?

▼ Show answer

Me la llevo. · **Es muy caro.**

6. Ask in a shop: "Do you have a bigger size?" and "Can I pay by card?" (a phrase for now).

▼ Show answer

¿Tiene una talla más grande? · ¿Puedo pagar con tarjeta?

Coming Up in Chapter 10

Getting around town: **¿Dónde está…?**, **todo recto, a la derecha, a la izquierda**, **la esquina, el semáforo**, **cerca / lejos**, and landmarks.

🧭 Asking for Directions — Cómo llegar

*This chapter covers asking where a place is, understanding the answer (**straight on, left, right, at the corner, at the traffic lights**), and saying whether a place is near or far. It also introduces **estar**, the verb for location. The tables give the respelling, and a **Hard words** box helps with the trickiest words.*

① Where Is the Station? (formal) — ¿Dónde está la estación?

A:

Perdone, ¿dónde está la estación?

Excuse me, where is the station?

B:

Siga todo recto y gire a la derecha.

Keep going straight on and turn right.

A:

¿Está lejos?

Is it far?

B:

No, está cerca. Diez minutos a pie.

No, it's close. Ten minutes on foot.

② The Pharmacy (informal) — La farmacia

A:

Hola, ¿sabes dónde hay una farmacia?

Hello, do you know where there's a pharmacy?

B:

Sí, hay una en la esquina.

Yes, there's one on the corner.

A:

¿A la izquierda o a la derecha?

To the left or to the right?

B:

A la izquierda, al lado del banco.

To the left, next to the bank.

③ The Traffic Lights — En el semáforo

A:

Buenos días. ¿Cómo llego al museo?

Good morning. How do I get to the museum?

B:

Siga hasta el semáforo.

④ The Hotel (formal) — Cerca de aquí

A:

Perdone, ¿hay un hotel cerca de aquí?

Excuse me, is there a hotel near here?

B:

Carry on to the traffic lights.

A:

¿Y después?

And then?

B:

Gire a la izquierda. El museo está enfrente de la plaza.

Turn left. The museum is opposite the square.

Sí, el Hotel Sol está en la calle Mayor.

Yes, the Hotel Sol is on Calle Mayor.

A:

¿Está lejos de aquí?

Is it far from here?

B:

No, está a cinco minutos.

No, it's five minutes away.

⑤ Lost (informal) — Estoy perdido

A:

Perdona, estoy perdida. ¿Dónde está la plaza Mayor?

Sorry, I'm lost. Where is the Plaza Mayor?

B:

Está muy cerca. Sigue por esta calle.

It's very close. Carry on along this street.

A:

¿Y luego?

And then?

B:

Al final de la calle, a la derecha.

At the end of the street, on the right.

⑥ Which Street? — ¿Es esta la calle...?

A:

¿Es esta la calle Mayor?

Is this Calle Mayor?

B:

No, esta es la calle Real. La calle Mayor está allí, a la izquierda.

No, this is Calle Real. Calle Mayor is over there, on the left.

A:

Muchas gracias.

Thank you very much.

B:

De nada. Que tenga un buen día.

You're welcome. Have a good day.

🗣️ Key Phrases — Frases clave

ENGLISH	FORMAL (USTED)	INFORMAL (TÚ)
Where is…?	**¿Dónde está…?** *DOHN-deh ehs-TAH*	
Is there… near here?	**¿Hay… cerca de aquí?** *AY… THEHR-kah deh ah-KEE*	
Straight on	**Siga todo recto.** *SEE-gah TOH-doh REHK-toh*	**Sigue todo recto.** *SEE-geh TOH-doh REHK-toh*
Turn right / left	**Gire a la derecha / izquierda.** *KHEE-reh ah lah deh-REH-chah / eeth-KYEHR-dah*	**Gira a la derecha / izquierda.** *KHEE-rah ah lah deh-REH-chah / eeth-KYEHR-dah*
Is it far?	**¿Está lejos? — No, está cerca.** *ehs-TAH LEH-khohs — noh ehs-TAH THEHR-kah*	

DIRECTIONS USE COMMANDS: SIGA / SIGUE, GIRE / GIRA

People give directions with **commands**, and the **formal** and **informal** forms differ by one vowel: *siga* / *sigue*, *gire* / *gira*. For now, **recognise** them when you hear them and use the formal form (*Perdone, ¿dónde está…?*) to ask. Spanish Grammar 3 11 explains how commands are formed.

