

The Travelling Koala: Spanish School for English Speakers

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BEGINNER C (UPPER BEGINNER)

Aims and thematic overview: something a bit different to the first two courses...

One of the aims of this course is revise and reflect on the previous two courses, beginner A and B. There was a lot of material in those courses, but it's always worth coming back to it and going over it all in order to consolidate what we've learnt. Therefore, there will be very little new content introduced in this course.

We will revisit conversation topics from beginner A and B, including (but not limited to) likes and dislikes, preferences and desires, as well as our favourite places and things. We'll do a revision of the weather and telling the time. We'll also talk about our plans and daily routines again, as well as our feelings and moods day to day.

It's unrealistic, however, to expect to memorise every single thing in any course, so while this is a bit of a refresher, it's also important to step back from the grammar details and focus on some other skills.

This course *primarily* aims to build confidence when speaking and focus more on the nuances of pronunciation (through reading aloud). Further to this, the articles from which we will be reading will focus a lot on Spanish and Latin American figures of social and cultural importance, such as Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, as well as events and places throughout the Hispanic world, such as Day of the Dead, among many others.

Grammatical Overview

Verbs like 'Gustar':

- A rerun of the **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.
- The other verbs like **gustar**, such as **faltar**, **quedar**, **fascinar**, **caer bien** (to lack, have remaining, fascinate, like in a friendly way) etc.
- Agreement and disagreement with verbs like **gustar**, e.g.: **a mí no**, **a mí sí**, **a mí también**, **a mí tampoco**.

Ser and Estar – In detail

- 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.
- Something new – how adjectives can change meaning depending on which verb is used. E.g: **ser rico** = to be rich, **estar rico** = to be tasty.

Prepositions and Word Order in Spanish

- A revisiting of sentence structure in Spanish, including a more in-depth look at how to ask questions.
- An examination of ownership and belonging with the preposition **de**.
- A more in-depth look at prepositions, with lists of verbs which use **a, de, en con** etc.

Por and Para

- A re-examination of these common prepositions which can both mean **for** and a number of other things in English.

Simplifying Messages

- A return to shortening sentences and abbreviating with the concept of **article before adjective**. E.g.: el verde, el grande, los bonitos etc.
- Shortening sentences and pointing things out with demonstrative adjectives such as **este** and **ese** (this and that) etc.
- Something new – the demonstratives **aquel, aquella** etc.

Identifying and Defining: Qué vs Cuál:

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

Stem-Changing and Irregular Verbs

- A reminder that Spanish has quite a few stem-changing verbs and irregular verbs e.g: **e>i** and **o>ue**.

Reflexive Verbs as well as the se Passive

- You can never do enough revision of reflexive verbs such as **bañarse (to bathe/shower)**, **levantarse (to get up) etc.!**
- A look back 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

- A revision of when and how to use these verbs whose uses are often the same in English, but sometimes different.

Direct Object Pronouns

- A look again at how to simplify and shorten sentences with the words **lo, la, los, las (him, her, it, them)** etc.