

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #25

Can you speak slower, please?

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#25

DIALOGUE - FORMAL SPANISH

MAIN

1. YMA : Ahora, continuamos con el altar.
2. MARISSA : ¿Puede usted hablar más despacio, por favor?
3. YMA : ¡Claro! ¿Hablo muy rápido para ustedes?
4. LUKE : Sí. Queremos escuchar cada cosa. ¡Es muy interesante!

ENGLISH

1. YMA : Now, we continue with the altar.
2. MARISSA : Ma'am, can you speak slower, please?
3. YMA : Of course! Do I speak very fast for you all?
4. LUKE : Yes. We want to listen to everything. It is very interesting!

DIALOGUE - INFORMAL SPANISH

MAIN

1. YMA : Ahora, continuamos con el altar.
2. MARISSA : ¿Tú puedes hablar más despacio, por favor?
3. YMA : ¡Claro! ¿Hablo muy rápido para vosotros?
4. LUKE : Sí. Queremos escuchar cada cosa. ¡Es muy interesante!

ENGLISH

1. YMA : Now, we continue with the altar.
2. MARISSA : Can ya' speak slower, please?
3. YMA : Of course! Do I speak very fast for ya' ll ?
4. LUKE : Yeah. We wanna' listen to everything. It's very interesting!

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class
continuar	to continue, to go on, to carry on	verb
más despacio	slower	adverbial phrase
por favor	please	phrase
rápido, -a	quick, fast, quickly, rapids (pl.)	adverb
cada	each, every	adjective
cosa	thing, matter	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ella continúa el tour. "She continues the tour."	Puedo hablar más despacio. "I can speak slower."
¡Vamos por favor! "Let's go please!"	María corre muy rápido. "María runs really fast."
Cada noche, salgo. "Every night, I go out."	Es una cosa interesante. "It's an interesting matter."

GRAMMAR

The verb "poder" is an *auxiliary verb*, which means that it requires another verb to complete its meaning. These verbs are sometimes called "helping" verbs or "modal" verbs as well. Let's have a look at how these words are used:

[personal pronoun] + [auxiliary verb] + [main verb] + [noun]
 [yo] + [puedo] + [hablar] + [el español]
 [I] + [can] + [speak] + [Spanish]

[personal pronoun] + [auxiliary verb] + [main verb] + [noun]
 [nosotros] + [podemos] + [continuar] + [el tour]
 [We] + [can] + [continue] + [the tour]

Today, we're going to have a close look at the grammar involved with the question "Can you speak slower, please?". In order to form this question, we are going to need to use the verb "poder", which we have seen, means "to be able" or "can". Also, we're going to use the expression "más despacio", which means "slower".

Here is the full phrase: "¿Puede, usted, hablar más despacio por favor?" (Can you speak slower, please?). We can see the verb "poder" (to be able, can) is used in the formal sense here: "usted puede". Recall that "usted" is the formal "you". After the verb "puede", we add the verb "hablar" (to speak), which is in the infinitive. Then, we add "más despacio", which we saw means "slower". To finish the expression, you simply add "por favor", which means "please".

To ask this question in the informal sense we would say, "Tú puedes hablar más despacio, por favor?" (can ya' speak slower, please?). Notice that the only thing that's different, when changing this question from formal to informal, is the conjugation of the verb "poder". Instead of using the "usted" form and the corresponding third person singular form "puede", we now use the "tú" form, with the verb form "puedes".

*This is an important question to learn, as you begin your studies of Spanish, because it helps you get people to speak 'with you' instead of 'to you', at a speed you can understand.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Spanish language is known for its manner of blending words into each other, when it comes to pronunciation. Many people who don't speak Spanish believe that this is simply due to the fact that for them it is a foreign language, and thus, words are indistinguishable from each other. But, this is not the case. In fact, words **do** blend into each other in Spanish. This phenomenon is called "enlace" or "word-linking". There are a number of cases in which this occurs, and these will be studied in future lessons. For now, let's just note that when a word ends with a vowel and begins with another vowel, those vowels will be blended together. This adds a great deal to the rhythm of the Spanish language, which is so characteristic of its sound.