📍 Location Words — Dónde está

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
a la derecha	*ah lah deh-REH-chah*	to the right
a la izquierda	*ah lah eeth-KYEHR-dah*	to the left
todo recto	*TOH-doh REHK-toh*	straight on
en la esquina	*ehn lah ehs-KEE-nah*	on the corner
al final de la calle	*ahl fee-NAHL deh lah KAH-yeh*	at the end of the street

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
al lado de	*ahl LAH-doh deh*	next to
enfrente de	*ehn-FREHN-teh deh*	opposite
cerca (de) / lejos (de)	*THEHR-kah / LEH-khohs*	near (to) / far (from)

A + EL = AL

The preposition **a** joins the article **el** into one word: **a + el = al** (*al lado, al final, al museo*). It does not combine with *la*: *a la derecha*. In the same way **de + el = del** (*el final del parque*), while *de la* stays separate.

abc Verbs — Estar, seguir, girar

Estar *("to be", for location and state) is irregular in the yo form and has written accents in four forms.* ***Seguir*** *("to continue, to follow") changes e → i and drops the u in yo: sigo.* ***Girar*** *("to turn") is a regular* ***-ar*** *verb.*

	ESTAR (TO BE)	SEGUIR (TO CONTINUE)	GIRAR (TO TURN)
yo (I)	estoy *ehs-TOY*	sigo *SEE-goh*	giro *KHEE-roh*
tú (you, informal)	estás *ehs-TAHS*	sigues *SEE-gehs*	giras *KHEE-rahs*
él, ella, usted	está *ehs-TAH*	sigue *SEE-geh*	gira *KHEE-rah*
nosotros (we)	estamos *ehs-TAH-mohs*	seguimos *seh-GEE-mohs*	giramos *khee-RAH-mohs*
vosotros (Spain)	estáis *ehs-TAHYS*	seguís *seh-GEES*	giráis *khee-RAHYS*
ellos, ellas, ustedes	están *ehs-TAHN*	siguen *SEE-gehn*	giran *KHEE-rahn*

ESTAR FOR WHERE THINGS ARE, HAY FOR WHETHER THEY EXIST

Use **estar** to say where a *particular, known* place or thing is: *La estación está cerca*, *El hotel Sol está en la calle Mayor*. Use **hay** (Chapter 5) for "there is / there are" something not yet identified: *Hay una farmacia en la esquina*. A quick test: if you say *the* or a name, use *está*; if you say *a*, use *hay*. **Ser** and **estar** are compared in Spanish Grammar 2 3.

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabulario

20 key words. Read the Spanish first, then check the respelling (CAPITALS = the stressed syllable).

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	**la calle**	*lah KAH-yeh*	street	noun
2	**la plaza**	*lah PLAH-thah*	square	noun
3	**la esquina**	*lah ehs-KEE-nah*	corner	noun
4	**el semáforo**	*ehl seh-MAH-foh-roh*	traffic lights	noun
5	**la estación**	*lah ehs-tah-THYOHN*	station	noun
6	**la farmacia**	*lah far-MAH-thyah*	pharmacy	noun
7	**el banco**	*ehl BAHN-koh*	bank	noun
8	**el museo**	*ehl moo-SEH-oh*	museum	noun
9	**el hotel**	*ehl oh-TEHL*	hotel	noun
10	**el parque**	*ehl PAR-keh*	park	noun
11	**el minuto**	*ehl mee-NOO-toh*	minute	noun
12	**a pie**	*ah PYEH*	on foot	phrase
13	**aquí / allí**	*ah-KEE / ah-YEE*	here / there	adv
14	**cerca**	*THEHR-kah*	near	adv

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
15	**lejos**	*LEH-khohs*	far	adv
16	**después / luego**	*dehs-PWEHS / LWEH-goh*	then, afterwards	adv
17	**estar**	*ehs-TAR*	to be (location)	verb
18	**seguir**	*seh-GEER*	to continue	verb
19	**girar**	*khee-RAR*	to turn	verb
20	**perdido / perdida**	*pehr-DEE-doh / pehr-DEE-dah*	lost (m / f)	adj

Hard Words

izquierda = *eeth-KYEHR-dah* (*z* = "th" in Spain; *qu* = "k") · *derecha* = *deh-REH-chah* · *semáforo* = *seh-MAH-foh-roh* (stress on *MÁ*) · *estación* = *ehs-tah-THYOHN* · *farmacia* = *far-MAH-thyah* · *girar* = *khee-RAR* (*g* before *i* = throaty "kh") · *seguir* = *seh-GEER* (*gu* before *i* = hard "g", the *u* is silent). Phrases for now: *¿Cómo llego al museo?* = *KOH-moh YEH-goh ahl moo-SEH-oh* ("How do I get to the museum?"), *¿Sabes dónde hay…?* ("Do you know where there is…?") and *Que tenga un buen día* ("Have a good day").

