ES

LANGUAGE COURSE

Spanish Basic Conversation 2

12 Chapters

Philip Osztromok

Generated with Claude

SPANISH BASIC CONVERSATION 2

Contents

Chapter 1	Your Daily Routine	2
Chapter 2	Hobbies & Free Time	10
Chapter 3	Plans & Invitations	19
Chapter 4	Describing People	27
Chapter 5	Home & Neighbourhood	36
Chapter 6	Weather & Seasons	46
Chapter 7	Eating Out	55
Chapter 8	Doctor & Pharmacy	64
Chapter 9	Talking About the Past	73
Chapter 10	Phone Calls	82
Chapter 11	Opinions & Preferences	91
Chapter 12	When Things Go Wrong	100

⏰ Your Daily Routine — Mi rutina diaria

*Welcome to Course 2. In Course 1 you listed facts; now you start describing your **day**. This chapter covers **reflexive verbs** (me levanto, me ducho, me acuesto), the parts of the day, and how often you do things (siempre, a veces, nunca). Each dialog has a short **Hard words** note; the respelling is in the tables.*

① A Weekday (formal) — ¿Cómo es su día?

A:

Buenos días, señora Ruiz. ¿A qué hora se levanta usted?

Good morning, Mrs Ruiz. What time do you get up?

B:

Me levanto a las siete y media.

I get up at half past seven.

A:

¿Y a qué hora empieza a trabajar?

And what time do you start work?

B:

Empiezo a las nueve y termino a las cinco.

I start at nine and finish at five.

Hard words: *levantarse, empezar, terminar (to finish). Se levanta = "you get up" (usted).*

② The Morning (informal) — Por la mañana

A:

¿Qué haces por la mañana?

What do you do in the morning?

B:

Me levanto, me ducho y desayuno.

I get up, have a shower and have breakfast.

A:

¿Siempre desayunas en casa?

Do you always have breakfast at home?

B:

A veces. Los lunes desayuno en un bar.

Sometimes. On Mondays I have breakfast in a bar.

Hard words: *ducharse (to have a shower), desayunar (to have breakfast), a veces (sometimes). Haces is from hacer, a set phrase for now.*

③ Lunch and the Afternoon — La comida

A:

④ The Evening (formal) — Por la noche

A:

¿A qué hora coméis normalmente?
What time do you usually have lunch?

B:

Comemos a las dos y media o a las tres.
We have lunch at half past two or three.

A:

¡Qué tarde! ¿Y después de comer?
How late! And after lunch?

B:

Descansamos un poco y volvemos a trabajar.
We rest a little and go back to work.

Hard words: *normalmente (usually), descansar (to rest), un poco (a little), volver a + infinitive (to do again). Coméis is the vosotros form (Spain).*

Perdone, ¿a qué hora cena usted normalmente?
Excuse me, what time do you normally have dinner?

B:

Ceno a las diez, más o menos.
I have dinner at ten, more or less.

A:

¿Y a qué hora se acuesta?
And what time do you go to bed?

B:

Me acuesto a las doce, nunca antes.
I go to bed at twelve, never earlier.

Hard words: *acostarse (to go to bed; o → ue), más o menos (more or less), nunca (never), antes (before).*

⑤ The Weekend — Los fines de semana

A:

¿Te levantas temprano los sábados?
Do you get up early on Saturdays?

B:

No, nunca. Me levanto tarde, a las diez.
No, never. I get up late, at ten.

A:

¿Y los domingos?
And on Sundays?

B:

Los domingos casi siempre como con mi familia.

⑥ Flatmates (casual) — Mi día, tu día

A:

¡Qué sueño! Me levanto a las seis cada día.
I'm so sleepy! I get up at six every day.

B:

Yo me ducho por la noche, no por la mañana.
I shower at night, not in the morning.

A:

¿Y cuándo estudias?
And when do you study?

B:

Por la tarde. Después me acuesto tarde.

On Sundays I almost always have lunch with my family.

Hard words: *temprano (early), tarde (late), casi siempre (almost always), los sábados (on Saturdays, every Saturday).*

In the afternoon. Then I go to bed late.

Hard words: *¡Qué sueño! (I'm so sleepy!), cada día (every day), cuándo (when).*

🗣️ Key Phrases — Frases clave

ENGLISH	FORMAL (USTED)	INFORMAL (TÚ)
What time do you get up?	**¿A qué hora se levanta?** *ah keh OH-rah seh leh-BAHN-tah*	**¿A qué hora te levantas?** *ah keh OH-rah teh leh-BAHN-tahs*
What time do you go to bed?	**¿A qué hora se acuesta?** *ah keh OH-rah seh ah-KWEHS-tah*	**¿A qué hora te acuestas?** *ah keh OH-rah teh ah-KWEHS-tahs*
What do you do in the morning?	**¿Qué hace por la mañana?** *keh AH-theh por lah mah-NYAH-nah*	**¿Qué haces por la mañana?** *keh AH-thehs por lah mah-NYAH-nah*
I get up at seven.	**Me levanto a las siete.** *meh leh-BAHN-toh ah lahs SYEH-teh*	

🔄 Reflexive Verbs — Verbos reflexivos

*A **reflexive verb** has a small word before it (**me, te, se, nos, os, se**) that means the action is done to yourself: levantarse literally "to raise oneself". In the dictionary the infinitive ends in **-se**. In a sentence the pronoun goes **before the conjugated verb** and matches the subject.*

	LEVANTARSE (TO GET UP)	DUCHARSE (TO SHOWER)	ACOSTARSE (TO GO TO BED)
yo (I)	**me levanto** *meh leh-BAHN-toh*	**me ducho** *meh DOO-choh*	**me acuesto** *meh ah-KWEHS-toh*

	LEVANTARSE (TO GET UP)	DUCHARSE (TO SHOWER)	ACOSTARSE (TO GO TO BED)
tú (you, informal)	te levantas *teh leh-BAHN-tahs*	te duchas *teh DOO-chahs*	te acuestas *teh ah-KWEHS-tahs*
él, ella, usted	se levanta *seh leh-BAHN-tah*	se ducha *seh DOO-chah*	se acuesta *seh ah-KWEHS-tah*
nosotros (we)	nos levantamos *nohs leh-bahn-TAH-mohs*	nos duchamos *nohs doo-CHAH-mohs*	nos acostamos *nohs ah-kohs-TAH-mohs*
vosotros (Spain)	os levantáis *ohs leh-bahn-TAHYS*	os ducháis *ohs doo-CHAHYS*	os acostáis *ohs ah-kohs-TAHYS*
ellos, ellas, ustedes	se levantan *seh leh-BAHN-tahn*	se duchan *seh DOO-chahn*	se acuestan *seh ah-KWEHS-tahn*

THE PRONOUN COMES FIRST, AND ACOSTARSE CHANGES ITS STEM

The pronoun goes right before the verb: *Me levanto a las siete*, *¿A qué hora te acuestas?* **Acostarse** is also a stem-changing verb (*o* → *ue*) in every form except *nosotros* and *vosotros*, like *poder* (Spanish Basic Conversation 1 11): *me acuesto* but *nos acostamos*. The other two verbs here are regular. The verb **desayunar** ("to have breakfast") is **not** reflexive: *desayuno*, not *me desayuno*.

🕗 When and How Often — Cuándo y con qué frecuencia

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
por la mañana	*por lah mah-NYAH-nah*	in the morning
por la tarde	*por lah TAR-deh*	in the afternoon / evening
por la noche	*por lah NOH-cheh*	at night
siempre	*SYEHM-preh*	always

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
normalmente	*nor-mahl-MEHN-teh*	usually, normally
a veces	*ah BEH-thehs*	sometimes
casi nunca	*KAH-see NOON-kah*	hardly ever
nunca	*NOON-kah*	never
todos los días	*TOH-dohs lohs DEE-ahs*	every day
los fines de semana	*lohs FEE-nehs deh seh-MAH-nah*	at weekends

WHERE THE FREQUENCY WORD GOES, AND "NO … NUNCA"

Frequency words usually go **before the verb** (*Siempre me levanto temprano*) or at the **start or end** of the sentence (*A veces desayuno en un bar*). **Nunca** works with or without *no*: *Nunca me acuesto antes de las doce* = *No me acuesto nunca antes de las doce*. After a day, *los* means "every": *los lunes* = on Mondays (Spanish Basic Conversation 1 7). *Por la tarde* covers afternoon and early evening.

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabulario

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

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	**la rutina**	*lah roo-TEE-nah*	routine	noun
2	**el desayuno**	*ehl deh-sah-YOO-noh*	breakfast	noun
3	**la comida**	*lah koh-MEE-dah*	lunch; food	noun
4	**la cena**	*lah THEH-nah*	dinner	noun
5	**la siesta**	*lah SYEHS-tah*	nap; afternoon rest	noun
6	**el fin de semana**	*ehl FEEN deh seh-MAH-nah*	weekend	noun

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
7	**levantarse**	*leh-bahn-TAR-seh*	to get up	verb
8	**ducharse**	*doo-CHAR-seh*	to have a shower	verb
9	**acostarse**	*ah-kohs-TAR-seh*	to go to bed	verb
10	**desayunar**	*deh-sah-yoo-NAR*	to have breakfast	verb
11	**comer**	*koh-MEHR*	to eat; to have lunch	verb
12	**cenar**	*theh-NAR*	to have dinner	verb
13	**empezar / terminar**	*ehm-peh-THAR / tehr-mee-NAR*	to start / to finish	verb
14	**descansar**	*dehs-kahn-SAR*	to rest	verb
15	**temprano**	*tehm-PRAH-noh*	early	adv
16	**tarde**	*TAR-deh*	late	adv
17	**antes (de) / después (de)**	*AHN-tehs / dehs-PWEHS*	before / after	adv
18	**siempre / nunca**	*SYEHM-preh / NOON-kah*	always / never	adv
19	**a veces**	*ah BEH-thehs*	sometimes	phrase
20	**cada día**	*KAH-dah DEE-ah*	every day	phrase

The Spanish Day

The day in Spain generally runs **later than in Britain**: breakfast is light, lunch (the main meal) is typically around **2 to 3 pm**, and dinner around **9 to 10 pm**, with dinner later in summer. The **siesta** is a fading custom: many working people do not nap, and the lunch break is often used for the main meal, family time or errands, though the siesta survives more in smaller towns. These are approximate; routines vary by region, job and household.

Hacer: Peek Ahead

¿Qué haces? ("What are you doing?") uses **hacer** ("to do, to make"), which you met as a set phrase. It is regular except for *yo hago*. It returns in Chapter 2 and Chapter 6.

Latin America Note

The reflexive verbs work the same in Latin America. Instead of *vosotros* (*¿A qué hora os levantáis?*) Latin American Spanish uses *ustedes* (*¿A qué hora se levantan?*). Mealtimes and meal names differ by country: *almuerzo* is a common word for lunch, and *la comida* may mean "food" or the main meal depending on the country.

Grammar Pointer

Reflexive verbs are explained in full in Spanish Grammar 2 6, stem-changing verbs such as *acostarse* in Spanish Grammar 2 5, and negation with *nunca* in Spanish Grammar 2 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 get up at seven, I have a shower and I have breakfast."

▼ Show answer

Me levanto a las siete, me ducho y desayuno.

2. Ask a friend (*tú*) what time they go to bed, then ask a stranger (*usted*) what time they get up.

▼ Show answer

¿A qué hora te acuestas? · ¿A qué hora se levanta?

3. Complete with the right pronoun: "Yo ____ levanto." · "Nosotros ____ acostamos tarde." · "Ella ____ ducha por la mañana."

▼ Show answer

me · nos · se.

4. Complete: "Yo ____ a las doce." (acostarse) · "Tú ____ temprano." (levantarse) · "Nosotros ____ tarde." (acostarse)

▼ Show answer

me acuesto · te levantas · nos acostamos. (*o → ue* in *acuesto*, but not in *acostamos*.)

5. Say: "I never go to bed before twelve." and "On Sundays I always have lunch with my family."

▼ Show answer

Nunca me acuesto antes de las doce. · Los domingos siempre como con mi familia.

6. Describe your own day in three sentences with times (for example: *Me levanto a las…, empiezo a trabajar a las…, ceno a las…*).

▼ Show an example

Me levanto a las siete. Empiezo a trabajar a las nueve. Ceno a las ocho y me acuesto a las once.

Coming Up in Chapter 2

Hobbies and free time: **me gusta el fútbol, juego al tenis, voy al gimnasio**, **tocar la guitarra**, and **gustar** in full (*me gusta / me gustan / te gusta*), with **jugar** and other stem-changing verbs.

⚽ Hobbies & Free Time — Aficiones y tiempo libre

*This chapter covers what you do in your free time: sports, music, going out. You get **gustar** in full (me gusta, me gustan, te gusta and the other persons), the difference between **jugar** (games and sports) and **tocar** (instruments), and the stem-changing verb **jugar**. Each dialog has a **Hard words** note; the respelling is in the tables.*

① Free Time (formal) — ¿Qué hace en su tiempo libre?

A:

Dígame, ¿qué hace usted en su tiempo libre?

Tell me, what do you do in your free time?

B:

Me gusta leer y escuchar música.

I like reading and listening to music.

A:

¿Practica algún deporte?

Do you play any sport?

B:

Sí, hago yoga dos veces por semana.

Yes, I do yoga twice a week.

Hard words: *practicar (to do a sport), dos veces por semana (twice a week), leer (to read), Dígame ("tell me", a set phrase for now).*

② Football (informal) — Juego al fútbol

A:

¿Te gusta el fútbol?

Do you like football?

B:

Sí, me encanta. Juego al fútbol los sábados.

Yes, I love it. I play football on Saturdays.

A:

¿Y los domingos?

And on Sundays?

B:

Veo los partidos en la tele con mis amigos.

I watch the matches on TV with my friends.

Hard words: *me encanta (I love it), el partido (match), la tele (TV), veo (I watch, from ver; a set form for now).*

③ Music — Toco la guitarra

A:

④ At the Gym (formal) — En el gimnasio

A:

¿Tocáis algún instrumento?

Do you play any instrument?

B:

Yo toco la guitarra y mi hermana toca el piano.

I play the guitar and my sister plays the piano.

A:

¡Qué bien! ¿Os gusta cantar?

How nice! Do you like singing?

B:

A ella sí, pero a mí no me gusta mucho.

She does, but I don't like it very much.

Hard words: *tocar (to play an instrument), cantar (to sing), os gusta (do you (plural) like), a ella sí ("she does").*

Buenas tardes. ¿Cuántas veces va usted al gimnasio?

Good afternoon. How many times do you go to the gym?

B:

Voy tres veces por semana, los lunes, los miércoles y los viernes.

I go three times a week, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

A:

¿Le gusta correr también?

Do you like running too?

B:

No mucho. Prefiero nadar.

Not much. I prefer swimming.

Hard words: *el gimnasio, correr (to run), nadar (to swim), prefiero (I prefer; set phrase for now), le gusta (do you like, formal).*

⑤ Weekend Plans (informal) — ¿Qué os gusta hacer?

A:

¿Qué os gusta hacer los fines de semana?

What do you like doing at weekends?

B:

A nosotros nos gusta ir al cine y salir con amigos.

We like going to the cinema and going out with friends.

A:

A mí me gustan las series. Las veo en casa.

⑥ Padel (casual) — Jugamos al pádel

A:

¿Juegas al pádel?

Do you play padel?

B:

Sí, juego con mis compañeros de trabajo.

Yes, I play with my work colleagues.

A:

¿Puedo jugar con vosotros?

Can I play with you?

B:

I like TV series. I watch them at home.

B:

Pues a mí no me gusta quedarme en casa.

Well, I don't like staying at home.

Hard words: *el cine, las series (TV series), salir con amigos (to go out with friends), quedarse (to stay), las veo (I watch them; set phrase for now).*

¡Claro! Jugamos los jueves a las siete.

Of course! We play on Thursdays at seven.

Hard words: *el pádel (padel, a racket sport), los compañeros de trabajo (work colleagues), ¡Claro! (Of course!).*

🗣️ Key Phrases — Frases clave

ENGLISH	FORMAL (USTED)	INFORMAL (TÚ)
What do you do in your free time?	**¿Qué hace en su tiempo libre?** *keh AH-theh ehn soo TYEHM-poh LEE-breh*	**¿Qué haces en tu tiempo libre?** *keh AH-thehs ehn too TYEHM-poh LEE-breh*
Do you like football?	**¿Le gusta el fútbol?** *leh GOOS-tah ehl FOOT-bohl*	**¿Te gusta el fútbol?** *teh GOOS-tah ehl FOOT-bohl*
Do you play any sport?	**¿Practica algún deporte?** *PRAHK-tee-kah ahl-GOON deh-POR-teh*	**¿Haces algún deporte?** *AH-thehs ahl-GOON deh-POR-teh*
I play tennis / the guitar.	**Juego al tenis. / Toco la guitarra.** *KHWEH-goh ahl TEH-nees / TOH-koh lah gee-TAH-rrah*	

❤️ Gustar in Full — Me gusta, me gustan

*You met **gustar** in Spanish Basic Conversation 1 8. It works "backwards": the thing you like is the subject. So the verb is **gusta** for one thing or an infinitive, and **gustan** for several things. Who likes it is shown by the pronoun before the verb.*

WHO	+ ONE THING / AN INFINITIVE	+ SEVERAL THINGS
me (I)	**me gusta el tenis** *meh GOOS-tah ehl TEH-nees*	**me gustan los deportes** *meh GOOS-tahn lohs deh-POR-tehs*
te (you, informal)	**te gusta leer** *teh GOOS-tah leh-EHR*	**te gustan las series** *teh GOOS-tahn lahs SEH-ryehs*
le (he, she, you formal)	**le gusta nadar** *leh GOOS-tah nah-DAR*	**le gustan los libros** *leh GOOS-tahn lohs LEE-brohs*
nos (we)	**nos gusta el cine** *nohs GOOS-tah ehl THEE-neh*	**nos gustan las películas** *nohs GOOS-tahn lahs peh-LEE-koo-lahs*
os (you, plural, Spain)	**os gusta cantar** *ohs GOOS-tah kahn-TAR*	**os gustan los conciertos** *ohs GOOS-tahn lohs kohn-THYEHR-tohs*
les (they, you plural formal)	**les gusta bailar** *lehs GOOS-tah by-LAR*	**les gustan las fiestas** *lehs GOOS-tahn lahs FYEHS-tahs*

A MÍ, A TI, A ÉL: ADDING EMPHASIS

Put **a mí, a ti, a él / a ella / a usted, a nosotros, a vosotros, a ellos** in front to stress who: *A mí me gusta el fútbol, pero a mi hermano no.* **Negative:** put *no* before the pronoun: *No me gusta correr*. **Stronger:** *me encanta / me encantan* ("I love it / them"); **weaker:** *no me gusta mucho*. After *gustar* an infinitive always uses *gusta*, even for two actions: *Me gusta leer y escribir*.

🎾 Jugar, Tocar, Hacer — Games, Instruments, Sport

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
jugar al fútbol / al tenis / al pádel	*khoo-GAR ahl FOOT-bohl / TEH-nees / PAH-dehl*	to play football / tennis / padel

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
jugar a las cartas	*khoo-GAR ah lahs KAR-tahs*	to play cards
tocar la guitarra / el piano	*toh-KAR lah gee-TAH-rrah / ehl PYAH-noh*	to play the guitar / the piano
hacer deporte / yoga	*ah-THEHR deh-POR-teh / YOH-gah*	to do sport / yoga
ir al gimnasio / al cine	*eer ahl kheem-NAH-syoh / ahl THEE-neh*	to go to the gym / the cinema

JUGAR A + SPORT; TOCAR + INSTRUMENT

Sports and games take **jugar a** + the article (**a + el = al**): *juego al tenis, jugamos a las cartas*. Instruments take **tocar** with no *a*: *toco la guitarra*. Do not say *juego la guitarra*. With **hacer** you name the activity: *hacer yoga, hacer deporte*.

