

The Travelling Koala: Spanish School for English Speakers

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BEGINNER B (UPPER BEGINNER)

Thematic Overview

In this course, we are going to talk about our intentions and purposes for doing things in our everyday lives, our reasons for studying Spanish, purposes for travel etc. We'll also talk about our preferences and what we are obliged to do versus what we actually prefer to do in our everyday lives.

This course will also cover 'telling the time', 'talking about the weather' and the sorts of things we like to do during the different times of the year. We will be talking about places and people we know, describing our and other people's skills, mental and physical states, feelings and emotions, as well as talking about the things that interest us or that we like to do. We will also talk about things that we like to own.

Daily routines will be looked at, such as getting up to go to work or university in the morning, as well as the activities and actions and activities we do with other people.

Did you ever notice how newspapers, magazines, advertisements for things for sale as well as basic everyday signs often have a more formal, impersonal way of communicating information? We'll cover the basics of understanding those messages as well.

Grammatical Overview

Verbs like 'Gustar':

- A look at the verb **gustar** (and others like it), which is used to talk about likes and dislikes. **Gustar** is used a bit differently to the way we would use **like** in English.

Ser and Estar Part 2 – A More Detailed Look

- A follow-up to these two verbs which both mean **to be** in English.
- A look at how we use these verbs to talk about conditions and unusual states as well as things which are more likely to be permanent.

Prepositions and Word Order in Spanish

- A further examination of the sentence structure in Spanish, including a more in-depth look at how to ask questions.
- An examination of ownership and belonging.

Por and Para

- An introduction to the uses of these common prepositions which can both mean **for** and a number of other things in English.

Simplifying Messages

- The stem-changing verb **preferir**.
- Shortening sentences and abbreviating with the concept of **article before adjective**.
- Shortening sentences and pointing things out with demonstrative adjectives such as **este** and **ese** (this and that) etc.

Identifying and Defining: Qué vs Cuál:

- Asking about what things are or identifying them with either qué or cuál, both of which could mean **which** or **what** in English.

Verbs like Gustar: Part 2

- Part two of the verb which means **to like** (literally **to appeal to**) in English.
- Getting more conversational with this grammar topic.
- The other verbs like **gustar**, such as **faltar**, **quedar**, **fascinar**, **caer bien** (**to lack, have remaining, fascinate, like in a friendly way**) etc.

Stem-Changing and Irregular Verbs

- A further examination of stem-changing verbs and irregular verbs and the different patterns that can be found, such as **e>u** and **o>ue**.

Reflexive Verbs as well as the se Passive

- Reflexive verbs are more common in Spanish than in English, and use different pronouns to **yo, tú, él, ella** etc. Verbs include **bañarse** (**to bathe/shower**), **levantarse** (**to get up**) etc.
- A look at the se passive (the passive voice) in Spanish, and how to use sentences such as **no se puede** and **se debe**

The Verbs Poder, Saber, Conocer

- When and how to use these verbs whose meanings are often the same in English, but often different in Spanish.

Direct Object Pronouns

- How to simplify and shorten sentences with the words **lo, la, los, las** (**him, her, it, them**) etc.