Asking Politely

Start with **Perdone** or **Perdona** ("excuse me"), then ask the question. **Disculpe** works too. Use the formal *usted* to be safely polite with a stranger; the informal *tú* is also heard in quick street questions, especially between younger people. A short *Gracias* at the end is expected.

Spanish Street Words

In Spanish towns you will see **calle** (street), **avenida**, **plaza** and **paseo**. The street name often comes *after* the type: *calle Mayor*, *plaza Mayor*. A **plaza Mayor** is the main square of many Spanish towns. Directions are often given in **minutes on foot** (*diez minutos a pie*) rather than in metres.

Latin America Note

Spain says *todo recto* for "straight on", while many Latin American countries say *derecho* or *todo derecho*. A city block is a *manzana* in Spain but a *cuadra* in much of Latin America (so "two blocks" is *dos cuadras*). In some regions, such as Argentina, the informal commands use *vos* forms instead of *tú*. *Perdón* and *Disculpe* are common everywhere.

Grammar Pointer

Ser and *estar* are compared in Spanish Grammar 2 3, the contractions *al* and *del* and the other basic prepositions in Spanish Grammar 1 10, and the commands (*siga, gire*) in Spanish Grammar 3 11. Use them as a reference after this chapter.

✍️ Try It Yourself — Ejercicios

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Politely ask where the station is.

▼ Show answer

Perdone, ¿dónde está la estación?

2. Ask if there is a pharmacy near here.

▼ Show answer

¿Hay una farmacia cerca de aquí?

3. Complete with *está* or *hay*: "El banco ____ en la esquina." · "____ un hotel cerca de aquí." · "La plaza ____ enfrente del museo."

▼ Show answer

está · Hay · está. (A known place uses *está*; "a hotel" not yet identified uses *hay*.)

4. Say: "Keep going straight on, then turn left at the traffic lights."

▼ Show answer

Siga todo recto, y después gire a la izquierda en el semáforo.

5. Complete: "Yo ____ perdido." (estar) · "Nosotros ____ por esta calle." (seguir) · "Él ____ a la derecha." (girar)

▼ Show answer

estoy · seguimos · gira.

6. Ask "Is it far?", then say the answer "No, it's near, five minutes on foot."

▼ Show answer

¿Está lejos? · No, está cerca, a cinco minutos a pie.

Coming Up in Chapter 11

Booking a hotel: **una habitación doble con baño, ¿Tienen wifi?, el desayuno, el hostal, el parador**, and showing your passport at check-in.

🏨 Booking a Hotel — En el hotel

*This chapter covers booking a room by phone or at reception, saying how many people and how many nights, asking about breakfast and wifi, checking in and out, and a few words for the kinds of places to stay in Spain. It introduces **poder** ("can, to be able to"), which lets you make polite requests. The tables give the respelling, and a **Hard words** box helps with the trickiest words.*

① Booking by Phone (formal) — Quisiera reservar

A:

Hotel Sol, buenos días.

Hotel Sol, good morning.

B:

Buenos días. Quisiera reservar una habitación doble con baño.

Good morning. I'd like to book a double room with a bathroom.

A:

¿Para cuántas noches?

For how many nights?

B:

Para tres noches, del doce al quince de junio.

For three nights, from 12 to 15 June.

② Price and Breakfast — ¿Está incluido el desayuno?

A:

La habitación cuesta noventa euros por noche.

The room costs 90 euros a night.

B:

¿Está incluido el desayuno?

Is breakfast included?

A:

Sí, el desayuno es de ocho a diez.

Yes, breakfast is from eight to ten.

B:

Perfecto. ¿Tienen wifi?

Perfect. Do you have wifi?

③ Checking In (formal) — Tengo una reserva

A:

④ A Single Room — Una habitación individual

A:

Buenas tardes. Tengo una reserva a nombre de García.

Good afternoon. I have a reservation in the name of García.