🔤 Verbs — Jugar, hacer, tocar

Jugar *("to play") is the only common verb that changes u → ue in every form except nosotros and vosotros (juego, juegas, juega, jugamos, jugáis, juegan).* ***Hacer*** *("to do, to make") is regular except yo hago.* ***Tocar*** *("to play an instrument; to touch") is regular.*

	JUGAR (TO PLAY)	HACER (TO DO)	TOCAR (TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT)
yo (I)	juego *KHWEH-goh*	hago *AH-goh*	toco *TOH-koh*
tú (you, informal)	juegas *KHWEH-gahs*	haces *AH-thehs*	tocas *TOH-kahs*
él, ella, usted	juega *KHWEH-gah*	hace *AH-theh*	toca *TOH-kah*
nosotros (we)	jugamos *khoo-GAH-mohs*	hacemos *ah-THEH-mohs*	tocamos *toh-KAH-mohs*

	JUGAR (TO PLAY)	HACER (TO DO)	TOCAR (TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT)
vosotros (Spain)	jugáis *khoo-GAHYS*	hacéis *ah-THAYS*	tocáis *toh-KAHYS*
ellos, ellas, ustedes	juegan *KHWEH-gahn*	hacen *AH-thehn*	tocan *TOH-kahn*

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabulario

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

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	el tiempo libre	*ehl TYEHM-poh LEE-breh*	free time	noun
2	la afición	*lah ah-fee-THYOHN*	hobby, interest	noun
3	el deporte	*ehl deh-POR-teh*	sport	noun
4	el fútbol	*ehl FOOT-bohl*	football	noun
5	el tenis	*ehl TEH-nees*	tennis	noun
6	el pádel	*ehl PAH-dehl*	padel	noun
7	el gimnasio	*ehl kheem-NAH-syoh*	gym	noun
8	el cine	*ehl THEE-neh*	cinema	noun
9	la película	*lah peh-LEE-koo-lah*	film	noun
10	la música	*lah MOO-see-kah*	music	noun
11	la guitarra	*lah gee-TAH-rrah*	guitar	noun
12	el libro	*ehl LEE-broh*	book	noun
13	jugar	*khoo-GAR*	to play (games, sport)	verb

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
14	**tocar**	*toh-KAR*	to play (an instrument)	verb
15	**hacer**	*ah-THEHR*	to do, to make	verb
16	**gustar**	*goos-TAR*	to like (be pleasing)	verb
17	**leer**	*leh-EHR*	to read	verb
18	**cantar / bailar**	*kahn-TAR / by-LAR*	to sing / to dance	verb
19	**correr / nadar**	*koh-RREHR / nah-DAR*	to run / to swim	verb
20	**me encanta**	*meh ehn-KAHN-tah*	I love it	phrase

Sport in Spain

Football (*el fútbol*) is the most widely followed sport in Spain. **Padel** (*el pádel*), a racket sport played in doubles on an enclosed court, is very popular as a sport people actually play. Other common pastimes include cycling, going to the cinema, and going out with friends. These are general impressions from several sources, and rankings differ between surveys.

Aficiones, Gustos and the Word "Gusto"

Una afición is a hobby; **los gustos** are your tastes. *Tengo muchas aficiones* ("I have many hobbies"). Do not confuse *gustar* with *querer*: *Me gusta el café* says you like it, while *Quiero un café* says you want one (Spanish Basic Conversation 1 8).

Latin America Note

Jugar al fútbol, *tocar la guitarra* and *me gusta* work everywhere. Instead of *¿Os gusta cantar?* (*vosotros*) Latin American Spanish says *¿Les gusta cantar?* For TV you can say *la tele* or the fuller *la televisión*; the second is safe everywhere.

Grammar Pointer

Gustar and verbs like it are explained in Spanish Grammar 2 7, stem-changing verbs (*jugar*, *u → ue*) in Spanish Grammar 2 5, *hacer* and the irregular *yo* forms in Spanish Grammar 2 4, and *a + el = al*

in Spanish Grammar 1 10. 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 like football, but I don't like tennis."

▼ Show answer

Me gusta el fútbol, pero no me gusta el tenis.

2. Complete with *gusta* or *gustan*: "Me ____ las series." · "Te ____ cantar." · "Nos ____ el cine." · "Le ____ los libros."

▼ Show answer

gustan · gusta · gusta · gustan. (Plural thing: *gustan*; one thing or an infinitive: *gusta*.)

3. Complete with *jugar*, *tocar* or *hacer*: "Yo ____ al tenis." · "Ella ____ el piano." · "Nosotros ____ yoga." · "Vosotros ____ al pádel."

▼ Show answer

juego · toca · hacemos · jugáis. (*Jugar* keeps *u* in *nosotros* and *vosotros*.)

4. Ask a friend (*tú*) what they do in their free time, and a stranger (*usted*) whether they like football.

▼ Show answer

¿Qué haces en tu tiempo libre? · ¿Le gusta el fútbol?

5. Say: "I play the guitar and I go to the gym on Tuesdays."

▼ Show answer

Toco la guitarra y voy al gimnasio los martes.

6. Write three sentences about your own free time, using *me gusta*, *juego al…* or *toco…*, and a frequency word from Chapter 1.

▼ Show an example

Me gusta leer. Los sábados juego al fútbol. A veces voy al cine con mis amigos.

Coming Up in Chapter 3

Making plans and invitations: **¿Quedamos el sábado? ¿Te apetece cenar? Vale, genial. Lo siento, no puedo.**, with **ir a** + infinitive, **quedar**, and the Spanish **tapeo** and **sobremesa**.

🗓️ Making Plans & Invitations — Planes e invitaciones

*This chapter covers arranging to meet (**quedar**), inviting someone (**¿Te apetece…?**), accepting and politely declining, and talking about plans with **ir a** + infinitive. It introduces **venir** ("to come"). Each dialog has a **Hard words** note; the respelling is in the tables.*

① An Invitation (formal) — ¿Le apetece un café?

A:

Señor Vega, ¿le apetece tomar un café después de la reunión?

Mr Vega, would you like to have a coffee after the meeting?

B:

Con mucho gusto. ¿A qué hora termina?

With pleasure. What time does it finish?

A:

A las doce. Podemos ir a la cafetería de la esquina.

At twelve. We can go to the café on the corner.

B:

Perfecto. Nos vemos a las doce.

Perfect. See you at twelve.

Hard words: *¿le apetece…? (would you like…?, formal), la reunión (meeting), con mucho gusto (with pleasure), nos vemos (see you).*

② Arranging to Meet (informal) — ¿Quedamos el sábado?

A:

¿Quedamos el sábado?

Shall we meet on Saturday?

B:

Vale. ¿A qué hora?

OK. What time?

A:

A las ocho, en la plaza.

At eight, in the square.

B:

Genial. Luego vamos a cenar algo.

Great. Afterwards we'll go and have something to eat.

Hard words: *quedar (to arrange to meet), vale (OK), genial (great), luego (afterwards), algo (something).*

③ Declining Politely — Lo siento, no puedo

④ Tapas Night — Vamos de tapas

A:

¿Te apetece ir al cine esta noche?

Do you fancy going to the cinema tonight?

B:

Lo siento, no puedo. Tengo que trabajar.

I'm sorry, I can't. I have to work.

A:

¡Qué pena! ¿Y mañana?

What a pity! And tomorrow?

B:

Mañana sí puedo. ¡Gracias por invitarme!

Tomorrow I can. Thanks for inviting me!

Hard words: *tengo que + infinitive (I have to), ¡Qué pena! (What a pity!), invitarme (to invite me; set phrase for now).*

A:

¿Vais a venir a las tapas el viernes?

Are you coming for tapas on Friday?

B:

Sí, vamos a ir cinco o seis personas.

Yes, five or six of us are going.

A:

¿Adónde vamos primero?

Where do we go first?

B:

Primero a un bar y después a otro. Así probamos más cosas.

First to one bar and then to another. That way we try more things.

Hard words: *ir de tapas (to go out for tapas), otro (another), probar (to try; o → ue), así (that way), adónde (where to).*

⑤ Weekend Plans (formal) — ¿Qué va a hacer?

A:

Buenos días. ¿Qué va a hacer este fin de semana?

Good morning. What are you going to do this weekend?

B:

Voy a visitar a unos amigos en Valencia.

I'm going to visit some friends in Valencia.

A:

¡Qué bien! ¿Cuándo sale?

How nice! When do you leave?

⑥ After the Meal (casual) — La sobremesa

A:

¿Nos quedamos un rato más?

Shall we stay a bit longer?

B:

Vale, no tengo prisa. ¿Pedimos otro café?

OK, I'm not in a hurry. Shall we order another coffee?

A:

Sí, y luego damos un paseo.

Yes, and then we'll go for a walk.

B:

Me parece un plan genial.

B:

El viernes por la tarde. Vuelvo el domingo.

On Friday afternoon. I come back on Sunday.

Hard words: *visitar a (to visit a person), unos amigos (some friends), este fin de semana (this weekend), vuelvo (I come back; set phrase for now).*

That sounds like a great plan.

Hard words: *nos quedamos (we stay), un rato (a while), tener prisa (to be in a hurry), dar un paseo (to go for a walk), un plan (a plan), me parece... (it seems to me...; set phrase for now).*

Key Phrases — Frases clave

ENGLISH	FORMAL (USTED)	INFORMAL (TÚ)
Would you like to...? / Do you fancy...?	**¿Le apetece tomar un café?** *leh ah-peh-TEH-theh toh-MAR oon kah-FEH*	**¿Te apetece tomar un café?** *teh ah-peh-TEH-theh toh-MAR oon kah-FEH*
Shall we meet on Saturday?	**¿Quedamos el sábado?** *keh-DAH-mohs ehl SAH-bah-doh*	
Great! / OK.	**¡Genial! / Vale. / Con mucho gusto.** *kheh-NYAHL / BAH-leh / kohn MOO-choh GOOS-toh*	
I'm sorry, I can't.	**Lo siento, no puedo.** *loh SYEHN-toh noh PWEH-doh*	
Thanks for inviting me.	**Gracias por invitarme.** *GRAH-thyahs por een-bee-TAR-meh*	

TE APETECE: WORKS LIKE GUSTAR

Apetecer means "to feel like, to fancy" and, like *gustar* (Spanish Basic Conversation 2 2), it uses the pronouns **me, te, le, nos, os, les**: *¿Te apetece ir al cine?* ("Do you fancy going to the cinema?"), *Me apetece un café* ("I fancy a coffee"). It is mostly used in the singular, *apetece*, with an infinitive or one thing. It is a friendly, informal-to-neutral invitation and common in Spain.

🔮 Plans and Meeting — Ir a, quedar

PATTERN	EXAMPLE	ENGLISH
ir a + infinitive	**Voy a visitar a unos amigos.** *boy ah bee-see-TAR ah OO-nohs ah-MEE-gohs*	I'm going to visit some friends.
vamos a + infinitive	**Vamos a cenar algo.** *BAH-mohs ah theh-NAR AHL-goh*	Let's go and have something to eat / We're going to...
quedar (to arrange to meet)	**Quedamos a las ocho en la plaza.** *keh-DAH-mohs ah lahs OH-choh ehn lah PLAH-thah*	We'll meet at eight in the square.
quedarse (to stay)	**Nos quedamos un rato más.** *nohs keh-DAH-mohs oon RAH-toh MAHS*	We stay a little longer.

QUEDAR AND QUEDARSE ARE DIFFERENT

Quedar (no pronoun) means to *arrange to meet* or to agree a time and place: *¿Quedamos mañana?* **Quedarse** (reflexive, Chapter 1) means to *stay*: *Me quedo en casa* ("I'm staying at home"). The word **vamos a** + infinitive also works as "let's..." (*Vamos a tomar algo*). Review **ir a** + infinitive in Spanish Basic Conversation 1 7.

🔤 Verbs — Quedar, invitar, venir

Quedar *("to arrange to meet") and* ***invitar*** *("to invite") are regular* ***-ar*** *verbs.* ***Venir*** *("to come") is irregular: vengo in the yo form and e → ie (vienes, viene, vienen) in the others except nosotros and vosotros.*

	QUEDAR (TO MEET UP)	INVITAR (TO INVITE)	VENIR (TO COME)
yo (I)	quedo *KEH-doh*	invito *een-BEE-toh*	vengo *BEHN-goh*

	QUEDAR (TO MEET UP)	INVITAR (TO INVITE)	VENIR (TO COME)
tú (you, informal)	quedas *KEH-dahs*	invitas *een-BEE-tahs*	vienes *BYEH-nehs*
él, ella, usted	queda *KEH-dah*	invita *een-BEE-tah*	viene *BYEH-neh*
nosotros (we)	quedamos *keh-DAH-mohs*	invitamos *een-bee-TAH-mohs*	venimos *beh-NEE-mohs*
vosotros (Spain)	quedáis *keh-DAHYS*	invitáis *een-bee-TAHYS*	venís *beh-NEES*
ellos, ellas, ustedes	quedan *KEH-dahn*	invitan *een-BEE-tahn*	vienen *BYEH-nehn*

Accepting and declining

ACCEPTING	DECLINING POLITELY
Sí, me encantaría. (Yes, I'd love to.)	**Lo siento, no puedo.** (I'm sorry, I can't.)
¡Vale, genial! (OK, great!)	**Tengo que trabajar.** (I have to work.)
Con mucho gusto. (With pleasure.)	**Otro día, ¿vale?** (Another day, OK?)

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabulario

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

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	**el plan**	*ehl PLAHN*	plan	noun
2	**la invitación**	*lah een-bee-tah-THYOHN*	invitation	noun
3	**la fiesta**	*lah FYEHS-tah*	party	noun

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
4	**la reunión**	*lah reh-oo-NYOHN*	meeting	noun
5	**la tapa**	*lah TAH-pah*	tapa, small snack	noun
6	**el paseo**	*ehl pah-SEH-oh*	walk, stroll	noun
7	**la sobremesa**	*lah soh-breh-MEH-sah*	time spent chatting at the table after a meal	noun
8	**el rato**	*ehl RAH-toh*	a while	noun
9	**quedar**	*keh-DAR*	to arrange to meet	verb
10	**invitar**	*een-bee-TAR*	to invite	verb
11	**venir**	*beh-NEER*	to come	verb
12	**apetecer**	*ah-peh-teh-THEHR*	to feel like, to fancy	verb
13	**visitar**	*bee-see-TAR*	to visit	verb
14	**genial**	*kheh-NYAHL*	great	adj
15	**vale**	*BAH-leh*	OK	interj
16	**luego / después**	*LWEH-goh / dehs-PWEHS*	later, afterwards	adv
17	**primero**	*pree-MEH-roh*	first	adv
18	**¿Quedamos...?**	*keh-DAH-mohs*	shall we meet...?	phrase
19	**Lo siento, no puedo**	*loh SYEHN-toh noh PWEH-doh*	I'm sorry, I can't	phrase
20	**¡Qué pena!**	*keh PEH-nah*	What a pity!	phrase

El Tapeo and La Sobremesa

In Spain the **tapeo** (*ir de tapas*) is a social outing: friends go from one bar to the next, often ordering each bar's speciality and sharing. After a meal, the **sobremesa** is the relaxed time when people stay at the table talking. Friends often meet in a bar or restaurant, and an invitation to someone's home may be less usual than in some countries, so "¿Quedamos para tomar algo?" ("shall we meet for a drink?") is a very natural plan. These are general customs and vary by region and person.

Saying No Politely

A clear *no* is fine in Spanish, but it is softer with a reason and an alternative: *Lo siento, no puedo. Tengo que trabajar. ¿Quedamos otro día?* If you simply say *Me encantaría, pero…* ("I'd love to, but…"), your host will understand the rest.

Latin America Note

Quedar for arranging to meet is common in Spain; in some Latin American countries other verbs such as *encontrarse* or *juntarse* are used. *Vale* is typical of Spain, and other "OK" words (such as *bueno* or *dale*) are heard elsewhere, depending on the country. *¿Vais a venir?* becomes *¿Van a venir?* (*ustedes*). Note that *coger* is avoided in Latin America (Spanish Basic Conversation 1 12), so use *tomar*.

Grammar Pointer

Ir a + infinitive and *tener que* are explained in Spanish Grammar 2 11, *venir* and the irregular *yo* forms in Spanish Grammar 2 4, and the verbs that work like *gustar* in Spanish Grammar 2 7. Use them as a reference after this chapter.

✍️ Try It Yourself — Ejercicios

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

1. Invite a friend (*tú*) to the cinema tonight. Then invite a colleague (*usted*) for a coffee.

▼ Show answer

¿Te apetece ir al cine esta noche? · ¿Le apetece tomar un café?

2. Suggest meeting on Saturday at eight, then agree.

▼ Show answer

¿Quedamos el sábado a las ocho? · Vale, genial.

3. Say "I'm sorry, I can't. I have to work" and then suggest another day.

▼ Show answer

Lo siento, no puedo. Tengo que trabajar. ¿Quedamos otro día?

4. Complete with *venir*: "Yo ____ a las ocho." · "¿____ (tú) a la fiesta?" · "Nosotros ____ con unos amigos." · "Ellos ____ mañana."

▼ Show answer

vengo · Vienes · venimos · vienen. (*Vengo* is irregular; *venimos* has no stem change.)

5. Say: "This weekend I'm going to visit my family, and on Sunday we're going to have lunch together."

▼ Show answer

Este fin de semana voy a visitar a mi familia, y el domingo vamos a comer juntos. (*juntos* = together, a set word for now.)

6. Write a short dialog of your own: invite someone, they decline politely, you suggest another day.

▼ Show an example

— ¿Te apetece cenar el viernes? — Lo siento, no puedo. Tengo que trabajar. — ¿Y el sábado? — El sábado sí. ¡Vale, genial!

Coming Up in Chapter 4

Describing people and things: **alto**, **bajo**, **moreno**, **rubio**, **simpático**, **divertido**, **ser** against **estar** with adjectives, and **más alto que**.

👱 Describing People & Things — Cómo es

*This chapter covers how to describe what people look like and what they are like, and how to describe a flat or an object. The new grammar is **adjective agreement and position**, **ser against estar** with adjectives, and **comparing** (más alto que, tan simpático como, el más divertido). It adds the verb **parecer**. Each dialog has a **Hard words** note; the respelling is in the tables.*

① Looking for Someone (formal) — ¿Cómo es?

A:

Perdone, busco a mi amigo. ¿Ha visto a un hombre alto?

Excuse me, I'm looking for my friend. Have you seen a tall man?

B:

¿Cómo es su amigo?

What is your friend like?

A:

Es alto, moreno y lleva gafas.

He's tall, dark-haired and wears glasses.

B:

Creo que está allí, junto a la puerta.

I think he's over there, next to the door.

Hard words: *moreno (dark-haired), las gafas (glasses), buscar (to look for), junto a (next to). ¿Ha visto...? ("have you seen...?") and creo que ("I think that") are set phrases for now.*

② My Sister (informal) — Mi hermana

A:

¿Cómo es tu hermana?

What's your sister like?

B:

Es rubia, delgada y muy simpática.

She's blonde, slim and very friendly.

A:

¿Es más alta que tú?

Is she taller than you?

B:

Sí, es más alta, pero yo soy mayor.

Yes, she's taller, but I'm older.

Hard words: *rubio/a (blond/e), delgado/a (slim), simpático/a (friendly), mayor (older).*

③ Character — Es muy divertido

④ Ser or Estar? (informal) — Está cansado

A:

¿Cómo es tu jefe?

What's your boss like?

B:

Es serio, pero muy amable. Es el más simpático de la oficina.

He's serious, but very kind. He's the friendliest in the office.

A:

¿Y tus compañeros?

And your colleagues?

B:

Son divertidos y trabajadores.

They're fun and hardworking.

Hard words: *el jefe (boss), serio/a (serious), amable (kind), trabajador/a (hardworking), el más simpático (the friendliest).*

A:

Hoy Pablo está muy callado. ¿Qué le pasa?

Today Pablo is very quiet. What's wrong with him?

