

LESSON NOTES

Newbie #21

Come here! I'll be right there!

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#21

Spanish	English	Class
venir	to come	verb
acá	here, over here	adverb
patio	patio	noun
ya	already, now	adverb
ir	to go	verb
allá	there, over there	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Mis abuelos vienen a mi casa cada verano. "My grandparents come to my house every summer."	¡William, ven acá! "William, come here!"
Quando hace sol nos sentamos en el patio. "We sit on the patio when it is sunny."	El carro ya está adentro de la cochera. "The car is already inside the garage."
El gobierno ya tiene demasiado poder. "The government already has too much power."	Estamos yendo a la playa. "We are going to the beach."
Sientate allá. "Sit over there."	

GRAMMAR

In this lesson we continued learning about "mandatos", or "commands". We are expressing the speaker's desire for an action to occur or not to occur. Here we will focus on telling someone to "come here". In Spanish, the irregular verb "venir", means "to come". If we remove the ending from the infinitive of this verb we get "ven". In the conversation we heard Rosana say "¡Tomas, ven para acá!", and this was translated as "Tomas, come here!". This is an informal command used in an informal conversation, and it is directed towards just one person. To formally tell someone "to come here", we need to change the conjugation to express the formality of the command. We also need to change the conjugation if the command is directed towards more than just one person.

*Conjugating an irregular verb such as "venir" (to come) to give a command can be tricky at first. Look below to see how we conjugate this particular "mandato" (command) in all its forms:

tú/you: ven acá (come here *informal/singular)

usted/you: venga acá (come here *formal/singular)

*ustedes/you all: vengan acá (come here *plural)*

*vosotros/you all: vengáis acá (come here *plural)*

It is important to know how to respond to such a command as well. Generally, we respond when someone calls for us by saying "I'll be right there". In the conversation we hear Alan give this response with the phrase "Ya voy para allá". The shortened version of this response is "ya voy", or "I'm coming now". Using these expressions you will be able to answer people whenever they call for you.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Looking at the conversation in this lesson, we notice that the commands are given informally. It is important to keep the nature of a conversation in mind when giving commands. If you are in a relaxed setting with friends or family, then it is appropriate to call for them by saying "ven acá", or "come here". If you are in a more formal situation (speaking with a boss or a teacher for example), then it is better to use a formal command. For instance, if you want your boss to visit your house, you might say "venga a mi casa para cenar", or "come to my house to have dinner". Using the formal conjugation in certain contexts conveys respect and also demonstrates a higher comprehension of the language.