B:

Un momento, por favor. ¿Puedo ver su pasaporte?

One moment, please. May I see your passport?

A:

Sí, aquí tiene.

Yes, here you are.

B:

Gracias. Su habitación es la doscientos cinco.

Thank you. Your room is number 205.

Hola. ¿Tienen una habitación individual para esta noche?

Hello. Do you have a single room for tonight?

B:

Lo siento, no tenemos. Pero tenemos una habitación doble.

I'm sorry, we don't. But we have a double room.

A:

¿Cuánto cuesta?

How much is it?

B:

Sesenta euros la noche.

Sixty euros a night.

⑤ A Problem (informal) — ¿Puede ayudarme?

A:

Perdona, no puedo abrir la puerta.

Sorry, I can't open the door.

B:

¿Qué número es tu habitación?

What's your room number?

A:

La trescientos doce. Necesito otra llave.

Number 312. I need another key.

B:

Enseguida. Aquí tienes.

Right away. Here you are.

⑥ Checking Out — La salida

A:

Buenos días. Quisiera pagar la cuenta, por favor.

Good morning. I'd like to pay the bill, please.

B:

Claro. ¿Habitación doscientos cinco? Son doscientos setenta euros.

Of course. Room 205? That's 270 euros.

A:

¿Puedo pagar con tarjeta?

Can I pay by card?

B:

Sí, claro. Gracias por su visita.

Yes, of course. Thank you for your stay.

Key Phrases — Frases clave

ENGLISH	FORMAL (USTED)	INFORMAL (TÚ)
I'd like to book a room.	**Quisiera reservar una habitación. / Me gustaría reservar una habitación.** *kee-SYEH-rah reh-sehr-BAR OO-nah ah-bee-tah-THYOHN*	
A double room with a bathroom	**una habitación doble con baño** *OO-nah ah-bee-tah-THYOHN DOH-bleh kohn BAH-nyoh*	
Do you have...?	**¿Tienen wifi?** *TYEH-nehn WEE-fee*	**¿Tenéis wifi?** *teh-NAYS WEE-fee*
Is breakfast included?	**¿Está incluido el desayuno?** *ehs-TAH een-kloo-EE-doh ehl deh-sah-YOO-noh*	
I have a reservation.	**Tengo una reserva.** *TEHN-goh OO-nah reh-SEHR-bah*	

PLURAL "TIENEN": ASKING A BUSINESS

When you ask a hotel or shop *¿Tienen...?*, the plural **tienen** ("do you (all) have") is natural, because you are speaking to the establishment, not one person. The singular *¿Tiene...?* (Chapter 9) works too when you speak to a single person. In Spain the informal plural is *¿Tenéis...?*

Rooms and Services — Habitaciones y servicios

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
una habitación individual	*OO-nah ah-bee-tah-THYOHN een-dee-bee-DWAHL*	a single room
una habitación doble	*OO-nah ah-bee-tah-THYOHN DOH-bleh*	a double room

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
con baño / con ducha	*kohn BAH-nyoh / kohn DOO-chah*	with bathroom / with shower
una noche / dos noches	*OO-nah NOH-cheh / dohs NOH-chehs*	one night / two nights
la llave	*lah YAH-beh*	the key
la recepción	*lah reh-thehp-THYOHN*	reception
el desayuno	*ehl deh-sah-YOO-noh*	breakfast
el wifi	*ehl WEE-fee*	wifi

Where to stay in Spain

SPANISH	SAY IT	WHAT IT IS
el hotel	*ehl oh-TEHL*	hotel
el hostal	*ehl ohs-TAHL*	a small, simple, lower-priced hotel (not a "hostel" in the backpacker sense)
el albergue	*ehl ahl-BEHR-geh*	hostel (shared rooms)
el parador	*ehl pah-rah-DOR*	a state-run hotel, often in a historic building

ROOM NUMBERS AND "LA"

Say a room number with **la** (because *habitación* is feminine): *la doscientos cinco* (room 205). Use the numbers from Chapter 3. Dates for a stay use *del … al …* ("from … to …"): *del doce al quince de junio*. Remember **a + el = al** (Chapter 10).