B:

Está cansado. Normalmente es muy hablador.

He's tired. Normally he's very talkative.

A:

Y Marta está nerviosa por el examen.

And Marta is nervous about the exam.

B:

Ella es muy tranquila, pero hoy está preocupada.

She's very calm, but today she's worried.

Hard words: *callado/a (quiet), cansado/a (tired), hablador/a (talkative), nervioso/a, tranquilo/a (calm), preocupado/a (worried), ¿Qué le pasa? ("What's wrong with him/her?", set phrase for now).*

⑤ A Flat (formal) — Es un piso luminoso

A:

Buenos días. ¿Cómo es el piso?

Good morning. What's the flat like?

B:

Es un piso pequeño, pero muy luminoso y tranquilo.

It's a small flat, but very bright and quiet.

A:

¿Está lejos del centro?

⑥ Two Cities (casual) — Tan bonita como Sevilla

A:

¿Qué te parece Edimburgo?

What do you think of Edinburgh?

B:

Me parece una ciudad preciosa, aunque es más fría que Sevilla.

I think it's a beautiful city, although it's colder than Seville.

Is it far from the centre?

B:

No, está muy cerca. Es más barato que el piso de la calle Mayor.

No, it's very near. It's cheaper than the flat on Calle Mayor.

Hard words: *el piso (flat), luminoso/a (bright), tranquilo/a (quiet), barato/a (cheap), más barato que (cheaper than).*

A:

¿Es tan grande como Sevilla?

Is it as big as Seville?

B:

No, es más pequeña, pero tan bonita como Sevilla.

No, it's smaller, but as pretty as Seville.

Hard words: *¿Qué te parece...? (what do you think of...?), precioso/a (beautiful), frío/a (cold), aunque (although), tan ... como (as ... as).*

🗣️ Key Phrases — Frases clave

ENGLISH	FORMAL (USTED)	INFORMAL (TÚ)
What is he / she like?	**¿Cómo es?** *KOH-moh EHS*	
What's your friend like?	**¿Cómo es su amigo?** *KOH-moh ehs soo ah-MEE-goh*	**¿Cómo es tu amigo?** *KOH-moh ehs too ah-MEE-goh*
He's tall and dark-haired.	**Es alto y moreno.** *ehs AHL-toh ee moh-REH-noh*	
She has green eyes.	**Tiene los ojos verdes.** *TYEH-neh lohs OH-khohs BEHR-dehs*	
She's taller than me.	**Es más alta que yo.** *ehs mahs AHL-tah keh YOH*	

🎨 Adjectives — Agreement and Position

ENDING	MASCULINE	FEMININE	PLURAL (M / F)
-o / -a	**alto** *AHL-toh*	**alta** *AHL-tah*	**altos / altas**
-e (same for both)	**amable** *ah-MAH-bleh*	**amable**	**amables**
consonant (same for both)	**fácil** *FAH-theel*	**fácil**	**fáciles**
-or (adds -a)	**trabajador** *trah-bah-khah-DOR*	**trabajadora**	**trabajadores / trabajadoras**

AGREE AND PLACE AFTER

An adjective **agrees** with its noun in gender and number: *un hombre alto, una mujer alta, unos amigos simpáticos, unas casas pequeñas*. Descriptive adjectives normally go **after the noun**. After **ser** or **estar** the adjective agrees with the subject: *Ella es alta*, *Ellos son altos*. Adjectives of nationality (Spanish Basic Conversation 1 4) follow the same pattern. The full rules, including adjectives that go before the noun, are in Spanish Grammar 1 5.

People and things

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
alto / bajo	*AHL-toh / BAH-khoh*	tall / short
moreno / rubio / pelirrojo	*moh-REH-noh / ROO-byoh / peh-lee-RROH-khoh*	dark-haired / blond / red-haired
delgado / fuerte	*dehl-GAH-doh / FWEHR-teh*	slim / strong
simpático / amable	*seem-PAH-tee-koh / ah-MAH-bleh*	friendly / kind
divertido / serio	*dee-behr-TEE-doh / SEH-ryoh*	fun / serious
grande / pequeño	*GRAHN-deh / peh-KEH-nyoh*	big / small
nuevo / viejo	*NWEH-boh / BYEH-khoh*	new / old

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
luminoso / tranquilo	*loo-mee-NOH-soh / trahn-KEE-loh*	bright / quiet, calm

⚖️ Ser or Estar with Adjectives

WITH SER: WHAT SOMEONE / SOMETHING IS LIKE	WITH ESTAR: HOW THEY ARE NOW
Pablo es hablador. (He is a talkative person.)	**Pablo está callado hoy.** (He is quiet today.)
Marta es tranquila. (She is a calm person.)	**Marta está nerviosa.** (She is nervous now.)
El piso es luminoso. (The flat is bright.)	**El café está frío.** (The coffee is cold, now.)

SER = CHARACTER; ESTAR = STATE

Use **ser** for what a person or thing *is like*: looks, character, size, colour. Use **estar** for a *temporary state or condition*: tired, worried, cold. A few adjectives change meaning (for example *listo*: *ser listo* "to be clever", *estar listo* "to be ready"), but you will meet those in Spanish Grammar 2 3. If you are unsure, ask: "Is this a lasting trait or how it is right now?"

Comparing

PATTERN	EXAMPLE	ENGLISH
más + adjective + **que**	**Es más alta que yo.** *ehs mahs AHL-tah keh YOH*	She is taller than me.
menos + adjective + **que**	**Es menos caro que el otro.** *ehs MEH-nohs KAH-roh keh ehl OH-troh*	It is less expensive than the other.
tan + adjective + **como**	**Es tan bonita como Sevilla.** *ehs tahn boh-NEE-tah KOH-moh seh-BEE-yah*	It is as pretty as Seville.
el / la más + adjective (+ **de**)	**Es el más simpático de la oficina.** *ehs ehl mahs seem-PAH-tee-koh deh lah oh-fee-THEE-nah*	He is the friendliest in the office.

PATTERN	EXAMPLE	ENGLISH
irregular: **mejor / peor**	**Este piso es mejor que el otro.** *EHS-teh PEE-soh ehs meh-KHOR keh ehl OH-troh*	This flat is better than the other.

🔤 Verbs — Ser, estar, parecer

Ser *and* ***estar*** *are the two verbs for "to be" (Spanish Basic Conversation 1 2 and 10).* ***Parecer*** *("to seem, to look like") is regular except yo parezco. It works like gustar for opinions: Me parece una ciudad preciosa ("It seems to me a lovely city").*

	SER (TO BE: WHAT IT IS)	ESTAR (TO BE: HOW / WHERE)	PARECER (TO SEEM)
yo (I)	soy *SOY*	estoy *ehs-TOY*	parezco *pah-REHTH-koh*
tú (you, informal)	eres *EH-rehs*	estás *ehs-TAHS*	pareces *pah-REH-thehs*
él, ella, usted	es *EHS*	está *ehs-TAH*	parece *pah-REH-theh*
nosotros (we)	somos *SOH-mohs*	estamos *ehs-TAH-mohs*	parecemos *pah-reh-THEH-mohs*
vosotros (Spain)	sois *SOYS*	estáis *ehs-TAHYS*	parecéis *pah-reh-THAYS*
ellos, ellas, ustedes	son *SOHN*	están *ehs-TAHN*	parecen *pah-REH-thehn*

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabulario

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

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	**el pelo**	*ehl PEH-loh*	hair	noun
2	**el ojo**	*ehl OH-khoh*	eye	noun
3	**las gafas**	*lahs GAH-fahs*	glasses	noun
4	**el jefe / la jefa**	*ehl KHEH-feh / lah KHEH-fah*	boss	noun
5	**el piso**	*ehl PEE-soh*	flat	noun
6	**la ciudad**	*lah thyoo-DAHD*	city	noun
7	**alto / bajo**	*AHL-toh / BAH-khoh*	tall / short	adj
8	**moreno / rubio**	*moh-REH-noh / ROO-byoh*	dark-haired / blond	adj
9	**simpático**	*seem-PAH-tee-koh*	friendly	adj
10	**divertido**	*dee-behr-TEE-doh*	fun	adj
11	**amable**	*ah-MAH-bleh*	kind	adj
12	**serio**	*SEH-ryoh*	serious	adj
13	**cansado**	*kahn-SAH-doh*	tired	adj
14	**tranquilo**	*trahn-KEE-loh*	calm, quiet	adj
15	**luminoso**	*loo-mee-NOH-soh*	bright (with light)	adj
16	**barato / caro**	*bah-RAH-toh / KAH-roh*	cheap / expensive	adj
17	**parecer**	*pah-reh-THEHR*	to seem	verb
18	**más … que**	*MAHS … keh*	more … than	phrase
19	**tan … como**	*TAHN … KOH-moh*	as … as	phrase
20	**mejor / peor**	*meh-KHOR / peh-OR*	better / worse	adj

Describing People with Care

Moreno usually means dark-haired (and sometimes also dark-skinned), and **rubio** is "blond". Some words about weight or age (*gordo, flaco, viejo*) can sound blunt when said about a person, so people often choose gentler ones (*delgado, mayor*). Use *tener* for features: *Tiene los ojos verdes*, *Tiene el pelo largo*.

Un piso

In Spain a flat is **un piso** (or *un apartamento*, which is usually smaller). Many Spaniards live in *pisos* in city blocks. Rooms and furniture follow in Chapter 5.

Latin America Note

The adjectives and the comparison patterns are the same everywhere. For "flat" Latin American countries more often say *departamento* (Mexico, Argentina), *apartamento* or *apto*. In some countries other words are used for hair colour (for example *güero* in Mexico for a fair-haired person), so listen for local usage. *¿Cómo es tu jefe?* and *¿Qué te parece...?* work everywhere.

Grammar Pointer

Adjective agreement and position are explained in Spanish Grammar 1 5, comparison and superlatives in Spanish Grammar 1 6, and *ser* against *estar* 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. Describe your sister: tall, blonde, friendly.

▼ Show answer

Mi hermana es alta, rubia y simpática.

2. Make the adjective agree: "Mis amigos son (simpático)." · "La casa es (pequeño)." · "Ellas son (trabajador)." · "El libro es (fácil)."

▼ Show answer

simpáticos · pequeña · trabajadoras · fácil. (*Fácil* ends in a consonant, so it is the same for masculine and feminine.)

3. Complete with *es* or *está*: "Pablo ____ muy hablador." · "Hoy Pablo ____ callado." · "La sopa ____ fría." · "El piso ____ luminoso."

▼ Show answer

es · está · está · es. (Character: *es*. State now: *está*.)

4. Say: "My brother is taller than me, but I am more hardworking."

▼ Show answer

Mi hermano es más alto que yo, pero yo soy más trabajador.

5. Say: "Edinburgh is as pretty as Seville, but it is colder."

▼ Show answer

Edimburgo es una ciudad tan bonita como Sevilla, pero es más fría. (*Ciudad* is feminine, so *bonita* and *fría* agree with it.)

6. Describe a friend and your flat in three or four sentences, using *es*, *está*, *tiene* and one comparison.

▼ Show an example

Mi amiga Clara es morena y muy simpática. Hoy está cansada. Mi piso es pequeño, pero luminoso, y es más barato que el piso de Clara.

Coming Up in Chapter 5

Your home and neighbourhood: **el salón, la cocina, el dormitorio, el piso, la calle, la plaza**, **hay** against **estar**, prepositions of place, and **el alquiler**.

🏠 Your Home & Neighbourhood — Tu casa y tu barrio

*This chapter covers describing where you live: the rooms and furniture in a flat, the shops and places in a neighbourhood, and the basics of renting. The new grammar is **hay against estar**, **prepositions of place** (encima de, debajo de, al lado de) and a first look at **direct object pronouns** (lo, la, los, las). It adds **vivir**, **alquilar** and **poner**. Each dialog has a **Hard words** note; the respelling is in the tables.*

① Where Do You Live? (formal) — ¿Dónde vive?

A:

Perdone, ¿dónde vive usted?

Excuse me, where do you live?

B:

Vivo en un piso en el centro, cerca de la plaza Mayor.

I live in a flat in the centre, near the Plaza Mayor.

A:

¿Cuántas habitaciones tiene?

How many rooms does it have?

B:

Tiene tres: dos dormitorios y un salón. También hay una cocina pequeña.

It has three: two bedrooms and a living room. There's also a small kitchen.

Hard words: *vivir (to live), el dormitorio (bedroom), el salón (living room), la cocina (kitchen), también (also).*

② Your Flat (informal) — Mi piso nuevo

A:

¿Cómo es tu piso nuevo?

What's your new flat like?

B:

Es pequeño, pero tiene un balcón. Hay un parque muy cerca.

It's small, but it has a balcony. There's a park very near.

A:

¿Y hay tiendas en el barrio?

And are there shops in the neighbourhood?

B:

Sí, hay un supermercado y una panadería. El metro está a cinco minutos.

Yes, there's a supermarket and a bakery. The metro is five minutes away.

Hard words: *el balcón, el barrio (neighbourhood), el supermercado, la panadería (bakery), a cinco minutos (five minutes away).*

③ Where Is It? — Está al lado de...

A:

¿Dónde está el baño?

Where is the bathroom?

B:

Está al lado del dormitorio, enfrente de la cocina.

It's next to the bedroom, opposite the kitchen.

A:

¿Y dónde está la lavadora?

And where is the washing machine?

B:

Está en la cocina, debajo de la ventana.

It's in the kitchen, under the window.

Hard words: *al lado de (next to), enfrente de (opposite), debajo de (under), la lavadora (washing machine), la ventana (window).*

④ Furniture (informal) — ¿Dónde pongo la mesa?

A:

¿Dónde pongo la mesa?

Where shall I put the table?

B:

La pones aquí, delante de la ventana.

You put it here, in front of the window.

A:

¿Y las sillas?

And the chairs?

B:

Las pones alrededor de la mesa. El sofá lo ponemos al fondo.

You put them around the table. We put the sofa at the back.

Hard words: *poner (to put), la mesa, las sillas (chairs), el sofá, delante de (in front of), alrededor de (around), al fondo (at the back).*

⑤ Renting (formal) — El alquiler

A:

Buenos días. Quisiera alquilar un piso de dos dormitorios.

Good morning. I'd like to rent a two-bedroom flat.

B:

Tenemos uno en el centro. Cuesta ochocientos euros al mes.

We have one in the centre. It costs 800 euros a month.

⑥ Flatmates (casual) — Compartimos piso

A:

¿Vives solo o compartes piso?

Do you live alone or share a flat?

B:

Comparto piso con dos compañeros.

I share a flat with two flatmates.

A:

¿Y qué tal el barrio?

And how's the neighbourhood?

A:

¿Están incluidos los gastos?

Are the bills included?

B:

No. Los gastos van aparte.

No. The bills are separate.

Hard words: *alquilar (to rent), el alquiler (the rent), al mes (a month), los gastos (bills, running costs), aparte (separate), van aparte (are charged separately; set phrase for now).*

B:

Está genial. Hay bares y tiendas, pero es tranquilo.

It's great. There are bars and shops, but it's quiet.

Hard words: *compartir (to share), el compañero / la compañera de piso (flatmate), solo/a (alone), ¿qué tal? (how is it?).*

Key Phrases — Frases clave

ENGLISH	FORMAL (USTED)	INFORMAL (TÚ)
Where do you live?	**¿Dónde vive usted?** *DOHN-deh BEE-beh oos-TEHD*	**¿Dónde vives?** *DOHN-deh BEE-behs*
I live in a flat in the centre.	**Vivo en un piso en el centro.** *BEE-boh ehn oon PEE-soh ehn ehl THEHN-troh*	
Is there a park near here?	**¿Hay un parque cerca de aquí?** *AY oon PAR-keh THEHR-kah deh ah-KEE*	
Where is the kitchen?	**¿Dónde está la cocina?** *DOHN-deh ehs-TAH lah koh-THEE-nah*	
I'd like to rent a flat.	**Quisiera alquilar un piso.** *kee-SYEH-rah ahl-kee-LAR oon PEE-soh*	

Rooms, Furniture and the Neighbourhood

ROOMS	FURNITURE AND THINGS	NEIGHBOURHOOD
el salón *ehl sah-LOHN* (living room) **la cocina** *lah koh-THEE-nah* (kitchen) **el dormitorio** *ehl dor-mee-TOH-ryoh* (bedroom) **el baño** *ehl BAH-nyoh* (bathroom) **el balcón** *ehl bahl-KOHN* (balcony)	**la mesa** *lah MEH-sah* (table) **la silla** *lah SEE-yah* (chair) **el sofá** *ehl soh-FAH* (sofa) **la cama** *lah KAH-mah* (bed) **el armario** *ehl ar-MAH-ryoh* (wardrobe)	**la calle** *lah KAH-yeh* (street) **la plaza** *lah PLAH-thah* (square) **el parque** *ehl PAR-keh* (park) **el supermercado** *ehl soo-pehr-mehr-KAH-doh* (supermarket) **la panadería** *lah pah-nah-deh-REE-ah* (bakery)

📍 Hay or Estar? — Existence or Location

HAY: SOMETHING EXISTS / IS THERE	ESTAR: WHERE A KNOWN THING IS
Hay un parque cerca. (There is a park near.)	**El parque está cerca.** (The park is near.)
Hay dos dormitorios. (There are two bedrooms.)	**Los dormitorios están al fondo.** (The bedrooms are at the back.)
¿Hay un supermercado aquí? (Is there a supermarket here?)	**¿Dónde está el supermercado?** (Where is the supermarket?)

HAY + A/SOME; ESTAR + THE

Hay introduces something new, with *un, una, unos, unas, dos, mucho* or no article: *Hay una cocina grande*. It never changes for plural (*hay* is the same for one or many). **Estar** says where something you already know about is, with *el, la, los, las*, a name or *mi, tu*: *La cocina está al fondo*. Quick test: a, some or a number → *hay*; the, my or a name → *está*. You first met this in Spanish Basic Conversation 1 10; the full contrast is in Spanish Grammar 2 4.

Prepositions of place

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
en	*ehn*	in, on, at
encima de / debajo de	*ehn-THEE-mah deh / deh-BAH-khoh deh*	on top of / under
delante de / detrás de	*deh-LAHN-teh deh / deh-TRAHS deh*	in front of / behind
al lado de	*ahl LAH-doh deh*	next to
entre	*EHN-treh*	between
cerca de / lejos de	*THEHR-kah deh / LEH-khohs deh*	near / far from
enfrente de	*ehn-FREHN-teh deh*	opposite

Remember that **de** + **el** = **del** (*al lado del banco*) and **a** + **el** = **al** (Spanish Basic Conversation 1 10).

A first look at "it" and "them": lo, la, los, las

INSTEAD OF...	USE	EXAMPLE
el sofá (masc. singular)	**lo**	**El sofá lo ponemos al fondo.** (We put the sofa at the back.)
la mesa (fem. singular)	**la**	**La mesa la pones aquí.** (You put the table here.)
los libros (masc. plural)	**los**	**Los libros los pongo en el armario.** (I put the books in the wardrobe.)
las sillas (fem. plural)	**las**	**Las sillas las ponemos alrededor.** (We put the chairs around.)

LO, LA, LOS, LAS: "IT / THEM"

The words **lo, la, los, las** replace a thing already mentioned and match its **gender and number**. They go **before the conjugated verb**: *La pones aquí*, *Lo quiero*. In the dialogs the thing is repeated at the start for emphasis (*La mesa la pones aquí*); you may

also hear just *La pones aquí*. You have already met the idea in *Me lo llevo* (Spanish Basic Conversation 1 9). The full system is in Spanish Grammar 2 9.

🔤 Verbs — Vivir, alquilar, poner

__Vivir__ ("to live") is a regular __-ir__ verb and __alquilar__ ("to rent") a regular __-ar__ verb (Spanish Basic Conversation 1 6). __Poner__ ("to put, to place") is regular except for yo pongo.

