

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Absolute Beginner S3 #13

Responding to Questions in Spanish, Part 2

CONTENTS

- 2 INTRODUCTION
- 2 LESSON CONVERSATION
- 2 POST CONVERSATION BANTER
- 3 VOCAB LIST
- 4 KEY VOCABULARY AND PHRASES
- 5 LESSON FOCUS

13

INTRODUCTION

Alisha: Hi everybody, this is Alisha.

Fernando: Hola amigos, soy Fernando.

Alisha: Welcome to SpanishPod101.com. This is Absolute Beginner Season 3, Lesson 13 – Responding to Questions in Spanish, Part two!

Fernando: In this lesson you'll learn how to respond to formal questions using Mexican Spanish.

Alisha: You'll also learn how to ask where someone is going, and why they are doing something.

Fernando: This dialogue takes place at the airport.

Alisha: It's between Ashley and the immigration officer she's meeting as she enters Mexico City. Since it's an official, work-related conversation, the speakers will be using formal Spanish.

Fernando: Lets listen to the conversation.

LESSON CONVERSATION

Officer ¿A dónde va, señorita?

Ashley Voy a México D.F.

Officer ¿A qué va?

Ashley A trabajar y estudiar español.

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

Officer ¿A dónde va, señorita?

Ashley Voy a México D.F.

Officer ¿A qué va?

Ashley A trabajar y estudiar español.

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

Officer ¿A dónde va, señorita?

Alisha: Where are you going, Ma'am?

Ashley Voy a México D.F.

Alisha: I'm going to Mexico City.

Officer ¿A qué va?

Alisha: What are you going for?

Ashley A trabajar y estudiar español.

Alisha: To work and to study Spanish.

POST CONVERSATION BANTER

Alisha: Fernando, when the immigration officer asked Ashley where she was headed, she answered 'Mexico de-efe'. What does this mean?

Fernando: 'México De-efe' means "Mexico City", and it is the abbreviation for 'Distrito Federal', or "Federal District."

Alisha: And what does Federal District mean?

Fernando: Well, it's very similar to, for example, Washington D.C. in the US. It's separate from the other states.

Alisha: Ah, I see - so it's a federal entity within Mexico and not considered part of any other state?

Fernando: Yes, exactly.

Alisha: And so the Federal District name is also used for Mexico City?

Fernando: Yes. You'll hear it referred to like this. In some contexts, the name Mexico refers to the capital as well.

Alisha: So if you notice someone talking about 'de-efe', just know that they're talking about Mexico City!

Fernando: That's right.

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: a [natural native speed]

Alisha: to, at

Fernando: a [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Fernando: a [natural native speed]

Next:

Fernando: dónde [natural native speed]

Alisha: where

Fernando: dónde [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Fernando: dónde [natural native speed]

Next:

Fernando: ir [natural native speed]

Alisha: to go

Fernando: ir [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Fernando: ir [natural native

speed]

Next:

Fernando: señorita [natural native speed]

Alisha: young lady, miss, ma'am

Fernando: señorita [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Fernando: señorita [natural native speed]

Next:

Fernando: qué [natural native speed]

Alisha: what

Fernando: qué [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Fernando: qué [natural native speed]

Next:

Fernando: trabajar [natural native speed]

Alisha: to work

Fernando: trabajar [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Fernando: trabajar [natural native speed]

Next:

Fernando: estudiar [natural native speed]

Alisha: to study

Fernando: estudiar [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Fernando: estudiar [natural native speed]

Next:

Fernando: español [natural native speed]

Alisha: Spanish

Fernando: español [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Fernando: español [natural native speed]

KEY VOCABULARY AND PHRASES

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

Fernando Ok, the first one is 'Señorita.'

Alisha: Meaning "young lady", "miss".

Fernando: Yes. This word is tricky. You cannot use it very much in business settings in Mexico.

Alisha: Why? You can't address women as 'señorita' when doing business in Mexico?

Fernando: Well, it depends. If it's a woman in a store, a restaurant, or anything like

that, then yes, you may say 'señorita'.

Alisha: Let's repeat it once again...

Fernando: 'Señorita' [pause]

But if you're dealing with someone in their profession, you should call them by their title.

Alisha: Like "Professor" and so on?

Fernando: Yes, like 'Profesora', if she is a teacher, 'Arquitecta', if she is an architect, 'Ingeniera' if she is an Engineer, and so on.

Alisha: Wow, it seems like Mexican people are very proud of their professions.

Fernando: Well, that's true. But also, 'señorita' could be seen as condescending, so you should be careful.

Alisha: Is it okay to say 'señorita' to an older woman?

Fernando: No, older women, or women who are married, are not called 'señorita'. They would be 'Señora' or 'seño' in casual Spanish.

Alisha: Let's repeat - "Miss"

Fernando: 'Señorita' [pause]

Alisha: And "Madam"

Fernando: 'Señora' [pause]

Alisha: Ok, I think we're ready to move onto the grammar point.

LESSON FOCUS

Alisha: In this lesson, you'll learn the expression...

Fernando: ...'a dónde'...

Alisha: ...and learn how to ask where something or someone is headed.

Fernando: First of all, 'a dónde' is always followed by a verb.

Alisha: What kind of verb?

Fernando: A verb that indicates direction. For example, "to go". Remember, the word 'a' indicates direction.

Alisha: So, for example, the phrase "Where are you going?" would be...

Fernando: '¿A dónde vas?' Repeat after me - '¿A dónde vas?' [pause]

Alisha: The verb here is 'vas'?

Fernando: Yes, the verb is 'vas', which is a conjugation of the root verb 'ir' meaning "to go".

Alisha: Repeat after Fernando- "I go..."

Fernando: 'Yo voy...'

[pause]

Alisha: “You go...”

Fernando: ‘Tú vas...’ [pause].

Alisha: Now how do we respond to the question “where are you going?”

Fernando: To say “I’m going to school”, for example, just start with the verb “to go”, then say ‘a’, and add the place or direction. Here’s an example - ‘Voy a la escuela.’

Alisha: So the pattern is...

Fernando: ‘Voy a...’ plus the place.

Alisha: Listeners, please repeat. “I’m going to school.”

Fernando: ‘Voy a la escuela.’ [pause]

Alisha: Can we go over some other conjugations of the verb “to go”?

Fernando: Sure. For example, ‘yo voy-’

Alisha: I go,

Fernando: tú vas

Alisha: you go,

Fernando: él va, ella va

Alisha: he goes, she goes...

Alisha: Okay, great. Let’s look at one more thing.

Fernando: Yes, the question ‘a qué’

Alisha: And this means, “What for?”

Fernando: In the dialogue, the immigration officer asked Ashley ‘¿A qué va?’

Alisha: “What are you going (to Mexico) for?”

Fernando: And she replied - ‘A trabajar y estudiar español.’

Alisha: “To work and to study Spanish.”

Fernando: The word ‘a’ means intention or direction.

Alisha: So to answer this question, we say “I’m going”, then the preposition ‘a’ and then the verb or answer that explains the purpose of your action?

Fernando: Right. Just as Ashley did - ‘Voy a trabajar y estudiar español.’ Here, trabajar and estudiar are two verbs that mean “to work” and “to study”.

Alisha: And these verbs explain the reason that Ashley is going to Mexico.

Fernando: That’s right.

Alisha: Ok, everybody. This is it for this lesson. Please review your lesson notes for more details, and we’ll see you for the next lesson.

Fernando: Hasta pronto!