

# The Travelling Koala: Spanish School for English Speakers

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## INTERMEDIATE A (LOWER INTERMEDIATE)

### Thematic Overview

During this course we are going to be discussing the activities and hobbies that we and others are currently engaged in as far as the everyday is concerned, whether it's work or hobby-related. Are you taking any courses at the moment? Are you learning how to dance or drive? We will also learn how to describe what is going on around us, happening at the moment, and in the immediate present. As a follow up to this topic, we will talk about the activities that we have done recently, this year, this month, this week etc. We'll also discuss the places we have been to in Australia or around the world, and the things we have done in these places. Where have you been in the world? Have you ever ridden a horse or gone skydiving?

We will describe situations that were going to happen before something else more important came up. Were you ever in a situation where you were going to visit someone when something else came up? What about things that we were actually doing when something else happened? Were you ever at one point driving your car when an animal jumped out in front? Were you ever just leaving to go somewhere when it started to belt down with rain? What did you do?

Finally, we will describe scenes and actions in the past, with regards to exploring past memorable experiences in adulthood and especially childhood. What did you used to do as a child? Did you often go to the park? Did you like to ride your bike or go to the cinema? What was your school or university like? Who were your school and university friends and what were they like?

### Grammatical Overview

#### The Present Progressive

- A look at this tense with the famous **-ando** and **-iendo** endings!

#### The Present Perfect

- An examination of the tense used to talk about recently completed actions (I have done, have made, have arrived etc.) using the verb **haber (he, has, he etc.)**.
- A look at the construction **acabar de**.

#### The Preterit (the simple past)

- A look at the various conjugations and irregularities of this tense.
- Narrating sequences of events and talking about simple, finished actions, eg.:

“I went to the bank”.

“We saw a really great film!”

- Talking about what we did on the weekend, last night, yesterday, two weeks ago etc.
- Using the construction ‘hace + time frame + que + verb to indicate how long you have been doing something.
- Using reflexive verbs to narrate routines in the past.

## The Imperfect

- An exploration of the tense used to describe the past, with the endings **-aba** and **-ía**.
- Talking about what we were *doing* vs what we *used to do*.
- Linking the simple past with the imperfect to talk about what occurred while there was an action in progress. Eg.:

“I was just coming out of the market when it started to rain”.

## Indirect Object Pronouns

- How to talk about the recipient of things such as requests and gifts using the pronouns **me, te, le, nos, les** etc. Egs.:

“I told him that we have to arrive early.”

“She gave me a nice gift for my birthday.”

“I write to them often.”

## Por vs Para Part 2

- **Por vs para** was only covered briefly in upper beginner.
- This is an in-depth look at these two words which have a number of meanings.