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Sample*

ASSiMiL
Phrasebook

Spanish



¿Te gusta bailar?
Do you like to dance?

Sí, ime encanta, sobre todo flamenco!
Yes, most of all I love flamenco!

Includes: 21 language lessons

Spanish

Juan Córdoba & Belén Ausejo Aldazábal

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by Paul Gerard Pickering

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B.P. 25
94431 Chennevières sur Marne cedex
France

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This phrasebook doesn't claim to be a substitute for a language course, but if you devote a bit of time to reading it and learning a few useful phrases, you'll quickly find that you're able to participate in basic exchanges with Spanish speakers, enriching your travel experience.

A word of advice: don't aim for perfection! Those you're speaking to will forgive any mistakes and appreciate your efforts to communicate in their language. The main thing is to leave your inhibitions behind and speak!

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Section IV

Getting started

➤ Day 1

¿Cómo te llamas? What's your name?

- ¡Hola! ¿Cómo te llamas?**
olah komo tay yahmahs
 hello! how yourself (*informal*) you-call
Hello! What's your name?
- Me llamo Peter. Soy inglés.**
may yahmo Peter soy eenglays
 myself I-call Peter. I-am English (*m.*)
My name is Peter. I'm English.
- Y tú, Mary, ¿de dónde eres?**
ee too Mary day donday ayrays
 and you (*informal*) Mary from where you-are
And you, Mary, where are you from?
- Yo también soy inglesa.**
yo tahmbyen soy eenglaysah
 I also I-am English (*f.*)
I'm English too.

Notes

Spanish has different ways of saying *you*. To address one person informally, you use **tú**. We'll see the other forms later.

Soy inglés(m.)/inglesa(f.). Spanish nouns are either masculine or feminine. Adjectives that describe a noun must agree with its

gender. So when referring to a male or female, a word may be a bit different. Here are the rules for saying where you are from:

- Nationalities ending in **-o** change to **-a** in the feminine form: **americano/americana** *American* (m./f.).
- If they end in a vowel other than **-o**, the masculine and feminine forms are the same: **canadiense** *Canadian*; **israelí** *Israeli* (m./f.).
- If they end in a consonant, an **-a** ending is added in the feminine and the accent is omitted: **escocés/escocesa** *Scottish* (m./f.).

Me llamo ('I call myself') is the equivalent of *My name is*. The verb **llamarse** includes a reflexive pronoun, indicating that the subject is performing the action on itself (e.g. *myself, yourself, himself, etc.*). Reflexive pronouns come before the verb.

| ser to be | | llamarse to be called | |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| (yo) soy | <i>I am</i> | (yo) me llamo | <i>I am called</i> |
| (tú) eres | <i>you (inf.) are</i> | (tú) te llamas | <i>you (inf.) are called</i> |
| (él/ella) es | <i>he/she/it is</i> | (él/ella) se llama | <i>he/she/it is called</i> |

Practice—Translate the following sentences:

1. I am Canadian.
2. My name is Peter. I am English.
3. ¿De dónde es Mary?
4. ¿Eres inglesa?

Answers:

1. Soy canadiense.
2. Me llamo Peter, soy inglés.
3. Where is Mary from?
4. Are you (f.) English?

Conversing

➤ First contact

Aside from quite formal situations, Spaniards (especially young people) tend to use informal address, even with strangers. They are talkative and outgoing and often speak loudly.

Greetings

To decide which greeting is most appropriate for a certain time of day, you need to know the following: **la tarde** (*afternoon*) begins after lunch and continues until sunset, which means that **buenas tardes** can be heard until well into the evening. After dark, **la noche** (*night*) begins, so **buenas noches** is used not only as the greeting *good evening*, but also when saying *goodnight*.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Good morning!</i> | ¡Buenos días! | <i>bwaynos deeahs</i> |
| <i>Good afternoon/ evening!</i> | ¡Buenas tardes! | <i>bwaynahs tahdays</i> |
| <i>Good evening/night!</i> | ¡Buenas noches! | <i>bwaynahs nochays</i> |

These can be intensified or shortened.

| Standard | Intensified | Abbreviated |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---|
| ¡Hola! (<i>Hello</i>) | * | * |
| ¡Hola, buenos días! | ¡Muy buenos días! | * |
| ¡Hola, buenas tardes! | ¡Muy buenas tardes! | ¡Buenas! or ¡Muy buenas! |
| ¡Hola, buenas noches! | ¡Muy buenas noches! | (understood: <i>tardes</i> or <i>noches</i>) |

Among friends, a mere handshake may seem a little cold. It is more usual to accompany it with a pat on the shoulder. Generally, people do not hesitate to give a hug (**el abrazo**) and a few friendly pats (**las palmadas**) on the back. Cheek kissing (**el beso**) is common for greeting women: one kiss on each cheek.