	VIVIR (TO LIVE)	ALQUILAR (TO RENT)	PONER (TO PUT)
yo (I)	vivo *BEE-boh*	alquilo *ahl-KEE-loh*	pongo *POHN-goh*
tú (you, informal)	vives *BEE-behs*	alquilas *ahl-KEE-lahs*	pones *POH-nehs*
él, ella, usted	vive *BEE-beh*	alquila *ahl-KEE-lah*	pone *POH-neh*
nosotros (we)	vivimos *bee-BEE-mohs*	alquilamos *ahl-kee-LAH-mohs*	ponemos *poh-NEH-mohs*
vosotros (Spain)	vivís *bee-BEES*	alquiláis *ahl-kee-LAHYS*	ponéis *poh-NAYS*
ellos, ellas, ustedes	viven *BEE-behn*	alquilan *ahl-KEE-lahn*	ponen *POH-nehn*

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabulario

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

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	el piso	*ehl PEE-soh*	flat	noun
2	la casa	*lah KAH-sah*	house; home	noun

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
3	**el barrio**	*ehl BAH-rryoh*	neighbourhood	noun
4	**el salón**	*ehl sah-LOHN*	living room	noun
5	**la cocina**	*lah koh-THEE-nah*	kitchen	noun
6	**el dormitorio**	*ehl dor-mee-TOH-ryoh*	bedroom	noun
7	**la ventana**	*lah behn-TAH-nah*	window	noun
8	**la mesa**	*lah MEH-sah*	table	noun
9	**la silla**	*lah SEE-yah*	chair	noun
10	**la cama**	*lah KAH-mah*	bed	noun
11	**el alquiler**	*ehl ahl-kee-LEHR*	rent	noun
12	**los gastos**	*lohs GAHS-tohs*	bills, running costs	noun
13	**el compañero de piso**	*ehl kohm-pah-NYEH-roh deh PEE-soh*	flatmate	noun
14	**vivir**	*bee-BEER*	to live	verb
15	**alquilar**	*ahl-kee-LAR*	to rent	verb
16	**poner**	*poh-NEHR*	to put	verb
17	**compartir**	*kohm-par-TEER*	to share	verb
18	**hay**	*AY*	there is / there are	verb
19	**encima de / debajo de**	*ehn-THEE-mah deh / deh-BAH-khoh deh*	on top of / under	prep
20	**al lado de / enfrente de**	*ahl LAH-doh deh / ehn-FREHN-teh deh*	next to / opposite	prep

Renting in Spain: a Few Words

El alquiler is the rent and the act of renting; **alquilar** is the verb. You will also hear **el casero / la casera** (landlord), **el inquilino** (tenant), **la fianza** (deposit) and **los gastos** (bills), and it is worth asking whether the bills are included (*¿Están incluidos los gastos?*). Sharing a flat (*compartir piso*) is common among students and young workers. Contracts and amounts vary, so this is only a vocabulary outline.

Habitación, Piso, Casa

A **piso** is a flat in a building, a **casa** is a house (or "home": *en casa*), and a **habitación** can be any room or specifically a bedroom, so *un piso de tres habitaciones* is a flat with three rooms. *Dormitorio* is clearly "bedroom". In Spain the *salón* is the usual word for the living room.

Latin America Note

For "flat" many Latin American countries say *departamento* or *apartamento* instead of *piso*, and *sala* is a common word for "living room" in some countries. Instead of *vosotros*, *¿Dónde viven?* (*ustedes*) is used, and the words for furniture and rooms vary by country.

Grammar Pointer

Hay against *estar* and the irregular *yo* forms (*pongo*) are explained in Spanish Grammar 2 4, *lo, la, los, las* in Spanish Grammar 2 9, and the prepositions of place in Spanish Grammar 2 10. 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 live in a small flat near the park. It has two bedrooms."

▼ Show answer

Vivo en un piso pequeño cerca del parque. Tiene dos dormitorios. (*de + el = del.*)

2. Complete with *hay* or *está*: "____ una panadería en el barrio." · "La panadería ____ al lado del banco." · "¿____ un parque cerca?" · "¿Dónde ____ el baño?"

▼ Show answer

Hay · está · Hay · está. (A, some or a question about existence: *hay*; "the" and where: *está*.)

3. Say where things are: the book is on the table; the bag is under the chair; the sofa is next to the window.

▼ Show answer

El libro está encima de la mesa. El bolso está debajo de la silla. El sofá está al lado de la ventana. (*En la mesa* is also common for "on the table".)

4. Replace the noun with *lo, la, los* or *las*: "Pongo la mesa aquí." · "Ponemos el sofá allí." · "Pones las sillas allí."

▼ Show answer

La pongo aquí. · Lo ponemos allí. · Las pones allí.

5. You want to rent a two-bedroom flat in the centre. Ask the price and whether the bills are included.

▼ Show answer

Quisiera alquilar un piso de dos dormitorios en el centro. ¿Cuánto cuesta al mes? ¿Están incluidos los gastos?

6. Describe your home or your neighbourhood in three sentences, using *hay*, *está* and one preposition of place.

▼ Show an example

Vivo en un piso en Edimburgo. Hay un salón, una cocina y dos dormitorios. El supermercado está al lado de mi casa.

Coming Up in Chapter 6

Weather and seasons: **hace sol, hace frío, llueve, nieva, el tiempo**, the seasons, regional climates, and **por qué / porque**.

🌦️ Weather & Seasons — El tiempo y las estaciones

*This chapter covers talking about the weather, the four seasons and the climates of different parts of Spain. The new grammar is **hace** with weather (hace frío, hace sol), the weather verbs **llover** and **nevar**, and **por qué / porque** for asking and giving reasons. Each dialog has a **Hard words** note; the respelling is in the tables.*

① Today's Weather (formal) — ¿Qué tiempo hace?

A:

Buenos días. ¿Qué tiempo hace hoy en Madrid?

Good morning. What's the weather like today in Madrid?

B:

Hace sol, pero hace un poco de viento.

It's sunny, but a bit windy.

A:

¿Qué temperatura hace?

What's the temperature?

B:

Hace dieciocho grados. Es un día agradable.

It's eighteen degrees. It's a pleasant day.

Hard words: *el tiempo (weather; time), el viento (wind), los grados (degrees), agradable (pleasant), un poco de (a bit of).*

② Rain (informal) — Llueve mucho

A:

¿Qué tal el tiempo en Edimburgo?

How's the weather in Edinburgh?

B:

Llueve mucho y hace frío. Está nublado casi todos los días.

It rains a lot and it's cold. It's cloudy almost every day.

A:

¿Por qué no vienes a Sevilla en abril?

Why don't you come to Seville in April?

B:

Porque en abril tengo mucho trabajo, pero en mayo sí puedo.

Because in April I have a lot of work, but in May I can.

Hard words: *llover (to rain; o → ue), nublado (cloudy), ¿por qué? (why?), porque (because), casi todos los días (almost every day).*

③ The Four Seasons — Mi estación favorita

A:

¿Cuál es tu estación favorita?

Which is your favourite season?

B:

La primavera, porque no hace ni frío ni calor.

Spring, because it's neither cold nor hot.

A:

A mí me gusta el otoño. Hay muchas hojas de colores.

I like autumn. There are lots of coloured leaves.

B:

Pues yo odio el invierno, porque oscurece muy pronto.

Well, I hate winter, because it gets dark very early.

Hard words: *la primavera, el verano, el otoño, el invierno (spring, summer, autumn, winter), favorito/a, ni ... ni (neither ... nor), odiar (to hate), oscurecer (to get dark; set word for now), las hojas (leaves).*

④ A Heatwave (formal) — Hace mucho calor

A:

Perdone, ¿es normal este calor en julio?

Excuse me, is this heat normal in July?

B:

Sí, en Sevilla en verano hace mucho calor. Hay una ola de calor.

Yes, in Seville in summer it's very hot. There's a heatwave.

A:

¿Cuántos grados hace?

How many degrees is it?

B:

Hace treinta y ocho grados. Es mejor beber mucha agua.

It's 38 degrees. It's best to drink a lot of water.

Hard words: *el calor (heat), la ola de calor (heatwave), es mejor + infinitive (it's better to...), mucha agua (a lot of water).*

⑤ Two Regions — Galicia y Andalucía

A:

¿Cómo es el clima en Galicia?

What's the climate like in Galicia?

B:

Es húmedo y llueve bastante, pero los veranos son suaves.

⑥ Snow (casual) — ¡Está nevando!

A:

¡Mira por la ventana! Nieva.

Look out of the window! It's snowing.

B:

¡Qué bonito! ¿Por qué no vamos a la sierra este fin de semana?

It's damp and it rains quite a lot, but the summers are mild.

A:

¿Y en Andalucía?

And in Andalucía?

B:

Allí los veranos son muy calurosos y secos.

There the summers are very hot and dry.

Hard words: *el clima, húmedo/a (damp), suave (mild), caluroso/a (hot), seco/a (dry), bastante (quite a lot).*

How lovely! Why don't we go to the mountains this weekend?

A:

Buena idea, pero primero tenemos que mirar el tiempo.

Good idea, but first we have to check the weather.

B:

Dicen que mañana hace buen tiempo.

They say that tomorrow the weather will be good.

Hard words: *nevar (to snow; e → ie), la sierra (mountain range), mira (look!), dicen que (they say that; set phrase for now), buen tiempo (good weather).*

Key Phrases — Frases clave

ENGLISH	SPANISH
What's the weather like?	**¿Qué tiempo hace?** *keh TYEHM-poh AH-theh*
It's sunny. / It's cold. / It's hot.	**Hace sol. / Hace frío. / Hace calor.** *AH-theh SOHL / AH-theh FREE-oh / AH-theh kah-LOR*
It's raining. / It's snowing.	**Llueve. / Nieva.** *YWEH-beh / NYEH-bah*
What's the temperature?	**¿Cuántos grados hace?** *KWAHN-tohs GRAH-dohs AH-theh*
It's cloudy.	**Está nublado.** *ehs-TAH noo-BLAH-doh*

The Weather — El tiempo

WITH HACE	WITH ESTÁ / HAY	WITH A VERB
Hace sol. *AH-theh SOHL* (sunny)	**Está nublado.** (cloudy)	**Llueve.** (it rains)
Hace calor. *AH-theh kah-LOR* (hot)	**Está despejado.** *ehs-TAH dehs-peh-KHAH-doh* (clear)	**Nieva.** (it snows)
Hace frío. *AH-theh FREE-oh* (cold)	**Hay niebla.** *AY NYEH-blah* (it's foggy)	**Está lloviendo.** *ehs-TAH yoh-BYEHN-doh* (it's raining now)
Hace viento. *AH-theh BYEHN-toh* (windy)	**Hay tormenta.** *AY tor-MEHN-tah* (there's a storm)	**Está nevando.** *ehs-TAH neh-BAHN-doh* (it's snowing now)
Hace buen / mal tiempo. (good / bad weather)		

WEATHER IS IMPERSONAL: HACE, HAY, ESTÁ

Weather expressions have no "I" or "he": the verb is always the third-person singular. Use **hace** + a noun (*hace sol, calor, frío, viento*), **está** + an adjective (*está nublado*), and **hay** + a noun for things that exist (*hay niebla, hay tormenta*). **Llover** and **nevar** are verbs with a stem change in the weather forms: **llueve** (*o → ue*), **nieva** (*e → ie*). For "very" with **hace** use **mucho**: *Hace mucho calor* (never *muy calor*). For "what is happening now" use **está** + *lloviendo / nevando*. Degrees: *Hace veinte grados.*

Seasons and Months — Las estaciones

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	MONTHS (NORTHERN HEMISPHERE)
la primavera	*lah pree-mah-BEH-rah*	spring	about March to May
el verano	*ehl beh-RAH-noh*	summer	about June to August
el otoño	*ehl oh-TOH-nyoh*	autumn	about September to November
el invierno	*ehl een-BYEHR-noh*	winter	about December to February

Use **en** with seasons and months: *en verano, en invierno, en abril*. With the article, *la primavera* and *el verano* are general: *Me gusta el verano.*

❓ Por qué or Porque?

SPELLING	USE	EXAMPLE
¿por qué? (two words, accent)	Why?: a question	**¿Por qué no vienes a Sevilla?** *por KEH noh BYEH-nehs ah seh-BEE-yah*
porque (one word, no accent)	because: gives the reason	**Porque tengo mucho trabajo.** *POR-keh TEHN-goh MOO-choh trah-BAH-khoh*

TWO WORDS FOR WHY, ONE FOR BECAUSE

¿Por qué? asks the question and is written as two words with an accent on *qué*; **porque** gives the answer and is one word with no accent. *¿Por qué no vamos a la sierra?* also works as a friendly suggestion ("why don't we go…?"), as in dialog 6. A sentence with *porque* can start with it in an answer: *— ¿Por qué estás cansado? — Porque trabajo mucho.*

🔤 Verbs — Hacer, llover, nevar

Hacer *("to do, to make") is regular except yo hago (Spanish Basic Conversation 2 2). Here it is also the verb for weather.* ***Llover*** *("to rain") and* ***nevar*** *("to snow") are used almost only in the third person singular.*

	HACER (TO DO, MAKE)	LLOVER (TO RAIN)	NEVAR (TO SNOW)
yo (I)	hago *AH-goh*	—	—
tú (you, informal)	haces *AH-thehs*	—	—

	HACER (TO DO, MAKE)	LLOVER (TO RAIN)	NEVAR (TO SNOW)
él, ella, usted; it	hace *AH-theh*	llueve *YWEH-beh*	nieva *NYEH-bah*
nosotros (we)	hacemos *ah-THEH-mohs*	—	—
vosotros (Spain)	hacéis *ah-THAYS*	—	—
ellos, ellas, ustedes	hacen *AH-thehn*	—	—

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabulario

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

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	el tiempo	*ehl TYEHM-poh*	weather; time	noun
2	el clima	*ehl KLEE-mah*	climate	noun
3	la estación	*lah ehs-tah-THYOHN*	season; station	noun
4	el sol	*ehl SOHL*	sun	noun
5	la lluvia	*lah YOO-byah*	rain	noun
6	la nieve	*lah NYEH-beh*	snow	noun
7	el viento	*ehl BYEHN-toh*	wind	noun
8	el calor / el frío	*ehl kah-LOR / ehl FREE-oh*	heat / cold	noun
9	la ola de calor	*lah OH-lah deh kah-LOR*	heatwave	noun
10	los grados	*lohs GRAH-dohs*	degrees	noun

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
11	**la primavera / el verano**	*lah pree-mah-BEH-rah / ehl beh-RAH-noh*	spring / summer	noun
12	**el otoño / el invierno**	*ehl oh-TOH-nyoh / ehl een-BYEHR-noh*	autumn / winter	noun
13	**nublado**	*noo-BLAH-doh*	cloudy	adj
14	**húmedo / seco**	*OO-meh-doh / SEH-koh*	damp / dry	adj
15	**caluroso / suave**	*kah-loo-ROH-soh / SWAH-beh*	hot / mild	adj
16	**llover**	*yoh-BEHR*	to rain	verb
17	**nevar**	*neh-BAR*	to snow	verb
18	**hacer**	*ah-THEHR*	to do, make; (weather) to be	verb
19	**¿por qué?**	*por KEH*	why?	question
20	**porque**	*POR-keh*	because	conj

Spain's Different Climates

Spain has several climates. The green, Atlantic north (for example **Galicia**) is generally the wettest and cloudiest part, with mild summers, while **Andalucía** in the south has hot, dry summers, and the central plateau is hot in summer and cold in winter. A **ola de calor** (heatwave) is a common summer news item. Temperatures are given in **degrees Celsius**, as in Britain.

El Tiempo: Weather or Time

El tiempo means both "weather" and "time". Context decides: *¿Qué tiempo hace?* ("What's the weather like?") against *No tengo tiempo* ("I don't have time"). To ask the time of day use *¿Qué hora es?* (Spanish Basic Conversation 1 7). For the weather forecast you hear *el tiempo* or *la previsión del tiempo*.

Latin America Note

The weather phrases are the same in Latin America. Seasons are reversed in the southern hemisphere (summer in Argentina and Chile is around December to February), and in some tropical areas people talk more about the rainy and dry seasons (*la época de lluvias*, *la época seca*) than about four seasons. *Hace frío* and *hace calor* are universal; for the plural "you" use *ustedes* (*¿Por qué no vienen?*).

Grammar Pointer

Hacer and the irregular *yo* forms are in Spanish Grammar 2 4, stem-changing verbs such as *llover* and *nevar* in Spanish Grammar 2 5, and *por qué* and *porque* with the other question words in Spanish Grammar 2 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: "It's sunny and hot today." and "It's raining and cold."

▼ Show answer

Hoy hace sol y hace calor. · Llueve y hace frío.

2. Ask what the weather is like, then ask the temperature.

▼ Show answer

¿Qué tiempo hace? ¿Cuántos grados hace?

3. Choose *hace*, *está* or *hay*: "____ mucho calor." · "____ nublado." · "____ niebla." · "____ viento."

▼ Show answer

Hace · Está · Hay · Hace. (*Hace* + a noun of weather; *está* + an adjective; *hay* for things that exist, such as fog.)

4. Write *por qué* or *porque*: "¿____ no vienes?" · "____ tengo trabajo." · "¿____ llueve tanto?"

▼ Show answer

Por qué · Porque · Por qué. (*tanto* = so much; a set word for now.)

5. Say: "In winter it rains a lot in Galicia, but in Andalucía it's very hot in summer."

▼ Show answer

En invierno llueve mucho en Galicia, pero en Andalucía hace mucho calor en verano.

6. Say what your favourite season is and why, in two sentences.

▼ Show an example

Mi estación favorita es la primavera, porque no hace ni frío ni calor. Me gusta mucho salir en primavera.

Coming Up in Chapter 7

Eating out: restaurants, dietary needs and complaints: **¿Qué desean? Yo quisiera…, lo prefiero sin…, soy vegetariano**, **está muy salado**, and more on **lo, la, los, las**.

🍽️ Eating Out — En el restaurante

*In Spanish Basic Conversation 1 8 you ordered a coffee and a snack. This chapter goes further: ordering a full meal, saying what you **prefer**, explaining a **dietary need or allergy**, and politely **complaining**. The new grammar is **direct object pronouns in orders** (Lo quiero, La prefiero) and **estar** for the state of food (está frío, está salado). It adds **preferir**, **traer** and **recomendar**. Each dialog has a **Hard words** note; the respelling is in the tables.*

① Taking the Order (formal) — ¿Qué desean?

A:

Buenas noches. ¿Qué desean tomar?

Good evening. What would you like to have?

B:

Yo quisiera la sopa de primero y el pescado de segundo.

I'd like the soup as a starter and the fish as a main course.

A:

¿Y para beber?

And to drink?

B:

Una botella de agua y una copa de vino blanco, por favor.

A bottle of water and a glass of white wine, please.

Hard words: *de primero / de segundo (as a first / main course), la botella (bottle), la copa (glass of wine), el vino blanco (white wine), ¿qué desean? (what would you like?, plural formal).*

② Choosing (informal) — ¿Qué me recomiendas?

A:

¿Qué me recomiendas de la carta?

What do you recommend from the menu?

B:

Te recomiendo el arroz. Es la especialidad de la casa.

I recommend the rice. It's the house speciality.

A:

Pues lo pido. ¿Y tú?

Then I'll order it. And you?

B:

Yo prefiero la carne. La pido con patatas.

I prefer the meat. I'll order it with potatoes.

Hard words: *recomendar (to recommend; e → ie), el arroz (rice), la especialidad de la casa (house speciality), la carne (meat), las patatas (potatoes), lo pido (I'll order it).*

③ A Dietary Need — Soy vegetariana

A:

Perdone, soy vegetariana. ¿Tiene algún plato sin carne?

Excuse me, I'm vegetarian. Do you have any dish without meat?

B:

Sí, tenemos una ensalada y unas verduras a la plancha.

Yes, we have a salad and some grilled vegetables.

A:

Perfecto. Las verduras las tomo sin queso, por favor.

Perfect. I'll have the vegetables without cheese, please.

B:

Claro, sin problema.

