

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S3 #11

## Going Shopping in Mexico

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# 11

## FORMAL SPANISH

1. ASHLEY: Buenas tardes. ¿Cuánto cuesta el aguacate?
2. MERCHANT: A sesenta pesos el kilo.
3. ASHLEY: ¿Y cuánto cuesta el limón?
4. MERCHANT: A cincuenta el kilo.
5. ASHLEY: Dos kilos por favor.
6. MERCHANT: Aquí tiene.

## ENGLISH

1. ASHLEY: Good afternoon. How much is the avocado?
2. MERCHANT: Sixty pesos per kilo.
3. ASHLEY: And how much is the lemon?
4. MERCHANT: Fifty per kilo.
5. ASHLEY: Two kilos please.
6. MERCHANT: Here you are.

## VOCABULARY

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| <b>Spanish</b> | <b>English</b> | <b>Class</b> | <b>Gender</b> |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|
|----------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|

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|               |                         |            |           |
|---------------|-------------------------|------------|-----------|
| peso          | peso (Mexican currency) | noun       | masculine |
| cincuenta     | fifty                   | numeral    |           |
| tener         | to have                 | verb       |           |
| sesenta       | sixty                   | numeral    |           |
| cuánto        | how much                | pronoun    |           |
| buenas tardes | good afternoon          | expression |           |
| por favor     | please                  | phrase     |           |
| costar        | to cost                 | verb       |           |
| dos           | two                     | numeral    | masculine |
| aquí          | here                    | adverb     |           |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                                                                      |                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Tengo sesenta pesos.<br/>"I have sixty pesos."</p>                                                | <p>Te esperaré como máximo cincuenta minutos.<br/>"I'll wait for you fifty minutes max."</p> |
| <p>Ellos tienen demasiada basura en su jardín.<br/>"They have too much garbage in their garden."</p> | <p>Tengo dos hermanos y una hermana.<br/>"I have two brothers and one sister."</p>           |
| <p>Ella tiene amigas.<br/>"She has girlfriends."</p>                                                 | <p>Ayer Analisa cumplió sesenta años.<br/>"Analisa turned sixty yesterday."</p>              |

|                                                               |                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ¿Cuánto cuesta?<br>"How much is this?"                        | Buenas tardes Señora.<br>"Good afternoon, Miss."                    |
| ¡Vamos por favor!<br>"Let's go please!"                       | ¿Cuánto cuesta?<br>"How much is this?"                              |
| ¿Cuánto dinero te costó?<br>"How much money did it cost you?" | Al final, hay dos opciones.<br>"In the end, there are two options." |

Dile que estoy aquí y que ahorita voy para allá.

"Tell her that I'm here and that I'll go there right away."

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***por favor***

Make sure you add this phrase to the end or at the beginning of all your requests. We use it in the same way as "please" in English. In casual conversations, it is common to say the short version, *por fa*, or even the diminutive *porfis*. To sound more formal, we would say *si fuera tan amable* ("if you would be so kind"). Literally, it means "as a favor." In other words, the person requesting it will somehow pay it back in the future.

### ***Aquí tiene***

"Here you are" is a phrase that is always said as an action of giving is performed. We use it to bring attention to the fact that we are providing something to someone. The verb *tener* means "to have," and the literal translation is "here you have." Here, it is conjugated in the second person respect form, *usted*.

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is to Teach You the Expression *¿cuánto cuesta?* Followed by a**

## Noun.

***¿Cuánto cuesta el aguacate? A sesenta pesos el kilo.***

**"How much is the avocado? Sixty pesos per kilo."**

In Spanish, we use interrogative pronouns to form questions about situations, things, persons, or places. We use the pronoun *cuánto* ("how much") to inquire about quantity. Here, we combined this pronoun with the verb *cuesta*, which comes from the root verb *costar* ("to cost"). When conjugated in the third person, it becomes "it costs," with "it" being the object we are referring to. We can combine the pronoun *cuánto* for quantity with many other verbs to mean a variety of things, but in this lesson we only study the following forms:

| <b>Pronoun + Verb</b> | <b>Article</b>                         | <b>Noun</b>                   |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>¿Cuánto cuesta</i> | <i>el</i> ("the," masculine, singular) | <i>limón?</i> ("lemon")       |
| <i>¿Cuánto cuesta</i> | <i>la</i> ("the," feminine, singular)  | <i>sandía?</i> ("watermelon") |
| <i>¿Cuánto cuesta</i> | <i>un</i> ("a," masculine, singular)   | <i>limón?</i> ("lemon")       |
| <i>¿Cuánto cuesta</i> | <i>una</i> ("a," feminine, singular)   | <i>sandía?</i> ("watermelon") |

Notice the difference between *el/un* and *la/una*. The first are definite articles and the second are indefinite articles. When asking in plural, make sure you add the letter *-n* at the end of *cuánto cuesta*...

| <b>Pronoun + Verb</b>  | <b>Article</b>                          | <b>Noun</b>                     |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>¿Cuánto cuestan</i> | <i>los</i> ("the," masculine, plural)   | <i>limones?</i> ("lemons")      |
| <i>¿Cuánto cuestan</i> | <i>las</i> ("the," feminine, plural)    | <i>sandías?</i> ("watermelons") |
| <i>¿Cuánto cuestan</i> | <i>unos</i> ("some," masculine, plural) | <i>limones?</i> ("lemons")      |

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*¿Cuánto cuestan*

*unas* ("some," feminine,  
plural)

*sandías?* ("watermelons")

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The answer to *¿cuánto cuesta?* is to say the amount in Mexico's currency, which is *pesos*. A...*pesos el kilo* or simply A...*pesos*. *Kilo* is the unit, which can also be *metro* ("meter") in the case of fabric or *docena* ("dozen") for flowers, etc.

### For Example:

1. *¿Cuánto cuestan los limones?*  
"How much are the lemons?"
2. *¿Cuánto cuesta una sandía?*  
"How much is a watermelon?"

### Examples From This Dialogue

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1. *¿Y cuánto cuesta el limón?*  
"And how much is the lemon?"

### Language Tip: Tips About Haggling

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If you think you are being offered a high price, you can say *más barato* ("cheaper") or *está muy caro* ("it's too expensive").

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### How to Get the Best Price

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Normally, it is okay to haggle at the market or in a bazaar, where the owner is present. However, haggling at drugstores and department stores is not customary, since the prices are already fixed. When trading in a market or outside a formal establishment, you will typically be offered a price according to your looks. Ask the price at the beginning so you don't give vendors time to make an assessment of you. Showing that you can speak Spanish and that you are a seasoned traveler will make vendors give you a better price too.