

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Absolute Beginner S3 #11

Going Shopping in Mexico

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INTRODUCTION

Alisha: Hi everybody, this is Alisha.

Fernando: Hola amigos, soy Fernando.

Alisha: Welcome to Absolute Beginner Season 3, Lesson 11 – Going Shopping in Mexico!

Fernando: In this lesson you will learn how to buy something using Mexican Spanish.

Alisha: You will learn how to ask for prices, count money, haggle, and order things in Spanish.

Fernando: The conversation takes place at a market stand and is between Ashley and the stand attendant.

Alisha: The conversation is between a seller and a customer, so they will be speaking formal Spanish.

Fernando: Let's listen to the conversation.

LESSON CONVERSATION

Ashley: Buenas tardes. ¿Cuánto cuesta el aguacate?

Merchant: A sesenta pesos el kilo.

Ashley: ¿Y cuánto cuesta el limón?

Merchant: A cincuenta el kilo.

Ashley: Dos kilos por favor.

Merchant: Aquí tiene.

Alisha: Let's hear the conversation one time slowly.

Ashley: Buenas tardes. ¿Cuánto cuesta el aguacate?

Merchant: A sesenta pesos el kilo.

Ashley: ¿Y cuánto cuesta el limón?

Merchant: A cincuenta el kilo.

Ashley: Dos kilos por favor.

Merchant: Aquí tiene.

Alisha: Now let's hear it with the English translation.

Ashley: Buenas tardes. ¿Cuánto cuesta el aguacate?

Alisha: Good afternoon. How much is the avocado?

Merchant: A sesenta pesos el kilo.

Alisha: Sixty pesos per kilo.

Ashley: ¿Y cuánto cuesta el

limón?

Alisha: And how much is the lemon?

Merchant: A cincuenta el kilo.

Alisha: Fifty per kilo.

Ashley: Dos kilos por favor.

Alisha: Two kilos please.

Merchant: Aquí tiene.

Alisha: Here you are.

POST CONVERSATION BANTER

Fernando: Ok, so we are at a market in Mexico City...

Alisha: One of those street markets that open once in a week?

Fernando: Exactly. The classical farmers market.

Alisha: Oh, I love those. So, if you see something you're interested in buying... what do you say?

Fernando: Simple. You start by asking the price.

Alisha: Asking the price?

Fernando: Yes, you ask cuánto cuesta and that's it. It's just basic haggling techniques. The seller will then offer you a price.

Alisha: I see. And if you don't like it, you can ask for a lower price?

Fernando: Right. That's where the haggling process begins.

Alisha: I imagine you can get pretty good deals doing this.

Fernando: Definitely, so don't be afraid to give it a try.

Alisha: Okay, now onto the vocab.

VOCAB LIST

Alisha: Let's take a look at the vocabulary for this lesson.

The first word we shall see is:

Fernando: buenas tardes [natural native speed]

Alisha: good afternoon

Fernando: buenas tardes [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Fernando: buenas tardes [natural native speed]

Next:

Fernando: cuánto [natural native speed]

Alisha: how much

Fernando: cuánto [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Fernando: cuánto [natural native speed]

Next:

Fernando: costar [natural native speed]

Alisha: to cost

Fernando: costar [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Fernando: costar [natural native speed]

Next:

Fernando: sesenta [natural native speed]

Alisha: sixty

Fernando: sesenta [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Fernando: sesenta [natural native speed]

Next:

Fernando: peso [natural native speed]

Alisha: peso (Mexican currency)

Fernando: peso [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Fernando: peso [natural native speed]

Next:

Fernando: cincuenta [natural native speed]

Alisha: fifty

Fernando: cincuenta [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Fernando: cincuenta [natural native speed]

Next:

Fernando: dos [natural native speed]

Alisha: two

Fernando: dos [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Fernando: dos [natural native speed]

Next:

Fernando: por favor [natural native speed]

Alisha: please

Fernando: por favor [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Fernando: por favor [natural native speed]

Next:

Fernando: aquí [natural native speed]

Alisha: here

Fernando: aquí [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Fernando: aquí [natural native speed]

Next:

Fernando: tener [natural native speed]

Alisha: to have

Fernando: tener [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Fernando: tener [natural native speed]

KEY VOCABULARY AND PHRASES

Alisha: Let's have a closer look at the usage for some of the words and phrases from this lesson.