Verbs — Reservar, necesitar, poder

Reservar *("to book") and* ***necesitar*** *("to need") are regular* ***-ar*** *verbs (Chapter 6).* ***Poder*** *("can, to be able to") changes o → ue in every form except nosotros and vosotros, and is followed by an* ***infinitive****: ¿Puedo pagar con tarjeta?*

	RESERVAR (TO BOOK)	NECESITAR (TO NEED)	PODER (CAN)
yo (I)	reservo *reh-SEHR-boh*	necesito *neh-theh-SEE-toh*	puedo *PWEH-doh*
tú (you, informal)	reservas *reh-SEHR-bahs*	necesitas *neh-theh-SEE-tahs*	puedes *PWEH-dehs*
él, ella, usted	reserva *reh-SEHR-bah*	necesita *neh-theh-SEE-tah*	puede *PWEH-deh*
nosotros (we)	reservamos *reh-sehr-BAH-mohs*	necesitamos *neh-theh-see-TAH-mohs*	podemos *poh-DEH-mohs*
vosotros (Spain)	reserváis *reh-sehr-BAHYS*	necesitáis *neh-theh-see-TAHYS*	podéis *poh-DAYS*
ellos, ellas, ustedes	reservan *reh-SEHR-bahn*	necesitan *neh-theh-SEE-tahn*	pueden *PWEH-dehn*

Asking politely with poder

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
¿Puedo ver su pasaporte?	*PWEH-doh behr soo pah-sah-POR-teh*	May I see your passport? (said by staff)
¿Puedo pagar con tarjeta?	*PWEH-doh pah-GAR kohn tar-KHEH-tah*	Can I pay by card?
¿Puede ayudarme?	*PWEH-deh ah-yoo-DAR-meh*	Can you help me?
No puedo abrir la puerta.	*noh PWEH-doh ah-BREER lah PWEHR-tah*	I can't open the door.

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabulario

20 key words. Read the Spanish first, then check the respelling (CAPITALS = the stressed syllable).

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	**la habitación**	*lah ah-bee-tah-THYOHN*	room	noun
2	**la reserva**	*lah reh-SEHR-bah*	reservation	noun
3	**la noche**	*lah NOH-cheh*	night	noun
4	**el baño**	*ehl BAH-nyoh*	bathroom	noun
5	**la ducha**	*lah DOO-chah*	shower	noun
6	**la llave**	*lah YAH-beh*	key	noun
7	**la puerta**	*lah PWEHR-tah*	door	noun
8	**la recepción**	*lah reh-thehp-THYOHN*	reception	noun
9	**el pasaporte**	*ehl pah-sah-POR-teh*	passport	noun
10	**el nombre**	*ehl NOHM-breh*	name	noun
11	**el desayuno**	*ehl deh-sah-YOO-noh*	breakfast	noun
12	**individual / doble**	*een-dee-bee-DWAHL / DOH-bleh*	single / double	adj
13	**incluido**	*een-kloo-EE-doh*	included	adj
14	**por noche**	*por NOH-cheh*	per night	phrase
15	**para esta noche**	*PAH-rah EHS-tah NOH-cheh*	for tonight	phrase
16	**un momento**	*oon moh-MEHN-toh*	one moment	phrase
17	**lo siento**	*loh SYEHN-toh*	I'm sorry	phrase
18	**reservar**	*reh-sehr-BAR*	to book	verb

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
19	**necesitar**	*neh-theh-see-TAR*	to need	verb
20	**poder**	*poh-DEHR*	can, to be able to	verb

Hard Words

habitación = *ah-bee-tah-THYOHN* (*h* is silent) · *llave* = *YAH-beh* (*ll* like English "y", *v* = soft "b") · *baño* = *BAH-nyoh* · *ducha* = *DOO-chah* · *incluido* = *een-kloo-EE-doh* · *reservar* = *reh-sehr-BAR* · *wifi* = *WEE-fee*. In the dialogs *ayudarme* ("to help me") and *Lo siento, no tenemos* ("I'm sorry, we don't have any") are phrases for now, as are *ver* ("to see") in *¿Puedo ver su pasaporte?* and *otra* ("another") in *otra llave*.

Booking and Check-In

You can book by phone, online or at reception. When you arrive, reception will usually ask for your **name** and some form of **identification** such as your passport; the exact procedure varies by hotel. Say your booking name with **a nombre de…** ("in the name of…"). Ask about breakfast times (*de ocho a diez*) and whether breakfast is *incluido*.

Latin America Note

The booking phrases work across the Spanish-speaking world. Some words differ: Latin America often uses *hostel* for a backpackers' hostel (where Spain says *albergue*), and in some countries a room is a *pieza* or *cuarto* rather than *habitación*. Where Spain says *¿Tenéis wifi?* (informal plural), Latin America says *¿Tienen wifi?* (*ustedes*).

