

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S3 #23

## Exchanging gifts in Mexico

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# # 23

## INFORMAL SPANISH

1. ASHLEY:                   María, un regalito para ti.
2. MARIA:                   ¿Para mí? ¡Guau! ¿Qué es?
3. ASHLEY:                   Es una réplica del Golden Gate Bridge.
4. MARIA:                   ¡Qué padre, gracias!

## ENGLISH

1. ASHLEY:                   Maria, a little present for you.
2. MARIA:                   For me? Wow! What is it?
3. ASHLEY:                   It's a replica of the Golden Gate Bridge.
4. MARIA:                   Awesome! Thanks!

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
guau	wow	interjection	
réplica	replica	noun	feminine
del (de el)	of the	contraction (preposition+article)	
padre	great, fantastic, cool (slang)	adjective	
mí	me	indirect object pronoun	

para	for, in order to	preposition	
regalo	gift, present	noun	masculine
ti	you	indirect object pronoun	

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

¡Guau, qué bien! "Wow, how nice!"	No es real, es una réplica. "It's not real, it's a replica."
Esto es el fondo del túnel. "This is the end of the tunnel."	La película está padre. "The movie is great."
A mí me gusta caminar en la tarde. "I like to walk in the evening."	Este programa es para hacer diseño. "This program is for doing design."
Quiero muchos regalos para mi cumpleaños. "I want a lot of presents for my birthday."	Para ti, el español no es muy difícil. "Spanish is not very difficult for you."

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **¡Guau!**

*¡Guau!* is an expression of surprise and slight disbelief imported from the English language. Other common expressions in Mexico include *¿en serio?*, *¿de verdad?*, and *¡no te creo!* For slang, use *¡órale!* ("Wow!"), *¡chido!* ("Awesome!") or *¿neta?* ("For real?")

## **¡Qué padre!**

*¡Qué padre!* is an expression of approval used only in Mexico, which we can translate as "fantastic," "great," or "wonderful." You may also say *¡qué cool!*, *¡qué chido!* ("How awesome!") or *¡qué fregón!*, which is slang for "How annoying!"

## **del (de + el) ("of the")**

*Del* is a preposition followed by an article that has become contracted into a single word. In English, we translate it as "of the."

### **For Example:**

1. *la cabeza del martillo*  
"the head of the hammer" or "the hammer's head"

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is to Teach You the Use of Prepositional Pronouns for Giving or Receiving Something: *Para Mí + Para Ti.***

***María, un regalito para ti.***

**"Maria, a little present for you."**

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This dialogue is divided in two parts: the questions "For whom is it?" and "What is it?" The present Ashley brought is the topic of conversation. María is told from the beginning it is for her, but she wants to confirm *¿para mí?* as if expressing disbelief. Then she asks: *¿qué es?*" Let's study the grammatical structure of these two questions.

Prepositions join words together and thus provide an important function in changing the meaning of a sentence. In this case, *para* ("for") gives a sense of whom the action of the verb falls on. In this dialogue, the implied verb is *tengo* ("to have") or *es* ("to be"). When Ashley says *un regalito para ti*, she could also have said *Tengo un regalito para ti* ("I have a present for you.") or *es un regalito para ti* ("It is a present for you."). See the following examples using these two verbs.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Preposition</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Esto</i>	<i>es</i>	<i>para</i>	<i>mí</i>	"This is for me."
<i>El piano</i>	<i>es</i>	<i>para</i>	<i>ti</i>	"The piano is for you."
<i>La muñeca</i>	<i>es</i>	<i>para</i>	<i>María</i>	"The doll is for María."
<i>El agua</i>	<i>es</i>	<i>para</i>	<i>usted</i>	"The water is for you."

<b>Verb</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Preposition</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Tengo</i>	<i>algo</i>	<i>para</i>	<i>ti</i>	"I have something for you."
<i>Tienes</i>	<i>cosas</i>	<i>para</i>	<i>mi</i>	"You have things for me."
<i>Tiene</i>	<i>un perro</i>	<i>para</i>	<i>Juan</i>	"He/she has a dog for Juan."
<i>Tiene</i>	<i>un regalo</i>	<i>para</i>	<i>usted</i>	"He/she has a present for you."

### For Example:

1. *El pastel es para mi.*  
"The cake is for me."
2. *Tengo algo para ti.*  
"I have something for you."

### Examples From This Dialogue

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1. *¡Qué padre, gracias!*  
"Awesome, thanks!"

## Language Tip: Diminutive Form of Nouns

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In Mexico, people are fond of saying things in the diminutive form to express kindness and softness.

### For Example:

1. *regalo* ("present") --> *regalito* ("little present")
2. *niño* ("boy") --> *niñito* ("little boy")

This goes for nouns but also for adjectives.

### For Example:

1. *frío* --> *friiito*
2. *calor* --> *calorcito*

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### It Is As Good to Give As to Receive

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Mexican people like to give gifts to friends and family on many occasions. One of them is on their birthdays, in which they typically wake the person up singing *Las Mañanitas* and bringing them nicely wrapped presents. Another is on Christmas Eve, when they gather around a *Nacimiento* built under the Christmas tree and place the presents secretly until it's time to open them. Another is *Reyes Magos*, January sixth, when an oval-shaped pastry called *rosca de reyes* is cut, hiding small plastic dolls inside. And, of course, you should bring a present if you're having dinner or staying at someone's house. But whenever you give presents, make sure they're accompanied by a card saying something nice. And when you're given a present, you're supposed to open it on the spot, praise it, and give your partner a hug. Then use it and as much as possible to show people that you liked it.