

LESSON NOTES

Basic Bootcamp #3 How Do You Say...?

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SPANISH

1. MARIO: Oye, ¿cómo se dice "caché" en español?
2. BELÉN: Se dice "caché", igual que en francés.
3. MARIO: ¿Y cómo se escribe?
4. BELÉN: C A C H E. Lleva tilde la E.
5. MARIO: Gracias.

ENGLISH

1. MARIO: Hey, how do you say "caché" in Spanish?
2. BELÉN: You say "caché" the same as in French.
3. MARIO: So how do you spell it?
4. BELÉN: -C-A-C-H-E. The -E has an accent.
5. MARIO: Thanks.

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
el francés	the French one, French language	noun	masculine
gracias	thanks, thank you	phrase, expression	

¿Cómo se dice... en español?	How do you say... in Spanish?	phrase	
oye	listen, hey	exclamation	
Lleva tilde.	It has an accent mark.	phrase	
¿Cómo se escribe?	How is it spelled?, how is it written?	phrase	
el español	the Spanish one, the Spaniard, the Spanish language	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Hablas francés? Do you speak French?	¡Gracias por tu ayuda! "Thank you for your help!"
Gracias por su ayuda. "Thank you for your help."	¿Cómo se dice 'pencil' en español? "How do you say pencil in Spanish?"
Oye, ¡ya basta! "Hey, that's enough!"	Lleva tilde la A. "There's an accent on the 'a.'"
¿Cómo se escribe "beige" en español? "How do you spell 'beige' in Spanish?"	Aquí se habla español. "Spanish is spoken here."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

¿cómo se dice...en español? ("how is it said...in Spanish?")

We use the phrase *¿cómo se dice... en español?* to ask how to say something in Spanish. Literally, this is "how is it said...in Spanish?" You may simply point to the object you'd like the word for or give the equivalent word in a different language: for example, *¿cómo se dice "beige" en español?* ("How do you say 'beige' in Spanish?") We use the phrase *¿cómo se escribe?* for asking the spelling of a word. Literally, this is "how is it written?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking Someone How to Say Something in Spanish.

Oye, ¿cómo se dice "caché" en español?

"Hey, how do you say "caché" in Spanish?"

¿Cómo? is an interrogative pronoun that is roughly equivalent to the English question word "how." Note that we write it with an accent mark; this is to distinguish it from the relative pronoun *como*.

You may have noticed that punctuation standards in Spanish are different from English ones. In this dialogue, we see that we mark off questions with double question marks, which set off both the beginning and end of a question. Using the double question marks is obligatory in formal expression and in anything written for the public. However, many Spanish speakers omit the initial question mark at the beginning of a question in very informal situations such as personal e-mail and Internet chat.

In addition, note that we do not capitalize the names of languages like *el español*, *el francés*, *el inglés*, and so forth in standard Spanish.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Spanish Equivalent of "Hey, You!"

Spanish speakers may begin a sentence with *oye* as an attention-getter. In context, it's equivalent to the American habit of starting a sentence with "hey." Literally, it is the informal command "listen" from the verb *oír* ("to listen"). The formal variation is *oiga*.

Other common ways to get a Spanish speaker's attention are the verbs *disculpar* and *perdonar*, both of which mean "to forgive" or "to excuse." The command forms in the familiar register are *disculpa* and *perdona*, and the formal forms are *disculpe* and *perdone*. Using *disculpar* and *perdonar* to get someone's attention at the beginning of a sentence sounds more polite than using *oír*.

Finally, another common way to get someone's attention is the word *perdón*. It is not a verb form, so we can use *perdón* in either the familiar or the formal register.