

LESSON NOTES

# Newbie S1 #18

## Is it raining?

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#18

## DIALOGUE - INFORMAL SPANISH

### MAIN

1. CARMEN :               ¿Está lloviendo?
2. PAOLA :                 No. No es lluvia; es llovizna.
3. CARMEN :               Mira, las gotas son chiquititas. ¿Las ves?
4. PAOLA :                 Sí, las veo, pero tampoco es llovizna. Es garúa.
5. CARMEN :               Ya veo, Paola. Es garúa y es muy misteriosa.

### ENGLISH

1. CARMEN :               Is it raining?
2. PAOLA :                 No. It's not rain, it's a drizzle.
3. CARMEN :               Look, the raindrops are tiny. Do you see them?
4. PAOLA :                 Yeah, I see them, but it's not a drizzle either. It's mist.
5. CARMEN :               Now I get it, Paola. It's mist and it's very mysterious.

## DIALOGUE - FORMAL SPANISH

### MAIN

1. CARMEN :               ¿Está lloviendo?
2. PAOLA :                 No. No es lluvia; es llovizna.
3. CARMEN :               Mire, las gotas son chiquititas. ¿Las ve?
4. PAOLA :                 Sí, las veo, pero tampoco es llovizna. Es garúa.
5. CARMEN :               Ya veo, Paola. Es garúa y es muy misteriosa.

## ENGLISH

1. CARMEN : Is it raining?
2. PAOLA : No. It is not rain, it is a drizzle.
3. CARMEN : Look, the raindrops are tiny. Do you see them?
4. PAOLA : Yes, I see them, but it is not a drizzle either. It is mist.
5. CARMEN : Now I get it, Paola. It is mist and it's very mysterious.

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
llover	to rain	verb	
llovizna	drizzle	noun	feminine
gota	drop, raindrop	noun	feminine
chiquitito	tiny	adjective, noun	masculine
garúa	mist	fem. noun	feminine
misterioso, -a	mysterious	adjective	masculine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

En Costa Rica llueve mucho. "It rains a lot in Costa Rica."	Es una llovizna. "It's a drizzle."
A mí me gusta ver caer las gotas de agua. "I like to see the rain drops falling."	El wáter está chiquitito. "The toilet is tiny."
Siempre hay garúa. "There is always mist."	La niebla es misteriosa. "The fog is mysterious."

## GRAMMAR

When we want to talk about precipitation in Spanish, we often use *impersonal verbs*, such as "llover" (to rain), "lloviznar" (to drizzle) and "garuar" (to mist). It wouldn't make much sense to say "I rain", "you rain", "he rains", etc. These kinds of verbs that don't have all the forms are called *defective verbs*. Let's take a look at how this works:

"llover" (to rain, *infinitive*): "llueve" (it rains, it is raining)

"lloviznar" (to drizzle, *infinitive*): "llovizna" (it drizzles, it is drizzling)

"garuar" (to mist, *infinitive*): "garúa" (it mists, it is misting)

While these verbs have only one form, they use all the tenses. The example given here are all in the Present Tense. Other tenses will be covered in future lessons.

Example:

Llueve mucho en el invierno.  
(It rains a lot in the winter.)

Llovizna en la noche.  
(It drizzles at night.)

Garúa por toda la costa.  
(It mists all along the coast.)

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

The capital city of Lima sits upon 300 foot bluffs on the Pacific coast of Peru. Despite being in the middle of the desert, Lima is constantly filled with humid air from the southern Humboldt current, which results in a micro-climate that produces fog and mist almost daily. As the city was the viceregal capital of the Spanish during colonial times, this incessant moisture has been called the "maldición de los inkas" (the curse of the Inkas), because it makes for a hot and sticky environment in the warmer months, and the chilly and humid environment in the colder months. But the moisture has an interesting aesthetic quality, as it rolls over the city's promenade and down into the colonial, cobblestone streets, where mystery and history converge in the diaphanous veil of fog.