Of course, no problem.

Hard words: *vegetariano/a, un plato (a dish), sin carne (without meat), las verduras (vegetables), a la plancha (grilled), el queso (cheese), sin problema (no problem).*

④ An Allergy (formal) — Soy alérgico

A:

Perdone, soy alérgico a los frutos secos.

Excuse me, I'm allergic to nuts.

B:

Gracias por avisarnos. ¿Algo más?

Thank you for telling us. Anything else?

A:

No. ¿Este postre lleva frutos secos?

No. Does this dessert contain nuts?

B:

No, no los lleva. Pero le pregunto al cocinero.

No, it doesn't. But I'll ask the cook.

Hard words: *alérgico/a a (allergic to), los frutos secos (nuts), el postre (dessert), llevar (here: to contain), el cocinero (cook), avisar (to warn, to let know), le pregunto (I'll ask him; set phrase for now).*

⑤ A Complaint (formal) — Está frío

A:

Perdone, la sopa está fría.

Excuse me, the soup is cold.

B:

Lo siento mucho. Se la cambio ahora mismo.

I'm very sorry. I'll change it for you right away.

⑥ With Friends (casual) — Lo prefiero sin...

A:

¿Quieres la tortilla?

Do you want the omelette?

B:

Sí, la quiero, pero la prefiero sin cebolla.

Yes, I want it, but I prefer it without onion.

A:

Gracias. Y el pescado está muy salado.

Thank you. And the fish is very salty.

B:

Entendido. Le traigo otro plato.

Understood. I'll bring you another dish.

Hard words: *frío/a (cold), salado/a (salty), traer (to bring), ahora mismo (right away), entendido (understood), se la cambio (I'll change it for you; set phrase for now).*

A:

¿Y el café? ¿Lo tomas solo o con leche?

And coffee? Do you have it black or with milk?

B:

Lo tomo con leche. Y la cuenta la pago yo.

I have it with milk. And I'll pay the bill.

Hard words: *la tortilla (Spanish omelette), la cebolla (onion), solo (black, without milk), la cuenta la pago yo (I'll pay the bill).*

Key Phrases — Frases clave

ENGLISH	FORMAL (USTED)	INFORMAL (TÚ)
What do you recommend?	**¿Qué me recomienda?** *keh meh reh-koh-MYEHN-dah*	**¿Qué me recomiendas?** *keh meh reh-koh-MYEHN-dahs*
I'd like... / I'll have...	**Quisiera... / Tomo... / Voy a tomar...** *kee-SYEH-rah / TOH-moh / boy ah toh-MAR*	
I'm vegetarian.	**Soy vegetariano (m) / vegetariana (f).** *soy beh-kheh-tah-RYAH-noh / beh-kheh-tah-RYAH-nah*	
I'm allergic to...	**Soy alérgico (m) / alérgica (f) a...** *soy ah-LEHR-khee-koh / ah-LEHR-khee-kah ah*	
Without...	**Lo prefiero sin cebolla.** *loh preh-FYEH-roh seen theh-BOH-yah*	
The bill, please.	**La cuenta, por favor.** *lah KWEHN-tah por fah-BOR*	

On the Menu — La carta

STARTERS AND MAINS	DRINKS AND DESSERTS	WAYS OF COOKING
la sopa *lah SOH-pah* (soup) **la ensalada** (salad) **el pescado** *ehl pehs-KAH-doh* (fish) **la carne** *lah KAR-neh* (meat) **el arroz** *ehl ah-RROHTH* (rice) **la tortilla** *lah tor-TEE-yah* (omelette)	**el agua** (water) **el vino tinto / blanco** *ehl BEE-noh TEEN-toh / BLAHN-koh* (red / white wine) **la cerveza** *lah thehr-BEH-thah* (beer) **el postre** *ehl POHS-treh* (dessert) **el helado** *ehl eh-LAH-doh* (ice cream)	**a la plancha** *ah lah PLAHN-chah* (grilled) **frito** *FREE-toh* (fried) **al horno** *ahl OR-noh* (baked) **poco hecho / muy hecho** *POH-koh EH-choh / mwee EH-choh* (rare / well done)

🔁 Lo, La, Los, Las in Orders

QUESTION	ANSWER WITH A PRONOUN	ENGLISH
¿Quieres el pescado?	**Sí, lo quiero.** *see, loh KYEH-roh*	Yes, I want it.
¿Quieres la tortilla?	**Sí, la quiero.** *see, lah KYEH-roh*	Yes, I want it.
¿Quieres los postres?	**Sí, los quiero.** *see, lohs KYEH-roh*	Yes, I want them.
¿Quieres las patatas?	**No, no las quiero.** *noh, noh lahs KYEH-roh*	No, I don't want them.

THE PRONOUN MATCHES THE FOOD

Lo / la / los / las stand for the food already mentioned and match its gender and number: *el pescado → lo*, *la sopa → la*, *los postres → los*, *las patatas → las*. In the negative the pronoun stays right before the verb: *No lo quiero*. With **preferir**, **pedir** and **tomar** it works the same: *Lo prefiero sin sal*, *La pido con patatas*, *Las tomo sin queso*.

You met the idea in Spanish Basic Conversation 2 5; the full system is in Spanish Grammar 2 9.

🌡️ Estar for the State of the Food

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
La sopa está fría.	*lah SOH-pah ehs-TAH FREE-ah*	The soup is cold.
El café está muy caliente.	*ehl kah-FEH ehs-TAH mwee kah-LYEHN-teh*	The coffee is very hot.
El pescado está muy salado.	*ehl pehs-KAH-doh ehs-TAH mwee sah-LAH-doh*	The fish is very salty.
La carne está cruda.	*lah KAR-neh ehs-TAH KROO-dah*	The meat is raw (underdone).
¡Está riquísimo!	*ehs-TAH ree-KEE-see-moh*	It's delicious! (*riquísimo* = very tasty; a set word for now)

ESTÁ = HOW IT TASTES NOW

Use **estar** for how a dish is *on this occasion*: *está frío, está salado, está muy bueno*. Use **ser** for its lasting nature: *La tortilla es un plato típico de España*, *El gazpacho es frío* (it is a cold soup by nature). A polite complaint starts with **Perdone**, names the dish and the problem, and does not need to be long: *Perdone, la sopa está fría*. Compare Spanish Basic Conversation 2 4.

🔤 Verbs — Preferir, traer, recomendar

Preferir *("to prefer") and* ***recomendar*** *("to recommend") change e → ie in every form except nosotros and vosotros.* ***Traer*** *("to bring") is regular except yo traigo.*

	PREFERIR (TO PREFER)	TRAER (TO BRING)	RECOMENDAR (TO RECOMMEND)
yo (I)	prefiero *preh-FYEH-roh*	traigo *TRAY-goh*	recomiendo *reh-koh-MYEHN-doh*
tú (you, informal)	prefieres *preh-FYEH-rehs*	traes *TRAH-ehs*	recomiendas *reh-koh-MYEHN-dahs*
él, ella, usted	prefiere *preh-FYEH-reh*	trae *TRAH-eh*	recomienda *reh-koh-MYEHN-dah*
nosotros (we)	preferimos *preh-feh-REE-mohs*	traemos *trah-EH-mohs*	recomendamos *reh-koh-mehn-DAH-mohs*
vosotros (Spain)	preferís *preh-feh-REES*	traéis *trah-AYS*	recomendáis *reh-koh-mehn-DAHYS*
ellos, ellas, ustedes	prefieren *preh-FYEH-rehn*	traen *TRAH-ehn*	recomiendan *reh-koh-MYEHN-dahn*

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabulario

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

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	el restaurante	*ehl rehs-tow-RAHN-teh*	restaurant	noun
2	el plato	*ehl PLAH-toh*	dish; plate	noun
3	el primero / el segundo	*ehl pree-MEH-roh / seh-GOON-doh*	first course / main course	noun
4	el postre	*ehl POHS-treh*	dessert	noun
5	la carne	*lah KAR-neh*	meat	noun
6	el pescado	*ehl pehs-KAH-doh*	fish	noun

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
7	**las verduras**	*lahs behr-DOO-rahs*	vegetables	noun
8	**el queso**	*ehl KEH-soh*	cheese	noun
9	**la botella / la copa**	*lah boh-TEH-yah / lah KOH-pah*	bottle / glass (of wine)	noun
10	**la alergia**	*lah ah-LEHR-khyah*	allergy	noun
11	**vegetariano**	*beh-kheh-tah-RYAH-noh*	vegetarian	adj
12	**alérgico a**	*ah-LEHR-khee-koh ah*	allergic to	adj
13	**frío / caliente**	*FREE-oh / kah-LYEHN-teh*	cold / hot	adj
14	**salado**	*sah-LAH-doh*	salty	adj
15	**preferir**	*preh-feh-REER*	to prefer	verb
16	**traer**	*trah-EHR*	to bring	verb
17	**recomendar**	*reh-koh-mehn-DAR*	to recommend	verb
18	**sin / con**	*seen / kohn*	without / with	prep
19	**¿Qué desean?**	*keh deh-SEH-ahn*	What would you like? (plural)	phrase
20	**ahora mismo**	*ah-OH-rah MEES-moh*	right away	phrase

Telling the Restaurant About an Allergy

State it clearly at the start, before you order: *Soy alérgico a los frutos secos* or *Soy celiaco, no puedo comer gluten*. It is also worth asking directly whether a dish contains the ingredient (*¿Lleva…?*). Do not assume that a dish is safe from its name; ingredients vary, so always ask. This chapter teaches the language, not medical advice.

The Menú del Día and the Order of a Meal

A typical Spanish menu is organised into *primeros* (starters), *segundos* (main courses) and *postres* (desserts). The *menú del día* (Spanish Basic Conversation 1 8) is a fixed-price lunch built this way. To complain politely, stay calm, say *Perdone* and describe the problem in one short sentence; staff will usually change the dish.

Latin America Note

Menu words vary across countries: *patatas* (potatoes) in Spain is *papas* in the Canary Islands and much of Latin America, and *zumo* is often *jugo*. A "waiter" is *camarero* in Spain, and other words such as *mesero* or *mozo* are used in some other countries. *¿Qué desean?* (to several people) is used in both; in Spain the informal plural *¿Qué queréis?* is also common.

Grammar Pointer

Direct object pronouns (*lo, la, los, las*) are explained in Spanish Grammar 2 9, stem-changing verbs such as *preferir* and *recomendar* in Spanish Grammar 2 5, and *ser* against *estar* 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. Order a soup as a starter and fish as a main course, with a glass of white wine.

▼ Show answer

Quisiera la sopa de primero y el pescado de segundo, y una copa de vino blanco, por favor.

2. Tell the waiter you are vegetarian and ask whether there is a dish without meat.

▼ Show answer

Perdone, soy vegetariano (vegetariana). ¿Tiene algún plato sin carne?

3. Replace the food with *lo, la, los* or *las*: "Prefiero el pescado." · "Pido la tortilla." · "Tomo los postres." · "Quiero las patatas."

▼ Show answer

Lo prefiero. · La pido. · Los tomo. · Las quiero.

4. Politely complain: the soup is cold and the fish is very salty.

▼ Show answer

Perdone, la sopa está fría y el pescado está muy salado.

5. Complete: "Yo ____ la carne." (preferir) · "Tú ____ el arroz." (recomendar) · "El camarero ____ la cuenta." (traer) · "Nosotros ____ el pescado." (preferir)

▼ Show answer

prefiero · recomiendas · trae · preferimos. (*e → ie* except *nosotros* and *vosotros*.)

6. Say that you are allergic to nuts and ask whether the dessert contains them.

▼ Show answer

Soy alérgico (alérgica) a los frutos secos. ¿Este postre lleva frutos secos?

Coming Up in Chapter 8

At the doctor and the pharmacy: **me duele la cabeza, el centro de salud, la farmacia de guardia, la receta**, **doler**, indirect object pronouns, and the Spanish health system in outline.

🩺 At the Doctor & the Pharmacy — En el médico y en la farmacia

*This chapter gives you the language to say what is wrong, make an appointment, understand a few instructions and buy medicine. The new grammar is **doler** (me duele la cabeza), **indirect object pronouns** (me, te, le, nos, os, les) and **desde hace** for "for how long". It adds **sentirse** and **recetar**. This chapter teaches language, not medical advice; for any real health problem, ask a professional. Each dialog has a **Hard words** note; the respelling is in the tables.*

① Making an Appointment (formal) — Una cita

A:

Buenos días. Quisiera pedir cita con el médico.

Good morning. I'd like to make an appointment with the doctor.

B:

¿Para cuándo?

For when?

A:

Lo antes posible, por favor. Me encuentro mal.

As soon as possible, please. I feel unwell.

B:

Tengo una cita mañana a las diez y cuarto.

I have an appointment tomorrow at a quarter past ten.

Hard words: *pedir cita (to make an appointment), el médico (doctor), lo antes posible*

② A Headache (formal) — Me duele la cabeza

A:

Buenos días. ¿Qué le pasa?

Good morning. What's the matter?

B:

Me duele la cabeza y tengo fiebre.

I have a headache and I have a temperature.

A:

¿Desde cuándo le duele?

Since when has it been hurting?

B:

Me duele desde hace dos días.

It's been hurting for two days.

Hard words: *doler (to hurt; o → ue), la cabeza (head), la fiebre (temperature, fever), desde hace dos días (for two days), ¿Qué le pasa? (What's the matter?).*

(as soon as possible), me encuentro mal (I feel unwell; set phrase for now).

③ Stomach and Throat (informal) — Me duele el estómago

A:

Tienes mala cara. ¿Qué te pasa?

You look unwell. What's wrong?

B:

Me duele el estómago y me duele la garganta.

My stomach hurts and my throat hurts.

A:

¿Por qué no vas al médico?

Why don't you go to the doctor?

B:

Sí, voy esta tarde. Me siento fatal.

Yes, I'm going this afternoon. I feel terrible.

Hard words: *tener mala cara (to look unwell), el estómago, la garganta (throat), sentirse (to feel; e → ie), fatal (terrible).*

④ In the Consulting Room (formal) — ¿Le duele aquí?

A:

¿Le duele aquí?

Does it hurt here?

B:

Sí, me duele mucho el brazo.

Yes, my arm hurts a lot.

A:

Le receto un medicamento y tiene que descansar.

I'll prescribe you a medicine and you have to rest.

B:

¿Cuántas veces al día lo tomo?

How many times a day do I take it?

Hard words: *el brazo (arm), recetar (to prescribe), el medicamento (medicine), tener que + infinitive (to have to), cuántas veces al día (how many times a day), le receto (I prescribe you; set phrase for now).*

⑤ At the Pharmacy (formal) — En la farmacia

A:

Buenas tardes. ¿Tiene algo para el dolor de cabeza?

Good afternoon. Do you have something for a headache?

⑥ A Late Night (casual) — La farmacia de guardia

A:

¡Qué dolor de muelas! ¿Hay una farmacia abierta?

What toothache! Is there a pharmacy open?

B:

B:

Sí, tengo unas pastillas. ¿Tiene alguna alergia?

Yes, I have some tablets. Do you have any allergy?

A:

No. ¿Necesito receta?

No. Do I need a prescription?

B:

Para estas no. Son tres euros cincuenta.

Not for these. That's 3 euros 50.

Hard words: *el dolor de cabeza (headache), las pastillas (tablets), la receta (prescription), la alergia (allergy), algo para (something for).*

Mira el cartel: allí dice cuál es la farmacia de guardia.

Look at the sign: it says which is the duty pharmacy.

A:

Vale. ¿Me acompañas?

OK. Will you come with me?

B:

Claro, te acompaño.

Of course, I'll come with you.

Hard words: *el dolor de muelas (toothache), abierto/a (open), el cartel (sign), la farmacia de guardia (duty pharmacy), acompañar (to accompany), dice (it says; set word for now).*

Key Phrases — Frases clave

ENGLISH	FORMAL (USTED)	INFORMAL (TÚ)
What's the matter?	**¿Qué le pasa?** *keh leh PAH-sah*	**¿Qué te pasa?** *keh teh PAH-sah*
Does it hurt here?	**¿Le duele aquí?** *leh DWEH-leh ah-KEE*	**¿Te duele aquí?** *teh DWEH-leh ah-KEE*
My head hurts.	**Me duele la cabeza.** *meh DWEH-leh lah kah-BEH-thah*	
I'd like to make an appointment.	**Quisiera pedir cita.** *kee-SYEH-rah peh-DEER THEE-tah*	
I have a temperature / a cough.	**Tengo fiebre. / Tengo tos.** *TEHN-goh FYEH-breh / TEHN-goh TOHS*	

ENGLISH	FORMAL (USTED)	INFORMAL (TÚ)
Do you have something for…?	**¿Tiene algo para el dolor de cabeza?** *TYEH-neh AHL-goh PAH-rah ehl doh-LOR deh kah-BEH-thah*	

🧍 The Body — El cuerpo

HEAD AND TRUNK	ARMS AND LEGS	OTHER SYMPTOMS
la cabeza *lah kah-BEH-thah* (head)	**el brazo** *ehl BRAH-thoh* (arm)	**la fiebre** *lah FYEH-breh* (temperature)
la garganta *lah gar-GAHN-tah* (throat)	**la mano** *lah MAH-noh* (hand)	**la tos** *lah TOHS* (cough)
el estómago *ehl ehs-TOH-mah-goh* (stomach)	**la pierna** *lah PYEHR-nah* (leg)	**el resfriado** *ehl rehs-FRYAH-doh* (cold)
la espalda *lah ehs-PAHL-dah* (back)	**el pie** *ehl PYEH* (foot)	**el dolor** *ehl doh-LOR* (pain)
la muela *lah MWEH-lah* (tooth, molar)		

🔶 Doler and the Indirect Object Pronouns

WHO FEELS THE PAIN	ONE PART HURTS	SEVERAL PARTS HURT
me (me)	**me duele la cabeza** *meh DWEH-leh lah kah-BEH-thah*	**me duelen los pies** *meh DWEH-lehn lohs PYEHS*
te (you, informal)	**te duele el brazo** *teh DWEH-leh ehl BRAH-thoh*	**te duelen las piernas** *teh DWEH-lehn lahs PYEHR-nahs*
le (him, her, you formal)	**le duele la espalda** *leh DWEH-leh lah ehs-PAHL-dah*	**le duelen las manos** *leh DWEH-lehn lahs MAH-nohs*
nos (us)	**nos duele la garganta** *nohs DWEH-leh lah gar-GAHN-tah*	**nos duelen los ojos** *nohs DWEH-lehn lohs OH-khohs*

WHO FEELS THE PAIN	ONE PART HURTS	SEVERAL PARTS HURT
os (you plural, Spain)	**os duele el estómago**	**os duelen las muelas**
les (them, you plural formal)	**les duele la cabeza**	**les duelen los pies**

DOLER WORKS LIKE GUSTAR

Doler ("to hurt") follows the same pattern as *gustar* (Spanish Basic Conversation 2 2): the thing that hurts is the subject and the person is shown by **me, te, le, nos, os, les** (the indirect object pronouns). One thing: **duele**; several things: **duelen**. Use **the article**, not "my": *Me duele la cabeza*, not *me duele mi cabeza*. The stem changes *o → ue* (*doler → duele*). The full pronoun system is in Spanish Grammar 2 9, and verbs like *gustar* in Spanish Grammar 2 7.

For how long? Desde hace

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
Me duele desde hace dos días.	*meh DWEH-leh DEHS-deh AH-theh dohs DEE-ahs*	It has hurt for two days.
Tengo tos desde hace una semana.	*TEHN-goh TOHS DEHS-deh AH-theh OO-nah seh-MAH-nah*	I've had a cough for a week.
¿Desde cuándo le duele?	*DEHS-deh KWAHN-doh leh DWEH-leh*	Since when has it hurt?

