

The Travelling Koala: Spanish School for English Speakers

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BEGINNER A (LOWER BEGINNER)

Thematic Overview

The basic aim of this course is to introduce the foundations of grammar and basic conversation topics that many people have the world over, irrespective of language.

We learn how to introduce ourselves to others, talk about where we are from, where we live and work, how old we are, what we do and what we study. We also learn to talk about our family and friends, and the sorts of things they do.

The course also covers expressing our obligations and needs. For example, we learn how to say what we need to or have to do, whether it's tomorrow or on the weekend. We also contrast these things with what we want to do (or feel like doing) whether they are tomorrow, on the weekend or at some other time. Again, we learn to apply these things to the other people we know.

The beginner course also looks to explore the basics of describing ourselves and places. It explores how to describe a place, say what's it's like, what's in it and where those things are (useful for travel), and it delves into ways you can describe yourself physically and in terms of personality. As is the same with the first topics, you will be taught to apply this information to others and talk about the people in your life.

Grammatical Overview

Cognates – Words which have the Same Meaning in English & Spanish

- A fun trivia approach to looking at some similarities between English and Spanish. Did you know that most English words ending in **-al** (animal, general etc.) are the same in Spanish?

Pronunciation

- A look at the Spanish alphabet and some of the differences between the pronunciation of the two languages. For instance, the letter **v** is generally considered to be the same as the letter **b** in Spanish!

Introduction to Masculine & Feminine /Agreement

- An introduction to the idea of masculine and feminine nouns and adjectives, as well as that of 'agreement', or matching the endings of words to make everything in the sentence 'agree'.

Introduction to Verbs & Putting Sentences Together

- It is difficult to have a meaningful sentence without a verb, which in Spanish come with three different endings, **-er**, **-ir** and **-ar**. We'll have a look at verbs and how to use them to form sentences.

Asking Questions & Making Negative Sentences

- The Spanish and English word **no** is used slightly differently between both languages. We'll look at how to throw it all together!

Numbers

- Numbers 1- 100, which are useful for all sorts of basic interactions.

The Verbs 'to have', 'to want' & 'to go'

- An introduction to the simple irregular verbs **tener**, **querer** and **ir** (**to have**, **to want** and **to go**). You'll need these everyday verbs to communicate when you're travelling or chatting with your Hispanic friends!

Ser & Estar

- Both of these verbs mean **to be**, which is one of the most common words in the English and Spanish languages, so we'll break them down and explain the important differences.

Possessive Adjectives and Ownership

- A closer look at the words used to communicate the idea of **my**, **your**, **his** and **her** (**mi**, **tu**, **su** etc.), which is a bit different to English.

Expressing the idea of existence with 'hay' & 'estar'

- The word **hay** (**there is/there are**) is used to express the idea of existence of people, objects and places, and the word **estar** (**to be**) is used to talk about the specific location of these things, and it is important to understand the difference in meaning between these two words.

Adjectives of Quantity

- Words such as **many**, **a few**, **some**, **too many** etc. (**mucho/s**, **uno/s**, **alguno/s**, **demasiados/s**) can be used with the previous topic to add depth to describing where things are and how many of them there are.

Prepositions of Location

- Further to the exploration of describing where things are and how many of them there are, we can use prepositions such as **cerca de**, **lejos de**, **al lado de**, **entre** etc. (**close to**, **far from**, **next to**, **between** etc.) to indicate their specific location.
- We will say things like (but won't restrict them to) "there are three good restaurants in the neighbourhood, and "El Gaucho" is on Seventh Street, next to the bank" and "In my country, Australia, there are several big cities on the coast, but also quite a lot of desert."

The Verbs 'ser', 'tener', 'llevar' to describe People:

- How we use these verbs together to form descriptions of people.