Grammar Pointer

Poder and the other verb + infinitive patterns are explained in Spanish Grammar 2 11, the *o → ue* stem change in Spanish Grammar 2 5, and the numbers in Spanish Grammar 1 8. Use them as a reference after this chapter.

✍️ Try It Yourself — Ejercicios

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Say: "I'd like to book a double room with a bathroom for two nights."

▼ Show answer

Quisiera reservar una habitación doble con baño para dos noches.

2. Ask whether breakfast is included and whether the hotel has wifi.

▼ Show answer

¿Está incluido el desayuno? ¿Tienen wifi?

3. At reception, say you have a reservation in the name of López.

▼ Show answer

Tengo una reserva a nombre de López.

4. Complete with *poder*: "Yo ____ pagar con tarjeta." · "¿____ (usted) ayudarme?" · "Nosotros no ____ abrir la puerta."

▼ Show answer

puedo · Puede · podemos.

5. Say: "I need another key" and "Room 312."

▼ Show answer

Necesito otra llave. · La trescientos doce.

6. Say the dates "from 3 to 6 August" and ask to pay the bill.

▼ Show answer

Del tres al seis de agosto. · Quisiera pagar la cuenta, por favor.

Coming Up in Chapter 12

The last chapter: **Getting Around: Trains, Buses & Tickets**. **el tren, el autobús, el metro, el billete, el andén, la estación**, Renfe, AVE and Cercanías, and the Metro de Madrid. **Course Complete.**

🚇 Getting Around — Trenes, autobuses y billetes

*This last chapter covers buying a ticket (single or return), asking what time a train leaves and from which platform, taking the bus and the metro, and saying when you arrive. It also pulls together **ser** and **estar** in a short summary, and ends with a **Course Complete** recap. The tables give the respelling, and a **Hard words** box helps with the trickiest words.*

① At the Ticket Office (formal) — Un billete de ida y vuelta

A:

Buenos días. Un billete para Sevilla, por favor.

Good morning. A ticket to Seville, please.

B:

¿De ida o de ida y vuelta?

Single or return?

A:

De ida y vuelta. Salgo hoy y vuelvo el domingo.

Return. I leave today and come back on Sunday.

B:

Son cincuenta y cinco euros.

That's 55 euros.

② Which Platform? — ¿De qué andén sale?

A:

Perdone, ¿a qué hora sale el tren a Sevilla?

Excuse me, what time does the train to Seville leave?

B:

Sale a las diez y media.

It leaves at half past ten.

A:

¿De qué andén sale?

Which platform does it leave from?

B:

Del andén cuatro.

From platform four.

③ On Arrival — ¿A qué hora llega?

A:

¿A qué hora llega el tren a Sevilla?

What time does the train arrive in Seville?

④ The Bus (informal) — ¿Este autobús va al centro?

A:

B:

Llega a las doce y cuarto.

It arrives at a quarter past twelve.

A:

¿Va directo?

Is it direct?

B:

Sí, es directo. Son dos horas.

Yes, it's direct. It takes two hours.

Perdona, ¿este autobús va al centro?

Sorry, does this bus go to the centre?

B:

Sí, va al centro. Para en la plaza Mayor.

Yes, it goes to the centre. It stops at the Plaza Mayor.

A:

¿Cuánto cuesta el billete?

How much is the ticket?

B:

Dos euros. Puedes pagar al conductor.

Two euros. You can pay the driver.

⑤ The Metro — Tengo que cambiar

A:

Perdone, ¿cómo voy al aeropuerto en metro?

Excuse me, how do I get to the airport by metro?

B:

Coja la línea ocho. Tiene que cambiar en Nuevos Ministerios.

Take line 8. You have to change at Nuevos Ministerios.

A:

¿Cuántas paradas son?

How many stops is it?

B:

Son seis paradas.

⑥ A Late Train — El tren llega tarde

A:

Perdone, ¿el tren a Madrid llega tarde?

Excuse me, is the train to Madrid late?

B:

Sí, llega con quince minutos de retraso.

Yes, it's arriving fifteen minutes late.

A:

Vale. ¿Dónde está el andén?

OK. Where is the platform?

B:

Está allí, a la derecha. Buen viaje.

It's over there, on the right. Have a good trip.

It's six stops.

