

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S3 #16 Order Some Delicious Mexican Food!

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Formal Spanish
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

# 16

## FORMAL SPANISH

1. ASHLEY:                   Disculpe, ¿hay tacos de pollo?
2. WAITER:                   No, no hay.
3. MARIA:                    ¿Hay tacos de carne?
4. WAITER:                   Sí, sí hay.

## ENGLISH

1. ASHLEY:                   Excuse me, do you have chicken tacos?
2. WAITER:                   No, we don't.
3. ASHLEY:                   Do you have beef tacos?
4. WAITER:                   Yes, we do.

## VOCABULARY

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Gender</b>
pollo	chicken	noun	masculine
no	no	adverb, adjective, exclamation	
de	of	preposition	n/a
haber	to be (there is)	verb of existence, auxiliary verb	
Disculpe.	Excuse me.	expression	

sí	yes	adverb	masculine
taco	taco (Mexican dish)	noun	masculine
carne	meat	noun	feminine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

El hombre está cortando pollo. "The man is cutting chicken."	El cocinero asa el pollo a la barbacoa. "The cook barbecues the chicken."
No es una mala idea. "It's not a bad idea."	Es el 22 de agosto. "It's August 22nd."
Habrá veinte personas en la cena. "There will be twenty people at the dinner."	Disculpe, ¿en dónde está la estación del tren? "Excuse me, where is the train station?"
Disculpe, creo que es mi asiento en el que usted está sentado. "Excuse me, I think this is my seat you are sitting on."	¿Disculpe, dónde está el banco? "Excuse me, where is the bank?"
Sí, hablo mucho. "Yes, I speak a lot."	Me gustan los tacos. "I like tacos."

Yuliza no come carne porque ella es vegetariana.

"Yuliza doesn't eat meat because she is a vegetarian."

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

## pollo

As a live animal, *pollo* means "chick," but as a food product, it means "chicken meat" or "poultry." Mexicans are one of the world's top chicken consumers and exporters. Ways of preparing it include *pollo asado* ("roast chicken"), *fajitas de pollo* ("chicken fajitas"), *tacos de pollo* ("chicken tacos"), *pollo en adobo* ("marinade chicken"), *consomé de pollo* ("chicken soup"), *enchiladas verdes* ("green enchiladas"), etc.

## carne

Strictly, *carne* means any kind of "flesh" or "pulp," either from animals or fruits. You may say *carne de puerco* ("pork meat") or *carne de pollo* ("chicken meat"). But in Mexico, if you just say *carne*, it means "beef." The right thing to call it, however, is *carne de res*. Beef production is very extensive in Mexico and top quality *carne* comes from the northern state of Sonora.

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is to Teach You the Use of *Hay/No Hay* and *Tiene/No Tiene*.**

***Disculpe, señorita. ¿Hay tacos de pollo? No, no hay.***

**"Excuse me, Ma'am. Do you have chicken tacos? No, we don't."**

---

In Spanish, to ask or indicate the existence of something, we use a verb that is not present in English: *hay* (*haber*). Technically, it translates as "to have," but a closer translation is "to be" as in "there are..." An alternative way of asking whether something is present is to use the verb *tener* ("to have"). See the following examples.

### For Example:

Verb	Direct Object	Complement	"English"
<i>¿Hay*</i>	<i>buenos lugares</i>	<i>aquí?</i>	"Are there any good places here?"
<i>¿Hay</i>	<i>americanos</i>	<i>en México DF?</i>	"Are there Americans in Mexico City?"

<i>¿Tiene</i>	<i>manzanas?</i>		"Do you have apples?"
<i>¿Tiene</i>	<i>tiempo</i>	<i>esta noche?</i>	"Do you have time tonight?"

\*Notice that the verb *haber* always remains in the same conjugation, *hay*.

When using the affirmative form of *haber*, the complement of the direct object goes first:

<b>Complement</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Direct Object</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Aquí</i>	<i>hay</i>	<i>buenos lugares.</i>	"There are good places here."
<i>En México DF</i>	<i>hay</i>	<i>americanos.</i>	"There are Americans in Mexico City."

In the case of affirmative sentences using *tener*, we must conjugate the verb, but all else remains equal:

<b>Tener</b>	<b>Direct Object</b>	<b>Complement</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Tengo</i>	<i>manzanas.</i>		"I have apples."
<i>Tengo</i>	<i>tiempo</i>	<i>esta noche.</i>	"I have time tonight."

We can use *haber* and *tener* interchangeably. However, *haber* means that the object in reference is simply there, whereas *tener* means that the person actually has it in his or her possession. So in this dialogue, when Ashley asked the waitress *hay tacos de pollo?* she is asking the question in an impersonal way, as if she is saying "Are there tacos in the kitchen?" Asking *¿tiene tacos de pollo?* is a very slight difference, but it means that the waitress actually *has* the tacos herself. This kind of question is more common in small shops, where the actual owner may be the one taking the orders.

**For Example:**

1. *Hay mucha gente.*  
"There are many people."
2. *¿Aquí hay un cajero?*  
"Is there an ATM here?"

### Examples From This Dialogue

---

1. *¿Hay tacos de carne?*  
"Do you have beef tacos?"

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### How to Get Good Service in Mexico

---

In Mexico, you must be careful not to treat anyone disrespectfully. In restaurants, waiters are normally attentive, but the use of tipping has impoverished what used to be a world-renowned culture of hospitality. If you would like to call the waiter's attention, do not whistle or snap your fingers. Say *disculpe, señorita* or *disculpe, joven*. It is also a good idea to ask first whether the restaurant has what is on the menu as opposed to just assuming. Be humble, and you will be treated very well. Normally a tip of fifteen to twenty percent is considered good. Be careful, since some restaurants already add the tip on the ticket and you may end up paying it twice!