Fernando: The first word we'll look at is....

Fernando: Por favor

Alisha: Please

Fernando: Make sure you add this phrase to the end or at the beginning of all your requests.

Alisha: Is it used in the same way as please in English?

Fernando: Exactly in the same way. But in extremely casual conversations, it is more common to say the short version "por fa".

Alisha: And to sound more formal?

Fernando: Por favor señor. Or por favor señora. Literally it means "as a favor."

Alisha: After asking the price of the lemons, Ashley asked the merchant to please give her two kilos of lemon. What did she say?

Fernando: Dos kilos por favor.

Alisha: "Two kilos, please." Let's repeat, everyone!

Fernando: Dos kilos, por favor [pause]

Alisha: So you always add this phrase por favor to show respect, right?

Fernando: Yes, you can add it at the end or at the beginning of a sentence to underline your request.

Alisha: And is that what people use in everyday life?

Fernando: Yes, that's what we typically use,

Alisha: So it's just

shortened?

Fernando: Right. Por fa.

Alisha: Our second phrase is aquí tiene.

Fernando: This means “Here you are”. Once more, Aquí tiene.

Alisha: What does it mean?

Fernando: It is used to bring attention to the fact that I am giving something to someone.

Alisha: What is the verb here?

Fernando: The verb is tener, “to have”. The literal translation is here you have.

Alisha: Let’s repeat that part of the dialogue where Ashley is asking the merchant.

Repeat after Fernando - “two kilos please.”

Fernando: Dos kilos por favor [pause]

Alisha: Here you are.

Fernando: Aquí tiene [pause]

Alisha: Great! Now let’s move onto the grammar.

LESSON FOCUS

Alisha: So the purpose here is to learn how to ask how much something costs. What’s the phrase Fernando?

Fernando: ¿Cuánto cuesta, plus the item you’re asking about. Cuánto means “how much”, and cuesta means “it costs”.

Alisha: It’s the conjugation of the verb “to cost”, right?

Fernando: Yes, the verb “to cost”, or costar, is conjugated in third person to mean “it costs”. In other words, how much does it cost.

Alisha: So please say “How much does the lemon cost?”

Fernando: Repeat after me - ¿Cuánto cuesta el limón? [pause]

Alisha: And now “how much does the avocado cost?”

Fernando: Repeat ¿Cuánto cuesta el aguacate? [pause]

Alisha: Here we were using the singular forms of the nouns “lemon” and “avocado”. Now let’s use the plural forms “lemons” and “avocados”.

Fernando: What’s important to know is that the verb changes slightly... from cuesta to cuestan.

Alisha: So when talking about more than one item, an N is added to the end of the verb.

Fernando: Right. For example... ¿Cuánto cuestan los limones?

Alisha: How much are the

lemons?

Fernando: ¿Cuánto cuestan los aguacates?

Alisha: How much are the avocados?

Alisha: And just to finish here, Fernando, what is a typical answer to a merchant once you have agreed on the price?

Fernando: You must order the product. So you say “give me a kilo please” or whatever.

Alisha: And how do you say that, again?

Fernando: You just need to mention the name of the product with its corresponding article. If it's lemons, unos limones and don't forget to add “please”, por favor.

Alisha: Unos limones, por favor...

Fernando: Repeat after me - unos limones por favor [pause]

Alisha: What if you are counting by units, such as kilos?

Fernando: Then you say “two kilos, please.” Dos kilos, por favor. Or three kilos, tres kilos por favor.

Alisha: Lets repeat everyone

Fernando: Dos kilos por favor. [pause].

Alisha: Ok, I think we've covered our lesson here. Don't forget to check the lesson notes to find more examples using cuánto cuesta...

Fernando: See you in our next lesson! por favor...

Alisha: Bye everyone!!