Key Phrases — Frases clave

ENGLISH	SPANISH
A ticket to Madrid, please.	**Un billete para Madrid, por favor.** *oon bee-YEH-teh PAH-rah mah-DREED por fah-BOR*
Single / return	**de ida / de ida y vuelta** *deh EE-dah / deh EE-dah ee BWEHL-tah*
What time does the train leave?	**¿A qué hora sale el tren?** *ah keh OH-rah SAH-leh ehl TREHN*
Which platform?	**¿De qué andén sale?** *deh keh ahn-DEHN SAH-leh*
It arrives at…	**Llega a las doce y cuarto.** *YEH-gah ah lahs DOH-theh ee KWAR-toh*

BILLETE, IDA Y VUELTA

In Spain the word for a ticket (train, bus, plane) is **un billete**. **Ida** means "going" and **vuelta** "return", so a return ticket is **un billete de ida y vuelta** and a single is **un billete de ida**. Times use the clock from Chapter 7 (*a las diez y media*), and dates use *el domingo*, *el doce de junio*.

Transport Words — El transporte

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
el tren	*ehl TREHN*	train
el autobús	*ehl ow-toh-BOOS*	bus

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
el metro	*ehl MEH-troh*	metro, underground
el aeropuerto	*ehl ah-eh-roh-PWEHR-toh*	airport
el andén	*ehl ahn-DEHN*	platform
la parada	*lah pah-RAH-dah*	stop (bus, metro)
la línea	*lah LEE-neh-ah*	line
el retraso	*ehl reh-TRAH-soh*	delay

Spanish trains and metros

NAME	WHAT IT IS
Renfe	the Spanish state railway company, which runs most trains
el AVE	Renfe's high-speed long-distance train
Cercanías	commuter trains around big cities
el Metro de Madrid	Madrid's underground, with numbered, coloured lines

🔤 Verbs — Salir, llegar, coger

__Salir__ ("to leave, to go out") is regular except the yo form, salgo. __Llegar__ ("to arrive") is a regular __-ar__ verb. __Coger__ ("to take, to catch") is regular except yo: cojo (g → j to keep the sound).

	SALIR (TO LEAVE)	LLEGAR (TO ARRIVE)	COGER (TO TAKE, CATCH)
yo (I)	salgo *SAHL-goh*	llego *YEH-goh*	cojo *KOH-khoh*
tú (you, informal)	sales *SAH-lehs*	llegas *YEH-gahs*	coges *KOH-khehs*

	SALIR (TO LEAVE)	LLEGAR (TO ARRIVE)	COGER (TO TAKE, CATCH)
él, ella, usted	sale *SAH-leh*	llega *YEH-gah*	coge *KOH-kheh*
nosotros (we)	salimos *sah-LEE-mohs*	llegamos *yeh-GAH-mohs*	cogemos *koh-KHEH-mohs*
vosotros (Spain)	salís *sah-LEES*	llegáis *yeh-GAHYS*	cogéis *koh-KHAYS*
ellos, ellas, ustedes	salen *SAH-lehn*	llegan *YEH-gahn*	cogen *KOH-khehn*

SER OR ESTAR? A SUMMARY

Ser says *what something is*: identity, origin, profession, time, price (*Es directo*, *Soy de Escocia*, *Son las diez*). **Estar** says *where something is* or *how it is at the moment* (*El andén está allí*, *El tren está en la vía cuatro*). Both are in the dialogs above: *es directo* (a fact about the train) and *está allí* (its location). The long version is in Spanish Grammar 2 3.

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabulario

20 key words. Read the Spanish first, then check the respelling (CAPITALS = the stressed syllable).

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	el billete	*ehl bee-YEH-teh*	ticket	noun
2	el tren	*ehl TREHN*	train	noun
3	el autobús	*ehl ow-toh-BOOS*	bus	noun
4	el metro	*ehl MEH-troh*	metro	noun
5	el aeropuerto	*ehl ah-eh-roh-PWEHR-toh*	airport	noun
6	el andén	*ehl ahn-DEHN*	platform	noun