DESDE HACE + TIME: A PRESENT TENSE FOR "STILL"

To say something has been going on for a period, Spanish uses the **present tense** with **desde hace** + time: *Vivo aquí desde hace tres años* ("I have lived here for three years"). The question is **¿Desde cuándo…?** Note that the verb is present, not a past tense, because the situation is still true now.

abc Verbs — Doler, sentirse, recetar

__Doler__ ("to hurt") is shown in its two commonest forms, duele and duelen (o → ue). __Sentirse__ ("to feel") is a reflexive verb (Spanish Basic Conversation 2 1) with e → ie in every form except nosotros and vosotros. __Recetar__ ("to prescribe") is a regular __-ar__ verb.

	DOLER (TO HURT)	SENTIRSE (TO FEEL)	RECETAR (TO PRESCRIBE)
yo (I)	—	me siento *meh SYEHN-toh*	receto *reh-THEH-toh*
tú (you, informal)	—	te sientes *teh SYEHN-tehs*	recetas *reh-THEH-tahs*
él, ella, usted; it	duele *DWEH-leh*	se siente *seh SYEHN-teh*	receta *reh-THEH-tah*
nosotros (we)	—	nos sentimos *nohs sehn-TEE-mohs*	recetamos *reh-theh-TAH-mohs*
vosotros (Spain)	—	os sentís *ohs sehn-TEES*	recetáis *reh-theh-TAHYS*
ellos, ellas, ustedes; they	duelen *DWEH-lehn*	se sienten *seh SYEHN-tehn*	recetan *reh-THEH-tahn*

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabulario

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

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	el médico / la médica	*ehl MEH-dee-koh / lah MEH-dee-kah*	doctor	noun
2	la cita	*lah THEE-tah*	appointment	noun
3	el centro de salud	*ehl THEHN-troh deh sah-LOOD*	health centre	noun
4	la farmacia	*lah far-MAH-thyah*	pharmacy	noun

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
5	**la receta**	*lah reh-THEH-tah*	prescription	noun
6	**el medicamento**	*ehl meh-dee-kah-MEHN-toh*	medicine	noun
7	**la pastilla**	*lah pahs-TEE-yah*	tablet	noun
8	**el dolor**	*ehl doh-LOR*	pain	noun
9	**la fiebre**	*lah FYEH-breh*	fever, temperature	noun
10	**la tos**	*lah TOHS*	cough	noun
11	**la cabeza**	*lah kah-BEH-thah*	head	noun
12	**la garganta**	*lah gar-GAHN-tah*	throat	noun
13	**el estómago**	*ehl ehs-TOH-mah-goh*	stomach	noun
14	**la espalda**	*lah ehs-PAHL-dah*	back	noun
15	**doler**	*doh-LEHR*	to hurt	verb
16	**sentirse**	*sehn-TEER-seh*	to feel	verb
17	**recetar**	*reh-theh-TAR*	to prescribe	verb
18	**enfermo / sano**	*ehn-FEHR-moh / SAH-noh*	ill / healthy	adj
19	**desde hace**	*DEHS-deh AH-theh*	for (a period of time)	phrase
20	**¿Qué le pasa?**	*keh leh PAH-sah*	What's the matter?	phrase

The Spanish Health System in Outline

Spain has a public health system (*la sanidad pública*) run through the **Seguridad Social** and the regional health services. Routine care usually starts at your local **centro de salud** with a family doctor, and you often book with *cita previa* (an appointment in advance); emergencies go to the hospital's *urgencias*. Access and the health card (*la tarjeta sanitaria*) depend on your residence

status and the region, so a visitor or a new resident should check the details locally. This is only an outline.

Farmacia de Guardia

Pharmacies (*farmacias*) have regular opening hours, and a **farmacia de guardia** is a duty pharmacy that stays open outside them. A pharmacy that is closed often displays a notice showing which one is on duty nearby. Pharmacists can often advise on small problems, but for anything serious see a doctor. A *receta* is the prescription some medicines require.

Latin America Note

Me duele la cabeza, *tengo fiebre* and *¿Qué le pasa?* work everywhere. Words differ: words for "tablet" and "doctor" vary: *doctor/a* is widely used for a doctor, and *médico/a* is understood everywhere. Health systems, health cards and pharmacy rules are different in each country, so these notes apply to Spain only. Use *ustedes* instead of *vosotros* (*¿Les duele aquí?*).

Grammar Pointer

Doler and the verbs that work like *gustar* are explained in Spanish Grammar 2 7, the indirect object pronouns (*me, te, le, nos, os, les*) in Spanish Grammar 2 9, reflexive verbs such as *sentirse* in Spanish Grammar 2 6, and stem-changing verbs 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. Say: "My head hurts and I have a temperature."

▼ Show answer

Me duele la cabeza y tengo fiebre.

2. Choose *duele* or *duelen*: "Me ____ el estómago." · "Me ____ los pies." · "Te ____ la espalda." · "Le ____ las manos."

▼ Show answer

duele · duelen · duele · duelen. (One thing: *duele*; several: *duelen*.)

3. Say: "It has hurt for three days." and ask a patient, formally, "Since when does it hurt?"

▼ Show answer

Me duele desde hace tres días. · ¿Desde cuándo le duele?

4. Phone the health centre: ask for an appointment as soon as possible.

▼ Show answer

Buenos días. Quisiera pedir cita con el médico lo antes posible, por favor.

5. In a pharmacy, ask for something for a headache, then ask whether you need a prescription.

▼ Show answer

¿Tiene algo para el dolor de cabeza? ¿Necesito receta?

6. Complete with the right pronoun: "A mí ____ duele la espalda." · "A ti ____ duelen los pies." · "A ella ____ duele la cabeza." · "A nosotros ____ duele la garganta."

▼ Show answer

me · te · le · nos.

Coming Up in Chapter 9

Talking about the past: **ayer, la semana pasada, el año pasado**, the **preterite** (*fui, comí, vi*), and talking about a weekend.

⏪ Talking About the Past — Ayer y el fin de semana pasado

*Until now you have talked about the present and the near future. This chapter introduces the **preterite**, the main Spanish tense for finished events in the past: ayer comí en un restaurante, el sábado fui al cine. You learn the regular endings, the irregular verbs you need most (**ir / ser, hacer, tener, estar**) and the time words that go with it (ayer, anoche, la semana pasada). Each dialog has a **Hard words** note; the respelling is in the tables.*

① Yesterday (formal) — ¿Qué hizo ayer?

A:

Buenos días, señor Pérez. ¿Qué hizo usted ayer?

Good morning, Mr Pérez. What did you do yesterday?

B:

Ayer trabajé por la mañana y comí con unos clientes.

Yesterday I worked in the morning and had lunch with some clients.

A:

¿Y por la tarde?

And in the afternoon?

B:

Volví a casa a las seis y cené con mi familia.

I went back home at six and had dinner with my family.

Hard words: *hizo (you did; from hacer), trabajé (I worked), comí (I ate), volví (I came back), cené*

② Last Weekend (informal) — ¿Qué tal el fin de semana?

A:

¿Qué hiciste el fin de semana pasado?

What did you do last weekend?

B:

El sábado fui al cine con unos amigos y vimos una película.

On Saturday I went to the cinema with some friends and we saw a film.

A:

¿Y el domingo?

And on Sunday?

B:

Me levanté tarde y no hice nada especial.

I got up late and didn't do anything special.

Hard words: *hiciste (you did), fui (I went), vimos (we saw), me levanté (I got up), no hice nada (I did nothing), especial (special).*

(I had dinner), los clientes (clients).

③ A Trip — Estuvimos en Granada

A:

¿Dónde estuvisteis en vacaciones?

Where were you on holiday?

B:

Estuvimos una semana en Granada.

We were in Granada for a week.

A:

¿Qué tal fue el viaje?

How was the trip?

B:

Fue estupendo. Visitamos la Alhambra y comimos muy bien.

It was wonderful. We visited the Alhambra and ate very well.

Hard words: *las vacaciones (holiday), estuvisteis (you (plural) were), fue (it was), estupendo/a (wonderful), visitamos (we visited), la Alhambra (the famous palace in Granada).*

④ Last Year (formal) — El año pasado

A:

Perdone, ¿dónde vivió usted el año pasado?

Excuse me, where did you live last year?

B:

Viví en Valencia, pero en enero me mudé a Madrid.

I lived in Valencia, but in January I moved to Madrid.

A:

¿Por qué se mudó?

Why did you move?

B:

Porque tuve una oferta de trabajo muy buena.

Because I had a very good job offer.

Hard words: *viví (I lived), me mudé (I moved house; set phrase for now), tuve (I had; from tener), la oferta de trabajo (job offer), el año pasado (last year).*

⑤ A Bad Evening — Anoche no dormí

A:

Tienes mala cara. ¿Qué pasó anoche?

You look unwell. What happened last night?

B:

⑥ Catching Up (casual) — Pues yo...

A:

¡Hola! ¿Qué tal? ¿Qué hiciste ayer?

Hi! How are you? What did you do yesterday?

B:

Pues fui al gimnasio, luego comí en casa y después vi una serie.

No dormí bien. Hubo mucho ruido en la calle.

I didn't sleep well. There was a lot of noise in the street.

A:

¿Y a qué hora te acostaste?

And what time did you go to bed?

B:

A las doce, pero me desperté a las tres.

At twelve, but I woke up at three.

Hard words: *anoche (last night), dormí (I slept; dormir), hubo (there was; from haber, set word for now), el ruido (noise), me desperté (I woke up), ¿qué pasó? (what happened?).*

Well, I went to the gym, then I ate at home and afterwards I watched a series.

A:

¡Qué tranquilo! Yo salí con mis compañeros y volví a las tres.

How relaxed! I went out with my colleagues and came back at three.

B:

¡Uf! Hoy tienes que estar cansadísimo.

Phew! Today you must be exhausted.

Hard words: *salí (I went out), vi (I watched, saw), luego (then), cansadísimo (very tired; set word for now), ¡Uf! (phew!).*

Key Phrases — Frases clave

ENGLISH	FORMAL (USTED)	INFORMAL (TÚ)
What did you do yesterday?	**¿Qué hizo ayer?** *keh EE-thoh ah-YEHR*	**¿Qué hiciste ayer?** *keh ee-THEES-teh ah-YEHR*
Where were you on holiday?	**¿Dónde estuvo de vacaciones?** *DOHN-deh ehs-TOO-boh deh bah-kah-THYOH-nehs*	**¿Dónde estuviste de vacaciones?** *DOHN-deh ehs-too-BEES-teh deh bah-kah-THYOH-nehs*
I went to the cinema on Saturday.	**El sábado fui al cine.** *ehl SAH-bah-doh FWEE ahl THEE-neh*	
How was the trip?	**¿Qué tal fue el viaje?** *keh TAHL FWEH ehl BYAH-kheh*	
I didn't do anything.	**No hice nada.** *noh EE-theh NAH-dah*	

⏰ Past Time Words — Palabras del pasado

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
ayer	*ah-YEHR*	yesterday
anoche	*ah-NOH-cheh*	last night
anteayer	*ahn-teh-ah-YEHR*	the day before yesterday
la semana pasada	*lah seh-MAH-nah pah-SAH-dah*	last week
el fin de semana pasado	*ehl FEEN deh seh-MAH-nah pah-SAH-doh*	last weekend
el mes pasado / el año pasado	*ehl MEHS pah-SAH-doh / ehl AH-nyoh pah-SAH-doh*	last month / last year
hace dos días	*AH-theh dohs DEE-ahs*	two days ago
en enero / el sábado	*ehn eh-NEH-roh / ehl SAH-bah-doh*	in January / on Saturday

THE PRETERITE: A FINISHED EVENT; HACE = AGO

Use the **preterite** for events that are *finished*: *Ayer trabajé, El sábado fui al cine.* **Pasado/a** follows the noun and agrees with it (*la semana pasada, el año pasado*). **Hace** + time means "ago": *hace dos días* ("two days ago"); do not confuse it with *desde hace* ("for", Spanish Basic Conversation 2 8), which goes with the present tense. Spanish has another past tense for habits and descriptions (the imperfect); this chapter covers the preterite only.

🖍️ Regular Preterite Endings

	-AR (HABLAR)	-ER (COMER)	-IR (VIVIR)
yo (I)	hablé *ah-BLEH*	comí *koh-MEE*	viví *bee-BEE*
tú (you, informal)	hablaste *ah-BLAHS-teh*	comiste *koh-MEES-teh*	viviste *bee-BEES-teh*
él, ella, usted	habló *ah-BLOH*	comió *koh-MYOH*	vivió *bee-BYOH*
nosotros (we)	hablamos *ah-BLAH-mohs*	comimos *koh-MEE-mohs*	vivimos *bee-BEE-mohs*
vosotros (Spain)	hablasteis *ah-BLAHS-tays*	comisteis *koh-MEES-tays*	vivisteis *bee-BEES-tays*
ellos, ellas, ustedes	hablaron *ah-BLAH-rohn*	comieron *koh-MYEH-rohn*	vivieron *bee-BYEH-rohn*

TWO SETS OF ENDINGS, AND THE ACCENTS MATTER

Take off *-ar / -er / -ir* and add the endings above. **-er** and **-ir** verbs share the same endings (*comí, viví*). The **accent** on *yo* and *él* forms changes the meaning: *habló* (he spoke) against *hablo* (I speak); *hablé* (I spoke). The *nosotros* form of *-ar* and *-ir* verbs looks the same in the present and the preterite (*hablamos, vivimos*); context tells you which (*ayer hablamos*). The full rules, with spelling changes, are in Spanish Grammar 3 3.

🔤 Verbs — Ir / ser, hacer, estar

*Four verbs you need immediately are irregular in the preterite. **Ir** ("to go") and **ser** ("to be") have **identical** forms (fui = "I went" or "I was"); context tells you which. **Hacer** ("to do") and **estar** ("to be somewhere") have new stems. **Tener** ("to have") works like estar: tuve, tuviste, tuvo, tuvimos, tuvisteis, tuvieron.*

	IR / SER (WENT / WAS)	HACER (DID / MADE)	ESTAR (WAS, BEEN)
yo (I)	fui *FWEE*	hice *EE-theh*	estuve *ehs-TOO-beh*
tú (you, informal)	fuiste *FWEES-teh*	hiciste *ee-THEES-teh*	estuviste *ehs-too-BEES-teh*
él, ella, usted	fue *FWEH*	hizo *EE-thoh*	estuvo *ehs-TOO-boh*
nosotros (we)	fuimos *FWEE-mohs*	hicimos *ee-THEE-mohs*	estuvimos *ehs-too-BEE-mohs*
vosotros (Spain)	fuisteis *FWEES-tays*	hicisteis *ee-THEES-tays*	estuvisteis *ehs-too-BEES-tays*
ellos, ellas, ustedes	fueron *FWEH-rohn*	hicieron *ee-THYEH-rohn*	estuvieron *ehs-too-BYEH-rohn*

NO ACCENTS ON THE IRREGULARS

The irregular forms of *ir / ser, hacer, estar, tener* carry **no written accent** in the preterite (*fui, hice, estuve*), unlike the regular *yo* and *él* forms (*hablé, habló*). In *hacer*, the *él* form is spelled **hizo** (the *c* becomes *z* to keep the "th" sound). *Ver* is regular in sound but written without accents: *vi, viste, vio, vimos, visteis, vieron*. All the irregular verbs are covered in Spanish Grammar 3 4.

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabulario

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

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	ayer	*ah-YEHR*	yesterday	adv
2	anoche	*ah-NOH-cheh*	last night	adv

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
3	**pasado**	*pah-SAH-doh*	last, past	adj
4	**hace + time**	*AH-theh*	… ago	phrase
5	**las vacaciones**	*lahs bah-kah-THYOH-nehs*	holiday(s)	noun
6	**el viaje**	*ehl BYAH-kheh*	trip	noun
7	**la película**	*lah peh-LEE-koo-lah*	film	noun
8	**el ruido**	*ehl RWEE-doh*	noise	noun
9	**hablar**	*ah-BLAR*	to speak	verb
10	**trabajar**	*trah-bah-KHAR*	to work	verb
11	**comer**	*koh-MEHR*	to eat	verb
12	**vivir**	*bee-BEER*	to live	verb
13	**salir**	*sah-LEER*	to go out, to leave	verb
14	**visitar**	*bee-see-TAR*	to visit	verb
15	**volver**	*bohl-BEHR*	to come back	verb
16	**ir / ser**	*EER / SEHR*	to go / to be	verb
17	**hacer**	*ah-THEHR*	to do, make	verb
18	**estar**	*ehs-TAR*	to be (somewhere)	verb
19	**tener**	*teh-NEHR*	to have	verb
20	**¿Qué tal fue…?**	*keh TAHL FWEH*	how was…?	phrase

Telling a Weekend Story

To tell what you did, use the preterite for each event and link them with *luego*, *después* and *por la tarde*: *El sábado fui al gimnasio. Luego comí en casa. Por la tarde vi una película.* To start a

conversation ask *¿Qué hiciste el fin de semana?* and answer with the same verb pattern. The question *¿Qué tal fue…?* invites an opinion.

Spain and the Present Perfect

In Spain people also use the **present perfect** (*he comido, he ido*) for very recent events, for example *Esta mañana he trabajado mucho*. Many Latin American speakers use the preterite instead (*Esta mañana trabajé mucho*). Both are correct; this chapter teaches the preterite. The present perfect is in Spanish Grammar 3 7.

Latin America Note

The preterite forms are the same everywhere. Instead of *vosotros* (*¿Dónde estuvisteis?*), Latin American Spanish uses *ustedes* (*¿Dónde estuvieron?*). As mentioned above, many speakers there use the simple preterite where Spain might use the present perfect.

Grammar Pointer

The regular preterite and its spelling changes are in Spanish Grammar 3 3, the irregular preterites (*fui, hice, tuve, estuve*) in Spanish Grammar 3 4, and the choice between preterite and imperfect in Spanish Grammar 3 6. Use them as a reference after this chapter.

✍️ Try It Yourself — Ejercicios

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

1. Say: "Yesterday I worked in the morning and ate at home."

▼ Show answer

Ayer trabajé por la mañana y comí en casa.

2. Complete in the preterite: "Ellos ____ al cine." (ir) · "Nosotros ____ en Granada." (estar) · "Ella ____ una película." (ver) · "Yo ____ mucho." (hablar)

▼ Show answer

fueron · estuvimos · vio · hablé.

3. Ask a friend what they did last weekend, then ask a strander (*usted*) where they were on holiday.

▼ Show answer

¿Qué hiciste el fin de semana pasado? · ¿Dónde estuvo de vacaciones?

4. Choose the right word: "Hablo / Habló con mi jefe ayer (he)." · "Comí / Comió en un bar (I)." · "Vivimos / Vivieron en Madrid (they)."

▼ Show answer

Habló · Comí · Vivieron. (The accent shows the past: *habló* against *hablo*.)

5. Say: "Two days ago I went to the gym with my colleagues, and then I came back home."

▼ Show answer

Hace dos días fui al gimnasio con mis compañeros y luego volví a casa.

6. Tell your own weekend in three sentences with *el sábado*, *el domingo* and *luego*.

▼ Show an example

El sábado fui al cine con unos amigos. Luego cenamos en un restaurante. El domingo me levanté tarde y no hice nada especial.

Coming Up in Chapter 10

Phone calls and appointments: **diga, oiga, ¿puedo hablar con…?, reservar una cita**, leaving a message, and spelling aloud (**B de Barcelona**).

📞 Phone Calls & Appointments — Al teléfono

*A phone call is harder than a face-to-face chat because you cannot see the other person. This chapter gives you the set phrases to answer a call, ask for someone, say who you are, leave a message, book an appointment and **spell your name aloud**. The new grammar is **polite requests** with **¿podría…?** and **¿puede…?** as set phrases, and the commands **diga, dígame, oiga, espere** that you will hear on the phone. It adds **llamar**, **esperar** and **decir**. Each dialog has a **Hard words** note; the respelling is in the tables.*

① Answering (formal) — Diga

A:

Clínica Sol, buenos días. Dígame.

Clínica Sol, good morning. How can I help you?

B:

Buenos días. Quisiera pedir una cita, por favor.

Good morning. I'd like to make an appointment, please.