Saying goodbye

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| <i>See you later!</i> | ¡Hasta luego! | <i>ahstah lwaygo</i> |
| <i>See you!</i> | ¡Nos vemos! | <i>nos baymos</i> |
| <i>See you soon!</i> | ¡Hasta pronto! | <i>ahstah pronto</i> |
| <i>See you tomorrow!</i> | ¡Hasta mañana! | <i>ahstah mahnyahnah</i> |
| <i>Goodbye! / Bye!</i> | ¡Adiós! | <i>ahdyos</i> |

Addressing someone

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>sir / gentlemen</i> | señor / señores | <i>saynyor/-ays</i> |
| <i>madam / ladies</i> | señora / señoras | <i>saynyorah/-ahs</i> |
| <i>miss / ladies</i> | señorita / señoritas | <i>saynyoreetah/-ahs</i> |

Note that these forms of address are all used with much more frequency than their English counterparts.

don [*don*] or **doña** [*donya*] can be used with a first name as a sign of respect, for example, with older people: **Don Andrés, Doña María**.

Often, terms of endearment are added to friendly greetings and goodbyes: **¡Hola, guapa!** *Hello, beautiful!* **¡Hasta luego, niño!** *See you later, kid!*

Offering wishes

La bienvenida *welcome* is expressed using an adjective that agrees in gender and number with the person welcomed.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ¡Bienvenido(s)! (<i>m.</i>) | <i>byenbayneedo(s)</i> |
| ¡Bienvenida(s)! (<i>f.</i>) | <i>byenbayneedah(s)</i> |

When drinking, eating or travelling:

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Cheers!</i> | ¡Salud! | <i>sahloo^d</i> |
| <i>Enjoy your meal!</i> | ¡Buen provecho! ¡Que aproveche! | <i>bwayn probaycho kay ahprobaychay</i> |
| <i>Have a good trip!</i> | ¡Buen viaje! | <i>bwayn byahhay</i> |

Agreeing and disagreeing

| | | |
|------------------------|---|---|
| <i>Yes.</i> | Sí. | <i>see</i> |
| <i>Of course.</i> | Claro. Claro que sí. Por supuesto. | <i>klahro klahro kay see por soopwesto</i> |
| <i>Okay.</i> | De acuerdo. Vale. | <i>day ahkwayrdo bahlay</i> |
| <i>No.</i> | No. | <i>no</i> |
| <i>I'm sorry.</i> | Lo siento. | <i>lo syento</i> |
| <i>Absolutely not.</i> | En absoluto. | <i>en absolooto</i> |
| <i>Certainly not.</i> | Claro que no. Por supuesto que no. | <i>klahro kay no por soopwesto kay no</i> |

Asking questions

When? ¿Cuándo?

When do you (formal) open?

¿Cuándo abre usted?

kwahndo ahbray ooste^d

I open at five.

Abro a las cinco.

ahbro ah lahs theenko

Where? ¿Dónde? / ¿Adónde? (with movement towards)

Where do you (formal) live?

¿Dónde vive usted?

donday beebay ooste^d

| <i>I live in ...</i> | Vivo en... | <i>beebo en</i> |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>London.</i> | Londres. | <i>londrays</i> |
| <i>New York.</i> | Nueva York. | <i>nwaybah yor^k</i> |

Where are you (inf.) going?

¿Adónde vas?

ahdonday bahs

I'm going to Spain.

Voy a España.

boy ah espahnnyah

How? ¿Cómo?

How are you (inf.)?

¿Cómo estás?

komo estahs

I'm fine.

Estoy bien.

estoy byen

Why? / Because ¿Por qué? / Porque

Why are you (inf.) leaving?

¿Por qué te vas?

por kay tay bahs

Because I'm in a hurry.

Porque tengo prisa.

porkay tengo preesah