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
7	**la parada**	*lah pah-RAH-dah*	stop	noun
8	**la línea**	*lah LEE-neh-ah*	line	noun
9	**el viaje**	*ehl BYAH-kheh*	trip, journey	noun
10	**el retraso**	*ehl reh-TRAH-soh*	delay	noun
11	**de ida**	*deh EE-dah*	single (one-way)	phrase
12	**de ida y vuelta**	*deh EE-dah ee BWEHL-tah*	return	phrase
13	**directo**	*dee-REHK-toh*	direct	adj
14	**tarde / temprano**	*TAR-deh / tehm-PRAH-noh*	late / early	adv
15	**salir**	*sah-LEER*	to leave	verb
16	**llegar**	*yeh-GAR*	to arrive	verb
17	**coger**	*koh-KHEHR*	to take, to catch	verb
18	**cambiar**	*kahm-BYAR*	to change	verb
19	**volver**	*bohl-BEHR*	to come back	verb
20	**¡Buen viaje!**	*BWEHN BYAH-kheh*	Have a good trip!	phrase

Hard Words

billete = *bee-YEH-teh* (*ll* like English "y") · *autobús* = *ow-toh-BOOS* (stress on the last syllable) · *aeropuerto* = *ah-eh-roh-PWEHR-toh* · *andén* = *ahn-DEHN* · *viaje* = *BYAH-kheh* · *retraso* = *reh-TRAH-soh* · *coger* = *koh-KHEHR*. Phrases for now: *Coja la línea ocho* (a command, "take line 8"), *Tiene que cambiar* ("you have to change"), *Vuelvo el domingo* ("I come back on Sunday") and *llega con quince minutos de retraso* ("it arrives fifteen minutes late").

Tickets and Trains in Spain

Renfe runs most trains, including the high-speed **AVE**. Long-distance tickets can often be bought in advance on Renfe's website, which is often cheaper, while **Cercanías** commuter tickets are normally bought at the station. Rules and fares change, so check the ticket and the departure board for the platform (*andén*). Big cities such as Madrid have a **metro** with numbered lines and the stops (*paradas*) named on the map.

Latin America Note

Coger ("to take, to catch") is ordinary in Spain, but in several Latin American countries it is a **rude word**, so speakers there use **tomar** (*tomar el autobús*), and **tomar** is safe everywhere. For "ticket" many Latin American countries say *boleto* (or *pasaje*) instead of *billete*, and for "bus" you will hear *colectivo*, *micro*, *guagua* or *camión* depending on the country.

Grammar Pointer

Salir and the other irregular *yo* forms are in Spanish Grammar 2 4, *ser* and *estar* in Spanish Grammar 2 3, and commands such as *coja* in Spanish Grammar 3 11. Use them as a reference after this chapter.

✍️ Try It Yourself — Ejercicios

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Buy a return ticket to Madrid.

▼ Show answer

Un billete de ida y vuelta para Madrid, por favor.

2. Ask what time the train to Seville leaves and from which platform.

▼ Show answer

¿A qué hora sale el tren a Sevilla? ¿De qué andén sale?

3. Complete: "Yo ____ a las ocho." (salir) · "El tren ____ a las doce." (llegar) · "Nosotros ____ el autobús." (coger)

▼ Show answer

salgo · llega · cogemos.

4. Complete with *es* or *está*: "El tren ____ directo." · "El andén ____ allí." · "El billete ____ barato."

▼ Show answer

es · está · es. (What it is: *es*. Where it is: *está*.)

5. Ask whether this bus goes to the centre.

▼ Show answer

¿Este autobús va al centro?

6. In Latin America, how could you say "I take the bus" without *coger*?

▼ Show answer

Tomo el autobús.

🎓 Course Complete — Curso completado

You have finished Spanish Basic Conversation 1. Here is what each chapter gave you.

CH.	TOPIC	YOU CAN NOW…
1	Greetings & Goodbyes	greet, say goodbye, and choose *tú* or *usted*
2	Introducing Yourself	say your name and introduce someone
3	Numbers, Age & Contact Details	count, give your age and phone number
4	Where You're From	say your country and nationality
5	Your Family	talk about your family
6	Your Job	say what you do

CH.	TOPIC	YOU CAN NOW…
7	Days, Dates & Time	say the day, the date and the time
8	Ordering at a Café	order food and drink and ask for the bill
9	Shopping & Prices	ask prices and buy things
10	Asking for Directions	ask where a place is and follow directions
11	Booking a Hotel	book a room and check in
12	Trains, Buses & Tickets	buy a ticket and get around

What Next?

The next step is **Spanish Basic Conversation 2** which builds on everything here. For a reference on the grammar behind these dialogs, see Spanish Grammar 1 and Spanish Grammar 2. ¡Buen viaje!