A:

¿Para qué día?

For which day?

B:

Para el jueves por la tarde, si es posible.

For Thursday afternoon, if possible.

***Hard words:** Dígame ("tell me", the usual way to answer in a business), la clínica, pedir una cita (to make an appointment), si es posible (if possible).*

② Asking for Someone (formal) — ¿Puedo hablar con…?

A:

Buenas tardes. ¿Puedo hablar con la señora Ruiz, por favor?

Good afternoon. Can I speak to Mrs Ruiz, please?

B:

¿De parte de quién?

Who's calling?

A:

De parte de Philip Smith, de la empresa Vega.

It's Philip Smith, from the company Vega.

B:

Un momento, no cuelgue. Ahora se pone.

One moment, don't hang up. She'll come to the phone now.

***Hard words:** ¿De parte de quién? (who's calling?), la empresa (company), no cuelgue (don't*

hang up; set phrase for now), ahora se pone (she'll come to the phone now; set phrase for now).

③ Not Available — Dejar un mensaje

A:

Lo siento, no está ahora. ¿Quiere dejarle un mensaje?

I'm sorry, she isn't in at the moment. Would you like to leave her a message?

B:

Sí, por favor. Dígale que llamó Philip Smith.

Yes, please. Tell her that Philip Smith called.

A:

¿Me da su número de teléfono?

Can you give me your phone number?

B:

Sí, es el seiscientos doce, treinta y cuatro, cincuenta y seis, setenta y ocho.

Yes, it's 612 34 56 78.

Hard words: *el mensaje (message), dejar (to leave), dígale que (tell him/her that; set phrase for now), llamó (called; past of llamar), el número de teléfono (phone number).*

④ Spelling a Name — B de Barcelona

A:

¿Cómo se escribe su apellido?

How do you spell your surname?

B:

Se escribe B de Barcelona, A, R, R, I, O, S.

It's B as in Barcelona, A, R, R, I, O, S.

A:

Barrios. ¿Con una o con dos erres?

Barrios. With one or two r's?

B:

Con dos erres. Y se escribe con ese final.

With two r's. And it's written with a final s.

Hard words: *el apellido (surname), ¿Cómo se escribe? (how is it spelled?), erre (the letter r; double r), ese (the letter s), final (final).*

⑤ Changing an Appointment (formal) — ¿Podría cambiar la cita?

A:

Buenos días. Tengo una cita el martes, pero no puedo ir. ¿Podría cambiarla?

⑥ A Friend (casual) — ¿Me oyes?

A:

¿Hola? ¿Me oyes? Hay mala cobertura.

Hello? Can you hear me? The signal is bad.

B:

Good morning. I have an appointment on Tuesday, but I can't go. Could I change it?

B:

Claro. ¿Le va bien el miércoles a las once?

Of course. Does Wednesday at eleven suit you?

A:

Sí, perfecto. ¿Podría repetir la hora, por favor?

Yes, perfect. Could you repeat the time, please?

B:

El miércoles a las once. Gracias por llamar.

Wednesday at eleven. Thanks for calling.

Hard words: *¿Podría...? (could I / could you...?; set phrase for now), cambiar (to change), repetir (to repeat), ¿Le va bien...? (does it suit you...?; set phrase for now), cambiarla (change it; set phrase for now).*

Ahora sí. ¿Dónde estás?

Now I can. Where are you?

A:

En el tren. Te llamo luego, ¿vale?

On the train. I'll call you later, OK?

B:

Vale. Espero tu llamada. Un beso.

OK. I'll wait for your call. Bye (a kiss).

Hard words: *oír (to hear; set phrase for now), la cobertura (signal), llamar (to call), la llamada (call), un beso (a kiss; a friendly sign-off), esperar (to wait).*

Key Phrases — Frases clave

ENGLISH	SPANISH
Hello? (answering)	**Diga. / Dígame. / ¿Sí?** *DEE-gah / DEE-gah-meh / SEE*
Can I speak to...?	**¿Puedo hablar con...?** *PWEH-doh ah-BLAR kohn*
Who's calling?	**¿De parte de quién?** *deh PAR-teh deh KYEHN*

ENGLISH	SPANISH
It's Philip.	**Soy Philip. / De parte de Philip.** *soy FEE-leep / deh PAR-teh deh FEE-leep*
One moment, please.	**Un momento, por favor.** *oon moh-MEHN-toh por fah-BOR*
Can I leave a message?	**¿Puedo dejarle un mensaje?** *PWEH-doh deh-KHAR-leh oon mehn-SAH-kheh*
Could you repeat that, please?	**¿Podría repetirlo, por favor?** *poh-DREE-ah reh-peh-TEER-loh por fah-BOR*

DIGA, DÍGAME, OIGA: COMMANDS ON THE PHONE

On the phone you hear commands in the *usted* form: **diga / dígame** ("tell me", used to answer), **espere** ("wait") and **oiga** ("listen, excuse me"). They are polite in this setting. Learn them as set phrases: the full formation of commands is in Spanish Grammar 3 11. **Dígale** ("tell him / her") adds *le* to the end of *diga*, and the accent keeps the stress where it was.

Polite requests with ¿Podría...?

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
¿Podría repetir, por favor?	*poh-DREE-ah reh-peh-TEER por fah-BOR*	Could you repeat, please?
¿Podría hablar más despacio?	*poh-DREE-ah ah-BLAR mahs dehs-PAH-thyoh*	Could you speak more slowly?
¿Podría cambiar la cita?	*poh-DREE-ah kahm-BYAR lah THEE-tah*	Could I change the appointment?
¿Puede esperar un momento?	*PWEH-deh ehs-peh-RAR oon moh-MEHN-toh*	Can you wait a moment?

¿PODRÍA...? IS A SOFTER ¿PUEDE...?

¿Puede…? ("can you…?") is polite, and **¿Podría…?** ("could you…?") is a little softer and very common on the phone. Both are followed by an **infinitive**. For now treat *podría* as a ready-made form; it is the conditional of *poder*, which you meet in Spanish Grammar 3 10. In casual speech with friends, *¿Puedes…?* is fine.

🔤 Spelling Aloud — El alfabeto

LETTER	NAME	SAY IT	LETTER	NAME	SAY IT
A	a	*ah*	N	ene	*EH-neh*
B	be	*beh*	Ñ	eñe	*EH-nyeh*
C	ce	*theh*	O	o	*oh*
D	de	*deh*	P	pe	*peh*
E	e	*eh*	Q	cu	*koo*
F	efe	*EH-feh*	R	erre	*EH-rreh*
G	ge	*kheh*	S	ese	*EH-seh*
H	hache	*AH-cheh*	T	te	*teh*
I	i	*ee*	U	u	*oo*
J	jota	*KHOH-tah*	V	uve	*OO-beh*
K	ka	*kah*	W	uve doble	*OO-beh DOH-bleh*
L	ele	*EH-leh*	X	equis	*EH-kees*
M	eme	*EH-meh*	Y	i griega	*ee GRYEH-gah*
			Z	zeta	*THEH-tah*

"B DE BARCELONA": SPELLING WITH PLACE NAMES

When the line is bad, speakers often add a word for each letter: **B de Barcelona**, **M de Madrid**, **S de Sevilla**, **Z de Zaragoza**, **V de Valencia**. There is no single official list, and people use whichever familiar name comes to mind (towns, first names), so you will meet different words. Useful questions: *¿Cómo se escribe?*, *¿Con be o con uve?* (because *b* and *v* sound the same), and *¿Con hache?* (because *h* is silent). A double *rr* is "*erre erre*" or "*doble erre*". An email address uses *arroba* (@) and *punto* (.).

🔤 Verbs — Llamar, esperar, decir

__Llamar__ ("to call") and __esperar__ ("to wait; to hope") are regular __-ar__ verbs. __Decir__ ("to say, to tell") is irregular: yo digo, and e → i in dices, dice, dicen.

	LLAMAR (TO CALL)	ESPERAR (TO WAIT)	DECIR (TO SAY, TELL)
yo (I)	llamo *YAH-moh*	espero *ehs-PEH-roh*	digo *DEE-goh*
tú (you, informal)	llamas *YAH-mahs*	esperas *ehs-PEH-rahs*	dices *DEE-thehs*
él, ella, usted	llama *YAH-mah*	espera *ehs-PEH-rah*	dice *DEE-theh*
nosotros (we)	llamamos *yah-MAH-mohs*	esperamos *ehs-peh-RAH-mohs*	decimos *deh-THEE-mohs*
vosotros (Spain)	llamáis *yah-MAHYS*	esperáis *ehs-peh-RAHYS*	decís *deh-THEES*
ellos, ellas, ustedes	llaman *YAH-mahn*	esperan *ehs-PEH-rahn*	dicen *DEE-thehn*

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabulario

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

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	**el teléfono**	*ehl teh-LEH-foh-noh*	telephone	noun
2	**el móvil**	*ehl MOH-beel*	mobile phone	noun
3	**la llamada**	*lah yah-MAH-dah*	call	noun
4	**el mensaje**	*ehl mehn-SAH-kheh*	message	noun
5	**el número**	*ehl NOO-meh-roh*	number	noun
6	**la cita**	*lah THEE-tah*	appointment	noun
7	**la empresa**	*lah ehm-PREH-sah*	company	noun
8	**el apellido**	*ehl ah-peh-YEE-doh*	surname	noun
9	**la cobertura**	*lah koh-behr-TOO-rah*	signal, coverage	noun
10	**llamar**	*yah-MAR*	to call	verb
11	**esperar**	*ehs-peh-RAR*	to wait; to hope	verb
12	**decir**	*deh-THEER*	to say, to tell	verb
13	**dejar**	*deh-KHAR*	to leave (something)	verb
14	**repetir**	*reh-peh-TEER*	to repeat	verb
15	**escribir**	*ehs-kree-BEER*	to write; to spell	verb
16	**cambiar**	*kahm-BYAR*	to change	verb
17	**más despacio**	*MAHS dehs-PAH-thyoh*	more slowly	adv
18	**¿De parte de quién?**	*deh PAR-teh deh KYEHN*	who's calling?	phrase
19	**un momento**	*oon moh-MEHN-toh*	one moment	phrase
20	**¿Podría…?**	*poh-DREE-ah*	could you / could I…?	phrase

Answering the Phone in Spain

In Spain the phone is usually answered with **Diga** or **Dígame** (*¿Sí?* is also common), often followed by the name of the business: *Clínica Sol, dígame*. Both sound natural on the phone even though "tell me" would be abrupt face to face. Give your name early (*Soy…* or *De parte de…*), and say your phone number in groups of two or three digits (Spanish Basic Conversation 1 3).

Making an Appointment

A short, polite call has a pattern: greeting, *Quisiera pedir cita…*, the day and time, your name (spelled if needed) and your phone number, and a final *Gracias, hasta luego*. If the line is bad or you do not understand, say *¿Podría repetir, por favor?* or *Más despacio, por favor*. It is perfectly normal to ask.

Latin America Note

The way of answering the phone varies by country: *Diga / Dígame* is typical of Spain, *¿Bueno?* is common in Mexico, and *¿Aló?* in many other Latin American countries. A "mobile phone" is *el móvil* in Spain but *el celular* in most of Latin America. *¿Puedo hablar con…?* and *¿De parte de quién?* work widely. Letter names also vary a little: *uve* in Spain is often *ve* or *ve corta* in Latin America.

Grammar Pointer

The commands *diga, espere, oiga* are explained in Spanish Grammar 3 11, the conditional *podría* in Spanish Grammar 3 10, and *decir* and the irregular *yo* forms in Spanish Grammar 2 4. Use them as a reference after this chapter.

✍️ Try It Yourself — Ejercicios

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

1. You are answering the phone at a company called Vega. What do you say?

▼ Show answer

Empresa Vega, buenos días. Dígame.

2. Ask to speak to Mrs Ruiz, and say who you are (Philip).

▼ Show answer

¿Puedo hablar con la señora Ruiz, por favor? Soy Philip. (or *De parte de Philip*.)

3. Ask to leave a message, and give your phone number: 612 34 56 78.

▼ Show answer

¿Puedo dejarle un mensaje? Mi número es el seiscientos doce, treinta y cuatro, cincuenta y seis, setenta y ocho.

4. Spell the name "Vega" aloud with the letter names.

▼ Show answer

uve, e, ge, a (or with place names: V de Valencia, E de Enrique, G de Granada, A de Almería).

5. The line is bad. Ask the other person to repeat, and to speak more slowly.

▼ Show answer

¿Podría repetir, por favor? ¿Podría hablar más despacio?

6. Ring a clinic: ask for an appointment on Thursday afternoon, and say that you can't come on Tuesday.

▼ Show answer

Quisiera pedir una cita para el jueves por la tarde. El martes no puedo.

Coming Up in Chapter 11

Giving opinions and preferences: **creo que, en mi opinión, me parece que, no estoy de acuerdo**, **preferir**, **yo también / yo tampoco**, and **porque**.

Opinions & Preferences — Opiniones y preferencias

*You can now describe, plan and talk about the past. This chapter lets you say what you **think** and what you **prefer**, agree or disagree politely, and give a reason with **porque**. The new patterns are **creo que, me parece que, en mi opinión, estoy de acuerdo / no estoy de acuerdo** and the echo answers **yo también, yo tampoco, a mí también, a mí tampoco**. It adds **creer, pensar** and **opinar**. Each dialog has a **Hard words** note; the respelling is in the tables.*

① A Film (informal) — ¿Qué te parece?

A:

¿Qué te parece la película?

What do you think of the film?

B:

Creo que es muy buena, pero un poco larga.

I think it's very good, but a bit long.

A:

Estoy de acuerdo. A mí me gusta más el final.

I agree. I like the ending best.

B:

Pues a mí me parece un poco triste.

Well, to me it seems a bit sad.

***Hard words:** ¿Qué te parece...? (what do you think of...?), largo/a (long), el final (ending), triste (sad), más (more, most).*

② Agreeing and Disagreeing (formal) — No estoy de acuerdo

A:

En mi opinión, el transporte público es muy caro.

In my opinion, public transport is very expensive.

B:

Lo siento, no estoy de acuerdo. Me parece bastante barato.

I'm sorry, I don't agree. It seems fairly cheap to me.

A:

¿Por qué piensa eso?

Why do you think that?

B:

Porque en mi ciudad cuesta mucho más.

Because in my city it costs a lot more.

***Hard words:** en mi opinión (in my opinion), el transporte público, bastante (fairly), pensar (to think; e → ie), eso (that).*

③ Yo También — Echoing

A:

Yo trabajo mucho los fines de semana.

I work a lot at weekends.

B:

Yo también. Y no tengo mucho tiempo libre.

Me too. And I don't have much free time.

A:

Yo tampoco. Pero el domingo siempre descanso.

Neither do I. But on Sundays I always rest.

B:

Yo no. Los domingos hago la compra y limpio la casa.

I don't. On Sundays I do the shopping and clean the house.

Hard words: *yo también (me too), yo tampoco (neither do I), yo no (I don't), hacer la compra (to do the shopping), limpiar (to clean).*

④ Preferences — Prefiero el té

A:

¿Qué prefieres, el café o el té?

Which do you prefer, coffee or tea?

B:

Prefiero el té al café. El café me pone nervioso.

I prefer tea to coffee. Coffee makes me nervous.

A:

A mí me gustan los dos, pero prefiero el café por la mañana.

I like both, but I prefer coffee in the morning.

B:

Entonces, vamos a tomar un café y un té.

Then let's have a coffee and a tea.

Hard words: *preferir A a B (to prefer A to B), los dos (both), nervioso/a (nervous), me pone nervioso (it makes me nervous; set phrase for now), entonces (then).*

⑤ Cities (formal) — ¿Qué opina usted?

A:

¿Qué opina usted de Madrid?

What do you think of Madrid?

B:

Pienso que es una ciudad muy animada, pero demasiado grande para mí.

I think it's a very lively city, but too big for me.

⑥ Friends Debate (casual) — Depende

A:

¿Crees que el fútbol es el mejor deporte?

Do you think football is the best sport?

B:

Creo que sí, porque es muy divertido. ¿Y tú?

I think so, because it's a lot of fun. And you?

A:

¿Prefiere las ciudades pequeñas?

Do you prefer small cities?

B:

Sí, me parece que se vive mejor en una ciudad pequeña.

Yes, it seems to me that life is better in a small city.

Hard words: *opinar (to have an opinion), animado/a (lively), demasiado (too), para mí (for me), se vive mejor (one lives better; set phrase for now).*

A:

Yo creo que no. A mí me gusta más el tenis.

I don't think so. I like tennis more.

B:

Bueno, depende. A mí también me gusta el tenis, pero prefiero jugar al fútbol.

Well, it depends. I like tennis too, but I prefer playing football.

Hard words: *creer (to believe, to think), creo que sí / creo que no (I think so / I don't think so), el mejor (the best), depende (it depends), bueno (well).*

Key Phrases — Frases clave

ENGLISH	SPANISH
I think that...	**Creo que... / Pienso que...** *KREH-oh keh / PYEHN-soh keh*
It seems to me that...	**Me parece que...** *meh pah-REH-theh keh*
In my opinion...	**En mi opinión...** *ehn mee oh-pee-NYOHN*
I agree. / I don't agree.	**Estoy de acuerdo. / No estoy de acuerdo.** *ehs-TOY deh ah-KWEHR-doh / noh ehs-TOY deh ah-KWEHR-doh*
What do you think (of...)?	**¿Qué te parece...? / ¿Qué opina usted de...?** *keh teh pah-REH-theh / keh oh-PEE-nah oos-TEHD deh*
I prefer tea to coffee.	**Prefiero el té al café.** *preh-FYEH-roh ehl TEH ahl kah-FEH*

CREO QUE + A NORMAL VERB; "NO CREO" COMES LATER

After **creo que**, **pienso que** and **me parece que** use the ordinary present tense: *Creo que es muy buena.* To answer "do you think so?" say **creo que sí** (I think so) or **creo que no** (I don't think so). The pattern *no creo que* + a different verb form (the subjunctive) is introduced later; for now, say *creo que no*. With a noun, use *me parece* + noun (*Me parece una buena idea*). Compare Spanish Basic Conversation 2 4.

Agreeing and disagreeing

AGREEING	DISAGREEING
Estoy de acuerdo. (I agree.)	**No estoy de acuerdo.** (I don't agree.)
Tienes razón. (You're right.)	**No sé. / Depende.** (I don't know. / It depends.)
Claro. / Por supuesto. (Of course.)	**Yo no lo veo así.** (I don't see it that way; set phrase for now.)

ESTAR DE ACUERDO: FIXED WITH ESTAR

The phrase is always **estar de acuerdo** ("to be in agreement"), so it changes with the person: *estoy, estás, está, estamos, estáis, están de acuerdo*. To agree *with* someone use **con**: *Estoy de acuerdo contigo* ("I agree with you"), *Estoy de acuerdo con ella*. To disagree politely, soften with *Lo siento, pero…* or *Bueno, depende*, as in the dialogs.

🔁 Yo También, Yo Tampoco, A Mí También

THEY SAY…	YOU AGREE	YOU DISAGREE
Trabajo mucho. (I work a lot.)	**Yo también.** *YOH tahm-BYEHN* (Me too.)	**Yo no.** *YOH noh* (I don't.)
No trabajo los domingos. (I don't work on Sundays.)	**Yo tampoco.** *YOH tahm-POH-koh* (Neither do I.)	**Yo sí.** *YOH SEE* (I do.)
Me gusta el tenis. (I like tennis.)	**A mí también.** *ah MEE tahm-BYEHN* (Me too.)	**A mí no.** *ah MEE noh* (I don't.)

THEY SAY...	YOU AGREE	YOU DISAGREE
No me gusta la leche. (I don't like milk.)	**A mí tampoco.** *ah MEE tahm-POH-koh* (Neither do I.)	**A mí sí.** *ah MEE SEE* (I do.)

