

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #14

I really like that!

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#14

FORMAL SPANISH

1. JOSÉ: La crema volteada está rica.
2. FÁTIMA: ¡Sí, está cremosa!
3. JOSÉ: ¿Le gusta?
4. FÁTIMA: ¡La crema volteada me gusta mucho!

ENGLISH

1. JOSÉ: The upside-down custard is delicious.
2. FÁTIMA: Yeah, it's creamy!
3. JOSÉ: Do ya' like it?
4. FÁTIMA: I really like the upside-down custard!

INFORMAL SPANISH

1. JOSÉ: La crema volteada está rica.
2. FÁTIMA: ¡Sí, está cremosa!
3. JOSÉ: ¿Te gusta?
4. FÁTIMA: ¡La crema volteada me gusta mucho!

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
crema	cream	fem. noun	feminine
volteado, -a	upside-down, turned over	adjective, past participle	masculine
cremoso, -a	creamy	adjective	feminine
te	you, to you, for you	pronoun	
me	me, to me, for me	pronoun	
gustar	to give pleasure to (to like)	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

La crema volteada es rica.	La mesa está volteada.
"Upside-down custard is delicious."	"The table is upside-down."

La leche está cremosa. "The milk is creamy."	Te gusta el almuerzo. "The lunch is pleasing to you."
Me gusta la comida. "The meal is pleasing to me."	Me gustan los vinos. "I like wines."

GRAMMAR

The verb "gustar" is one of the most important verbs in the Spanish language. Literally, it means "to be pleasing", but we often translate it as "to like". While learning how to use this verb, it will be helpful to think about it as "to be pleasing".

Let's look at how this verb is conjugation in the present tense of the indicative mood:

Singular	Plural
me gusta (I like it)	nos gusta (We like it)
te gusta (You like it, <i>informal</i>)	os gusta (You all like it, <i>informal</i>)
le gusta (He likes it)	les gusta (They like it, <i>masculine</i>)
le gusta (She likes it)	les gusta (They like it, <i>feminine</i>)
le gusta (You like it, <i>formal</i>)	les gusta (You all like it)

You can tell right away that this is different than many of the other verbs that we've looked at in the Spanish language. When we use the verb "gustar" this way, it's called "un verbo pronominal" (a pronominal verb), which means that in order to form it, we need to use a pronoun. The other thing that is important to keep in mind here is that the number of the verb depends on what is pleasing. So, notice how "gusta" is in the third person singular. When this is so, that which is pleasing is singular. For example, "la mesa me gusta" (the table is pleasing to me, or, I like the table); but when that which is pleasing is in plural, then the verb "gustar" is conjugated to the third person plural. For example "las mesas me gustan" (the tables are pleasing to me, or, I like the tables). Let's look at the conjugation of "gustar", again in the present tense of the indicative mood, when we're talking about multiple things that are pleasing:

Singular	Plural
me gustan (I like them)	nos gustan (We like them)
te gustan (You like them, <i>informal</i>)	os gustan (You all like them, <i>informal</i>)
le gustan (He likes them)	les gustan (They like them, <i>masculine</i>)
le gustan (She likes them)	les gustan (They like them, <i>feminine</i>)
le gustan (You like them, <i>formal</i>)	les gustan (You all like them)

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The pan-Hispanic dessert, called "crema volteada" in Latin America and "flan" in Spain, is a custard made with evaporated milk, condensed milk, vanilla, eggs and sugar. It is a light custard that is baked in the oven and then flipped upside-down before being served (hence, "crema volteada", *upside-down custard*). It has numerous varieties from country to country. Sometimes, particularly in the Spanish tradition, it tends to be thinner; while others, particularly in the Latin American tradition, it can be as high as two or three inches. This delicious dessert is often enjoyed with black coffee or tea.