

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S3 #22

Giving orders in Spanish

CONTENTS

- 2 Informal Spanish
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

22

INFORMAL SPANISH

1. ASHLEY: Alejandro, ¡ven!
2. ALEJANDRO: ¿Qué pasa?
3. ASHLEY: ¡Necesito ayuda!
4. ALEJANDRO: ¡Espera! Ahí voy.

ENGLISH

1. ASHLEY: Alejandro, come!
2. ALEJANDRO: What's the matter?
3. ASHLEY: I need help!
4. ALEJANDRO: Wait! I'm coming.

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
ayuda	help	noun	feminine
esperar	to wait	verb	
necesitar	to need	verb	
venir	to come	verb	
qué	what	interrogative adverb, adjective	

ir	to go	verb
pasar	to happen	verb
ahí	there, over there	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>¡Gracias por tu ayuda!</p> <p>"Thanks for your help!"</p>	<p>¿Puedes esperar por tu factura un par de días más? La tengo casi lista.</p> <p>"Can you wait for your invoice a couple of days more? I have it almost ready."</p>
<p>No me gusta esperar.</p> <p>"I don't like waiting."</p>	<p>¡Odio esperar por tí por horas!</p> <p>"I hate waiting for you for hours!"</p>
<p>No me gusta esperar a la gente.</p> <p>"I don't like waiting for people."</p>	<p>En realidad necesito que me escuches.</p> <p>"I really need you to listen to me."</p>
<p>Todas las mañanas necesito tomar un café.</p> <p>"Every morning, I need to drink coffee."</p>	<p>Ven conmigo por favor.</p> <p>"Come with me please."</p>
<p>Venías a mi casa cada día.</p> <p>"You were coming to my house every day."</p>	<p>¿Qué es esto?</p> <p>"What is this?"</p>

<p>Estamos yendo a la playa.</p> <p>"We are going to the beach."</p>	<p>Me pasan cosas buenas.</p> <p>"Good things happen to me."</p>
<p>Por favor, pon las bolsas de las compras ahí.</p> <p>"Please, put the shopping bags there."</p>	<p>Estoy ahí a las ocho.</p> <p>"I'll be there at eight o'clock."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

¿Qué pasa? ("What's happening?"/"What's going on? ")

¿Qué pasa? is a useful phrase to find out what the problem is. Whenever something is not going as expected, you may use *¿qué pasa?* You may add a bit of exasperation to your voice to make it more dramatic. You may also use it to inquire about someone's health or emotional state: *¿qué te pasa?* We use this often when someone looks sad or ill.

¡Ahí voy! ("A definite keeper!")

You will use this expression every time you don't want someone to run out of patience while waiting for you. Literally it means "there I go," as if playing a scene in someone's head where the subject, "I," is already going. It is often followed by *espérame tantito* ("wait just a little").

ayuda ("help," "S.O.S.")

This is a noun that expresses need. As such, it can be combined with the verb *dar* ("to give," "to request"), as in *dame ayuda* ("give me help"), or we can put it in the imperative mood, as in *ayúdame* ("help me").

esperar ("to wait")

Esperar means "to stand by until something is ready." The use is the same as in English and we often use it in the imperative mood: *¡espera!* ("Wait!")

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is to Teach You the Imperative Use of Verbs: *Venir*

In Spanish, as in English, we can transform verbs into the imperative form using the right conjugation or mood. To do this, you will need to follow some rules:

1) For commands using casual Spanish (*tú*), simply say the verb as if using formal Spanish in the present indicative form.

Verb	Second Person Present Indicative (Formal)		Second Person Imperative (Casual)	"English" (Casual)
<i>comer</i>	<i>Usted come</i>	→	<i>(tú) come*</i>	"eat"
<i>mirar</i>	<i>Usted mira</i>	→	<i>(tú) mira</i>	"look"
<i>leer</i>	<i>Usted lee</i>	→	<i>(tú) lee</i>	"read"
<i>comprar</i>	<i>Usted compra</i>	→	<i>(tú) compra</i>	"buy"
<i>caminar</i>	<i>Usted camina</i>	→	<i>(tú) camina</i>	"walk"