TAMBIÉN AND TAMPOCO: YO OR A MÍ

También ("also, too") agrees with a positive statement, and **tampoco** ("neither, either") agrees with a negative one. **Yo no** disagrees with a positive statement and **yo sí** with a negative one. Use **yo** when the verb has a subject, such as *trabajo*. Use **a mí** (or **a ti, a él, a nosotros...**) after verbs that work like *gustar*, such as *me gusta, me parece, me duele* (Spanish Basic Conversation 2 2 and 8). Negation with *tampoco* is in Spanish Grammar 2 8.

Preferring: A to B

SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH
Prefiero el té al café.	*preh-FYEH-roh ehl TEH ahl kah-FEH*	I prefer tea to coffee.
Prefiero jugar al fútbol.	*preh-FYEH-roh khoo-GAR ahl FOOT-bohl*	I prefer playing football.
Me gusta más el tenis.	*meh GOOS-tah mahs ehl TEH-nees*	I like tennis more.
Prefiero las ciudades pequeñas.	*preh-FYEH-roh lahs thyoo-DAH-dehs peh-KEH-nyahs*	I prefer small cities.

🔤 Verbs — Creer, pensar, opinar

__Creer__ ("to believe, to think") and __opinar__ ("to have an opinion") are regular. __Pensar__ ("to think") changes e → ie in every form except nosotros and vosotros. Remember __preferir__ (Spanish Basic Conversation 2 7), which has the same e → ie change.

	CREER (TO BELIEVE)	PENSAR (TO THINK)	OPINAR (TO HAVE AN OPINION)
yo (I)	creo *KREH-oh*	pienso *PYEHN-soh*	opino *oh-PEE-noh*
tú (you, informal)	crees *KREH-ehs*	piensas *PYEHN-sahs*	opinas *oh-PEE-nahs*
él, ella, usted	cree *KREH-eh*	piensa *PYEHN-sah*	opina *oh-PEE-nah*
nosotros (we)	creemos *kreh-EH-mohs*	pensamos *pehn-SAH-mohs*	opinamos *oh-pee-NAH-mohs*
vosotros (Spain)	creéis *kreh-EHYS*	pensáis *pehn-SAHYS*	opináis *oh-pee-NAHYS*
ellos, ellas, ustedes	creen *KREH-ehn*	piensan *PYEHN-sahn*	opinan *oh-PEE-nahn*

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabulario

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

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	la opinión	*lah oh-pee-NYOHN*	opinion	noun
2	la idea	*lah ee-DEH-ah*	idea	noun
3	la razón	*lah rah-THOHN*	reason; being right	noun
4	el final	*ehl fee-NAHL*	ending	noun
5	creer	*kreh-EHR*	to believe, to think	verb
6	pensar	*pehn-SAR*	to think	verb
7	opinar	*oh-pee-NAR*	to give an opinion	verb

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
8	**preferir**	*preh-feh-REER*	to prefer	verb
9	**parecer**	*pah-reh-THEHR*	to seem	verb
10	**estar de acuerdo**	*ehs-TAR deh ah-KWEHR-doh*	to agree	verb
11	**también**	*tahm-BYEHN*	also, too	adv
12	**tampoco**	*tahm-POH-koh*	neither, not either	adv
13	**porque**	*POR-keh*	because	conj
14	**depende**	*deh-PEHN-deh*	it depends	phrase
15	**tener razón**	*teh-NEHR rah-THOHN*	to be right	phrase
16	**el mejor / el peor**	*ehl meh-KHOR / ehl peh-OR*	the best / the worst	adj
17	**animado**	*ah-nee-MAH-doh*	lively	adj
18	**triste**	*TREES-teh*	sad	adj
19	**demasiado**	*deh-mah-SYAH-doh*	too (much)	adv
20	**por supuesto**	*por soo-PWEHS-toh*	of course	phrase

Disagreeing Politely

Spanish speakers can be direct, but a softener keeps the conversation friendly: *Lo siento, pero no estoy de acuerdo*, *Bueno, depende*, *Puede ser, pero...* ("Maybe, but..."), and always give a reason with *porque*. Use *usted* with people you do not know well: *¿Qué opina usted?*. These are general conversation habits, not rules.

Yo También or A Mí También?

Both mean "me too", and learners often swap them. Think of the verb in the sentence you are echoing: *trabajo, vivo, soy* (the subject is *yo*) → **yo también**; *me gusta, me parece, me duele* (the

person is *me*) → **a mí también**. In everyday speech you will also hear a plain *también* or *igualmente*, so a small slip is easily understood.

Latin America Note

The opinion phrases are the same in Latin America. For the plural "you" *ustedes* replaces *vosotros* (*¿Qué opinan ustedes?*). *Vale* is typical of Spain; elsewhere *está bien*, *claro* or *de acuerdo* are used.

Grammar Pointer

Tampoco and double negatives are explained in Spanish Grammar 2 8, *pensar* and *preferir* (*e → ie*) in Spanish Grammar 2 5, and *no creo que* with the subjunctive in Spanish Grammar 4 2. 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 think the film is very good, but a bit long."

▼ Show answer

Creo que la película es muy buena, pero un poco larga.

2. A friend says "Me gusta el tenis." Agree with *a mí también*, then say you don't like football with *a mí no*.

▼ Show answer

A mí también. (Me gusta el tenis.) · A mí no me gusta el fútbol.

3. Choose *yo* or *a mí*: "____ también trabajo los sábados." · "____ tampoco me gusta la leche." · "____ sí vivo en Madrid."

▼ Show answer

Yo · A mí · Yo. (*gustar* takes *a mí*; ordinary verbs take *yo*.)

4. Politely disagree: "I'm sorry, I don't agree. I think public transport is cheap."

▼ Show answer

Lo siento, no estoy de acuerdo. Creo que el transporte público es barato.

5. Say: "I prefer tea to coffee because coffee makes me nervous."

▼ Show answer

Prefiero el té al café porque el café me pone nervioso.

6. Give your own opinion about your city in two sentences and a reason.

▼ Show an example

En mi opinión, Edimburgo es una ciudad preciosa. Prefiero las ciudades pequeñas porque son más tranquilas.

Coming Up in Chapter 12

The last chapter of the course: when things go wrong, with delays, lost items and emergencies: **he perdido, se me ha olvidado, mi tren ha salido, ¡ayuda!, la policía, 112. Course Complete.**

🚨 When Things Go Wrong — Cuando algo sale mal

*The last chapter of the course covers the situations you hope never to need: a delayed or missed train, a lost bag, a theft, and an emergency. You learn how to **ask for help** (¡Ayuda! ¡Ayúdeme!), how to **report what happened** (he perdido..., me han robado...), and the emergency number **112**. It adds **perder**, **olvidar** and **ayudar**, and ends with a **Course Complete** recap. Each dialog has a **Hard words** note; the respelling is in the tables. This chapter teaches language; in a real emergency, call the emergency number first.*

① A Missed Train (formal) — Mi tren ha salido

A:

Perdone, he perdido el tren de las diez. ¿Qué puedo hacer?

Excuse me, I've missed the ten o'clock train. What can I do?

B:

Hay otro tren a las doce. Puede cambiar el billete aquí.

There's another train at twelve. You can change the ticket here.

A:

¿Tengo que pagar algo más?

Do I have to pay anything extra?

B:

Sí, tiene que pagar la diferencia. Son diez euros.

Yes, you have to pay the difference. It's ten euros.

② A Delay — El tren llega con retraso

A:

Perdone, ¿por qué hay tanto retraso?

Excuse me, why is there such a long delay?

B:

Hay un problema técnico. El tren sale con media hora de retraso.

There's a technical problem. The train leaves half an hour late.

A:

Entonces voy a llegar tarde a mi cita.

Then I'm going to be late for my appointment.

B:

Lo siento mucho. Puede llamar para avisar.

I'm very sorry. You can call to let them know.

Hard words: *el retraso (delay), técnico/a (technical), con media hora de retraso (half an*

Hard words: *he perdido (I've missed / lost; perder, set phrase for now), cambiar el billete (to change the ticket), la diferencia (the difference), ¿Qué puedo hacer? (what can I do?).*

hour late), avisar (to let someone know), llegar tarde (to arrive late).

③ A Lost Bag — He perdido la mochila

A:

Buenos días. He perdido mi mochila.

Good morning. I've lost my rucksack.

B:

¿Dónde la perdió y cómo es?

Where did you lose it and what is it like?

A:

La olvidé en el autobús. Es negra y pequeña.

I left it on the bus. It's black and small.

B:

Déjeme su nombre y su teléfono. Si la encontramos, le llamamos.

Leave me your name and phone number. If we find it, we'll call you.

Hard words: *la mochila (rucksack), olvidé (I left, forgot; olvidar), negro/a (black), déjeme (let me / leave me; set phrase for now), encontrar (to find; o → ue), le llamamos (we'll call you; set phrase for now).*

④ A Theft (formal) — Me han robado

A:

Buenas tardes. Me han robado la cartera.

Good afternoon. My wallet has been stolen.

B:

¿Cuándo y dónde pasó?

When and where did it happen?

A:

Hace una hora, en el metro. Tenía el pasaporte y las tarjetas.

An hour ago, on the metro. I had my passport and cards in it.

B:

Tiene que hacer una denuncia. Siéntese, por favor.

You have to make a report. Please sit down.

Hard words: *me han robado (has been stolen from me; set phrase for now), la cartera (wallet), tenía (I had; set word for now), la denuncia (police report), siéntese (sit down; set phrase for now), pasar (to happen).*

⑤ Asking for Help — ¡Ayúdeme!

A:

¡Ayuda! ¡Ayúdeme, por favor!

Help! Help me, please!

⑥ Forgotten Keys (casual) — Se me han olvidado las llaves

A:

B:

¿Qué pasa? ¿Está usted bien?

What's happening? Are you all right?

A:

Mi amigo está enfermo. ¡Llame a una ambulancia!

My friend is ill. Call an ambulance!

B:

Ahora mismo llamo al 112. ¡Tranquilo, por favor!

I'm calling 112 right now. Stay calm, please!

Hard words: *¡Ayuda! (help!), ayudar (to help), ¡Llame! (call!; a command, set phrase for now), la ambulancia, el 112 (the emergency number), ¡Tranquilo! (stay calm!), ¿Qué pasa? (what's happening?).*

¡Qué desastre! Se me han olvidado las llaves en casa.

What a disaster! I've left my keys at home.

B:

Tranquilo. ¿Tienes un compañero de piso?

Don't worry. Have you got a flatmate?

A:

Sí, pero no contesta el teléfono.

Yes, but he's not answering the phone.

B:

Pues vamos a tomar un café y lo llamas luego.

Well, let's have a coffee and you can call him later.

Hard words: *¡Qué desastre! (what a disaster!), se me han olvidado (I've forgotten; set phrase for now), las llaves (keys), contestar (to answer), luego (later).*

Key Phrases — Frases clave

ENGLISH	SPANISH
Help!	**¡Ayuda! / ¡Socorro!** *ah-YOO-dah / soh-KOH-rroh*
Help me, please.	**Ayúdeme, por favor.** *ah-YOO-deh-meh por fah-BOR*
Call an ambulance / the police.	**Llame a una ambulancia. / Llame a la policía.** *YAH-meh ah OO-nah ahm-boo-LAHN-thyah / YAH-meh ah lah poh-lee-THEE-ah*

ENGLISH	SPANISH
I've lost my passport.	**He perdido el pasaporte.** *eh pehr-DEE-doh ehl pah-sah-POR-teh*
My wallet has been stolen.	**Me han robado la cartera.** *meh ahn roh-BAH-doh lah kar-TEH-rah*
I need a doctor.	**Necesito un médico.** *neh-theh-SEE-toh oon MEH-dee-koh*
I don't understand.	**No entiendo. ¿Podría hablar más despacio?** *noh ehn-TYEHN-doh / poh-DREE-ah ah-BLAR mahs dehs-PAH-thyoh*

EMERGENCY COMMANDS: USE THE USTED FORM

In an emergency you give short commands. To a stranger use the **usted** form: **¡Ayúdeme!** (help me), **¡Llame a la policía!** (call the police), **¡Espere!** (wait), **¡Tranquilo!** (calm down). To a friend the *tú* form is different: *¡Ayúdame!, ¡Llama a una ambulancia!* Learn these as set phrases for now; how commands are formed is in Spanish Grammar 3 11.

🔧 Reporting What Happened

SITUATION	SPANISH
You lost something	**He perdido mi mochila. / Perdí mi mochila en el autobús.** *eh pehr-DEE-doh mee moh-CHEE-lah / pehr-DEE mee moh-CHEE-lah ehn ehl ow-toh-BOOS*
You left something	**Olvidé el paraguas en el tren.** *ohl-bee-DEH ehl pah-RAH-gwahs ehn ehl TREHN*
Something was stolen	**Me han robado la cartera.** *meh ahn roh-BAH-doh lah kar-TEH-rah*
Where / when	**Fue ayer, en el metro, hace una hora.** *FWEH ah-YEHR ehn ehl MEH-troh AH-theh OO-nah OH-rah*

SITUATION	SPANISH
Describing the item	**Es negra, pequeña y tiene una cremallera.** *ehs NEH-grah peh-KEH-nyah ee TYEH-neh OO-nah kreh-mah-YEH-rah*

PRETERITE OR "HE PERDIDO"?

Two past forms are useful here. The **preterite** (Spanish Basic Conversation 2 9) says a finished event: *Perdí mi mochila ayer*, *Olvidé el paraguas*. In Spain you also often hear the **present perfect** (*he perdido, ha salido, me han robado*) for very recent events: *He perdido el tren*, *Mi tren ha salido*. Learn the present-perfect phrases in this chapter as ready-made phrases; the full tense is in Spanish Grammar 3 7. Both are understood everywhere.

abc Verbs — Perder, olvidar, ayudar

__Perder__ ("to lose, to miss") changes e → ie in every form except nosotros and vosotros. __Olvidar__ ("to forget, to leave behind") and __ayudar__ ("to help") are regular __-ar__ verbs.

	PERDER (TO LOSE, MISS)	OLVIDAR (TO FORGET)	AYUDAR (TO HELP)
yo (I)	pierdo *PYEHR-doh*	olvido *ohl-BEE-doh*	ayudo *ah-YOO-doh*
tú (you, informal)	pierdes *PYEHR-dehs*	olvidas *ohl-BEE-dahs*	ayudas *ah-YOO-dahs*
él, ella, usted	pierde *PYEHR-deh*	olvida *ohl-BEE-dah*	ayuda *ah-YOO-dah*
nosotros (we)	perdemos *pehr-DEH-mohs*	olvidamos *ohl-bee-DAH-mohs*	ayudamos *ah-yoo-DAH-mohs*
vosotros (Spain)	perdéis *pehr-DEHYS*	olvidáis *ohl-bee-DAHYS*	ayudáis *ah-yoo-DAHYS*
ellos, ellas, ustedes	pierden *PYEHR-dehn*	olvidan *ohl-BEE-dahn*	ayudan *ah-YOO-dahn*

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabulario

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

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	**la emergencia**	*lah eh-mehr-KHEHN-thyah*	emergency	noun
2	**la policía**	*lah poh-lee-THEE-ah*	police	noun
3	**la ambulancia**	*lah ahm-boo-LAHN-thyah*	ambulance	noun
4	**la denuncia**	*lah deh-NOON-thyah*	police report	noun
5	**el retraso**	*ehl reh-TRAH-soh*	delay	noun
6	**la cartera**	*lah kar-TEH-rah*	wallet	noun
7	**la mochila**	*lah moh-CHEE-lah*	rucksack	noun
8	**las llaves**	*lahs YAH-behs*	keys	noun
9	**el pasaporte**	*ehl pah-sah-POR-teh*	passport	noun
10	**perder**	*pehr-DEHR*	to lose, to miss	verb
11	**olvidar**	*ohl-bee-DAR*	to forget, to leave	verb
12	**ayudar**	*ah-yoo-DAR*	to help	verb
13	**robar**	*roh-BAR*	to steal	verb
14	**encontrar**	*ehn-kohn-TRAR*	to find	verb
15	**avisar**	*ah-bee-SAR*	to let know, to warn	verb
16	**¡Ayuda! / ¡Socorro!**	*ah-YOO-dah / soh-KOH-rroh*	help!	phrase
17	**¡Tranquilo/a!**	*trahn-KEE-loh*	calm down!	phrase
18	**enfermo/a**	*ehn-FEHR-moh*	ill	adj

#	SPANISH	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
19	¿Qué pasa?	*keh PAH-sah*	what's happening?	phrase
20	el 112	*ehl THEHN-toh DOH-theh*	the emergency number	noun

The Emergency Number 112

112 is the general emergency number in Spain and across the European Union; you can say what you need (*ambulancia, policía, bomberos* for the fire service). In an emergency, call first and use the language afterwards. Speak slowly, say where you are (*Estoy en la calle…*), what has happened and your name. Details of the service (for example the languages the operator speaks) may change, so check an official source before you travel.

Lost or Stolen: What to Do

For a lost item ask at the place where it happened (the station, the bus company, the hotel). For a theft, you usually make a **denuncia** (a police report) at a police station; the exact steps and which police force handles it vary by place. A copy of the report is often needed for insurance or to replace a passport. This is general guidance for learners, not legal advice.

Latin America Note

¡Ayuda! and *¡Socorro!* are understood everywhere, but the emergency numbers differ by country, so check before travelling (112 is the European number). A "wallet" is *la cartera* in Spain and also *la billetera* in many Latin American countries, and a "rucksack" is *la mochila*. For the plural "you" use *ustedes* (*Ayúdenme*).

Grammar Pointer

The commands (*ayúdeme, llame, espere*) are explained in Spanish Grammar 3 11, the preterite in Spanish Grammar 3 3 and 3 4, the present perfect (*he perdido, ha salido*) in Spanish Grammar 3 7, and stem-changing verbs such as *perder* 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. Call for help, then ask someone to call an ambulance.

▼ Show answer

¡Ayuda! ¡Ayúdeme, por favor! ¡Llame a una ambulancia!

2. At the station: you have missed your train. Say so and ask what you can do.

▼ Show answer

Perdone, he perdido el tren. ¿Qué puedo hacer?

3. Report: "My wallet has been stolen. It happened an hour ago, on the metro."

▼ Show answer

Me han robado la cartera. Fue hace una hora, en el metro.

4. Complete in the present: "Yo ____ las llaves." (perder) · "Ella ____ a su amigo." (ayudar) · "Nosotros ____ el tren." (perder)

▼ Show answer

pierdo · ayuda · perdemos. (*e* → *ie* except *nosotros* and *vosotros*.)

5. Say in the preterite: "I left my rucksack on the bus yesterday."

▼ Show answer

Ayer olvidé la mochila en el autobús.

6. You do not understand the answer. Say so and ask the person to speak more slowly.

▼ Show answer

No entiendo. ¿Podría hablar más despacio, por favor?

🎓 Course Complete — Curso completado

You have finished Spanish Basic Conversation 2. Here is what each chapter gave you.

CH.	TOPIC	YOU CAN NOW…
1	Your Daily Routine	describe your day with reflexive verbs and frequency words
2	Hobbies & Free Time	say what you like and play, using *gustar*, *jugar* and *tocar*
3	Making Plans & Invitations	invite, accept and decline, and arrange to meet
4	Describing People & Things	describe people and things, and compare them
5	Your Home & Neighbourhood	describe where you live, with *hay*, *estar* and prepositions of place
6	Weather & Seasons	talk about the weather and give reasons with *porque*
7	Eating Out	order, state dietary needs and complain politely
8	At the Doctor & the Pharmacy	say what hurts and ask for medicine
9	Talking About the Past	tell what you did yesterday and last weekend
10	Phone Calls & Appointments	make a call, leave a message and spell a name
11	Opinions & Preferences	give opinions, agree and disagree
12	When Things Go Wrong	ask for help and report a loss or a theft

What Next?

The next step is **Spanish Basic Conversation 3**, which builds on everything here with longer conversations and the first reading texts. For the grammar behind these dialogs, see Spanish Grammar 2 and Spanish Grammar 3. ¡Buen viaje!