

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S3 #7

Meeting your Mexican Host Family

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INFORMAL SPANISH

1. MARIA: ¡Bienvenida, Ashley!
2. ASHLEY: ¡Gracias!
3. MARIA: Esta es tu casa.
4. ASHLEY: ¡Gracias, qué bonita!
5. MARIA: Y este es mi perro.
6. ASHLEY: ¡Qué bonito!

ENGLISH

1. MARIA: Welcome, Ashley.
2. ASHLEY: Thank you!
3. MARIA: This is your home.
4. ASHLEY: Thank you, how beautiful!
5. MARIA: And this is my dog.
6. ASHLEY: How cute!

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
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tu	your	possessive adjective	
mi	my	adjective	
ser	to be (permanent characteristics)	verb	
gracias	thanks, thank you	noun	feminine
bienvenido/a	welcome	adjective	
esta	this	pronoun	feminine
y	and	coordinating conjunction	
casa	house	noun	feminine
perro	dog	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>¿Es ese tu perro?</p> <p>"Is that your dog?"</p>	<p>¿Cuándo es tu cumpleaños?</p> <p>"When is your birthday?"</p>
<p>Mi abuela es muy linda.</p> <p>"My grandmother is very sweet."</p>	<p>Es bueno ser honesto.</p> <p>"It is good to be honest."</p>
<p>Gracias por venir.</p> <p>"Thank you for coming."</p>	<p>Son bienvenidos en mi casa.</p> <p>"You are welcome in my home."</p>
<p>Esta tarde iré al doctor.</p> <p>"This afternoon I am going to the doctor."</p>	<p>Tú y yo somos amigos.</p> <p>"You and I are friends."</p>

<p>Me gustaría tener una casa con un gran jardín.</p> <p>"I'd like to have a house with a big garden."</p>	<p>Mi casa está junto a la playa.</p> <p>"My house is next to the beach."</p>
<p>Este camino nos lleva directamente a mi casa.</p> <p>"This route will take us directly to my house."</p>	<p>Tengo un perro que se llama Chiki.</p> <p>"I have a dog called Chiki."</p>
<p>Llevé mi perro al veterinario.</p> <p>"I took my dog to the vet."</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

bienvenida

This expression is technically an adjective ("to be welcome"), but we use it as an expression. When addressing a male person, one says *bienvenido, Jorge*. In plural, *bienvenidos* or *bienvenidas*. In formal situations, we often use it with the verb "to be": *sean bienvenidos* or *sea Ud. bienvenido*.

este/esta

Demonstrative adjectives indicate gender, number, and distance relative to the person speaking. *Este/esta* is located immediately near the speaker, *ese/esa* is at a middle distance, and *aquell/aquella* is far removed from the speaker.

qué bonito(a)

This is a common expression to express surprise or approval. But it also literally means "how cute" or "how pretty," either in masculine or feminine form. A stronger expression would be *qué hermoso(a)* or *qué divino(a)*.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is to Teach You How to Use the Possessive Adjectives (*Mi, Tu, Su*).

A: *Esta es tu casa. B: ¡Qué bonita!*

"A: This is your home. B: How beautiful!"

Possessive adjectives denote that something belongs to someone: for example, "my" book, "your" friend, "her" table, or "his" phone. Even though they are adjectives, they can act as articles, substituting for *el, la, los,* and *las* when they express belonging. For example, *la casa es grande* ("the house is big") says nothing about who the house belongs to. However, *mi casa es grande* ("my house is big") stresses the fact that it is mine. Possessive adjectives can take the place of articles according to the following table:

	"My"	"Your"	"His"/"Her"
<i>el</i> (masculine, singular)	<i>mi</i>	<i>tu</i>	<i>su</i>
<i>el perro</i> ("the dog")	<i>mi perro</i> ("my dog")	<i>tu perro</i> ("your dog")	<i>su perro</i> ("his/her dog")
<i>la</i> (feminine, singular)	<i>mi</i>	<i>tu</i>	<i>su</i>
<i>la casa</i> ("the house")	<i>mi casa</i> ("my house")	<i>tu casa</i> ("your house")	<i>su casa</i> ("his/her house")
<i>los</i> (masculine plural)	<i>mis</i>	<i>tus</i>	<i>sus</i>
<i>los perros</i> ("the dogs")	<i>mis perros</i> ("my dogs")	<i>tus perros</i> ("your dogs")	<i>sus perros</i> ("his/her dogs")
<i>las</i> (feminine, plural)	<i>mis</i>	<i>tus</i>	<i>sus</i>
<i>las casas</i> ("the houses")	<i>mis casas</i> ("my houses")	<i>tus casas</i> ("your houses")	<i>sus casas</i> ("his/her houses")

It is important to note that in all sentences, when we use adjectives, their ending must vary

according to the gender and number of the nouns. Here are some examples.

Sentence	Adjective	Noun (Gender/ Number)	Correct Sentence
<i>Mi casa es...</i>	<i>bonito</i> ("pretty")	<i>casa</i> (feminine, singular)	<i>Mi casa es bonita.</i>
<i>Tu casa es...</i>	<i>chico</i> ("small")	<i>casa</i> (feminine, singular)	<i>Tu casa es chica.</i>
<i>Su perro es...</i>	<i>blanco</i> ("white")	<i>perro</i> (masculine, singular)	<i>Tu perro es blanco.</i>

It is also worthwhile noting that *esta* (*esta es tu casa*) is a demonstrative article and we use it according to the relative position of the speaker and the house he is referring to. If the speaker were talking about a house that is located across the street, he or she would say *esa es tu casa* ("that is your house"). But we will look at this in a later lesson.

For Example:

1. *¿Esta es su casa?*
"Is this her house?"
2. *Él es mi maestro.*
"He is my teacher."

Examples from This Dialogue

1. *Y este es mi perro.*
"And this is my dog."
2. *Esta es tu casa.*
"This is your home."

Language Tip: Using Possessive Adjectives for Negation

We used possessive adjectives (*mi, tu, su*) in this lesson only to affirm possession. However, to deny possession, we can simply add *no* before the verb.

For Example:

1. *Esta no es tu casa; este no es mi perro, etc.*
"This is not your home; this is not my dog, etc."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Everyone Is Welcome in Mexico

People say that Mexican people have a good sense of hospitality and that they like to welcome friends to their home and say *mi casa es tu casa* ("my home is your home"). Mexicans are also some of the most open people toward foreigners. In fact, many don't make much difference between people no matter where they are born, and many foreigners have gone on to become very famous symbols of Mexican culture: for example, British-born painter Leonora Carrington, Guatemalan-born writer Augusto Monterroso, Costa Rica-born singer Chavela Vargas, German-born sculptor Mathias Goeritz, etc. When at home, you can relax and be honest about your needs, but make sure your demands don't exceed your host's capacities, or they will feel guilty.