* Verbs in the imperative may go between exclamation marks, but this is not a requirement: for example, *¡ven!*, *¡espera!*, *¡come!*, *¡saluda!*, *¡corre!*, *¡ve!*

There are a few exceptions to this rule:

Verb	Second Person Present Indicative (Formal)		Second Person Imperative (Casual)	"English" (Casual)
<i>decir</i>	<i>Usted dice</i>	→	<i>(tú) di *</i>	"say"
<i>salir</i>	<i>Usted sale</i>	→	<i>(tú) sal</i>	"go out"
<i>hacer</i>	<i>Usted hace</i>	→	<i>(tú) haz</i>	"do"
<i>ser</i>	<i>Usted es</i>	→	<i>(tú) sé</i>	"be"

<i>ir</i>	<i>Usted va</i>	→	<i>(tú) ve</i>	"go"
<i>tener</i>	<i>Usted tiene</i>	→	<i>(tú) ten</i>	"have"
<i>poner</i>	<i>Usted pone</i>	→	<i>(tú) pon</i>	"put"
<i>venir</i>	<i>Usted viene</i>	→	<i>(tú) ven</i>	"come"

* Often times, orders have the reflexive particle *-me*, *-te*, or *-se* at the end, which draws the action of the verb onto the subject itself for more emphasis.

2) For commands using formal Spanish (*usted*), use the first person present subjunctive form of the verb:

Verb	First Person Present Subjunctive		Second Person Imperative (Formal)	"English" (Formal)
<i>comer</i>	<i>Que yo coma</i>	→	<i>(usted) coma</i>	"eat"
<i>mirar</i>	<i>Que yo mire</i>	→	<i>(usted) mire</i>	"look"
<i>leer</i>	<i>Que yo lea</i>	→	<i>(usted) lea</i>	"read"
<i>comprar</i>	<i>Que yo compre</i>	→	<i>(usted) compre</i>	"buy"
<i>caminar</i>	<i>Que yo camine</i>	→	<i>(usted) camine</i>	"walk"
<i>dar</i>	<i>Que yo dé</i>	→	<i>(usted) dé</i>	"give"
<i>estar</i>	<i>Que yo esté</i>	→	<i>(usted) esté</i>	"be"
<i>ir</i>	<i>Que yo vaya</i>	→	<i>(usted) vaya</i>	"go"
<i>ser</i>	<i>Que yo sea</i>	→	<i>(usted) sea</i>	"be"
<i>saber</i>	<i>Que yo sepa</i>	→	<i>(usted) sepa</i>	"know"

As a rule of thumb, you may want to learn an easy way to guess the imperative mood of verbs. First recognize the *-ar*, *-er*, or *-ir* structure of the verb, since most of them fall into one of these three categories:

Verb (Infinitive)	Suffix	Root		Imperative
<i>jugar</i>	<i>-ar</i>	<i>jug</i>	→	<i>juega</i>
<i>correr</i>	<i>-er</i>	<i>corr</i>	→	<i>corre</i>
<i>vivir</i>	<i>-ir</i>	<i>viv</i>	→	<i>vive</i>

By removing the suffix *-ar*, *-er*, or *-ir* and trying to finish the verb with vowels *-a* or *-e*, you can try to guess the imperative mood. On the other hand, you may answer an order with another order. For example, in the dialogue, Ashley said *¡ven!* ("come") and Alejandro responded *¡espera!* ("wait"). Common imperative exclamations are *vete* ("go away"), *salte* ("get out"), *cállate* ("shut up"), *dame* ("give me"), and *dime* ("tell me").

For Example:

1. *Dame una manzana.*
"Give me an apple."
2. *Espera uno minuto.*
"Wait a minute."

Examples From This Dialogue

1. *¡Espera! Ahí voy.*
"Wait! I'm coming."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

How to Avoid Fights in Mexico

Fights and verbal confrontations occur in every country, and Mexico is not an exception. When people confront each other, they use many verbs in the imperative, such as *¡cállate!* ("Shut up!"), *¡dime!* ("Tell me!"), *¡dame!* ("Give me!"), etc. While not typically fight-seeking people, under pressure, Mexicans will lose control and explode in anger. Using formal

Spanish expressions, such as *usted*, and being extremely polite when confronting someone is usually a good way to ensure a better understanding.