

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Absolute Beginner S3 #24

Talking about family in Spanish

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INTRODUCTION

Alisha: Hi everybody, this is Alisha.

Fernando: Hola amigos, yo soy Fernando.

Alisha: Welcome back to SpanishPod101.com. This is Absolute Beginner Season 3, Lesson 24 – Talking About Your Family in Spanish. In this lesson you will learn how to talk about your family and personal life using Spanish. Among other things, you will learn how to use the Spanish verb for “I have...”

Alisha: This conversation is between Ashley and her new friend Jorge.

Fernando: And it takes place at a party.

Alisha: The speakers are friends, so they will be using casual Spanish.

Fernando: Let’s listen to the conversation.

LESSON CONVERSATION

Ashley ¿Tienes hermanos?

Jorge: Sí, tengo un hermano.

Ashley ¿Y cuántos años tiene?

Jorge: Mi hermano tiene veinte años.

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

Ashley ¿Tienes hermanos?

Jorge: Sí, tengo un hermano.

Ashley ¿Y cuántos años tiene?

Jorge: Mi hermano tiene veinte años.

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

Ashley ¿Tienes hermanos?

: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Jorge: Sí, tengo un hermano.

: Yes, I have a brother.

Ashley ¿Y cuántos años tiene?

: And how old is he?

Jorge: Mi hermano tiene veinte años.

: My brother is twenty years old.

POST CONVERSATION BANTER

Alisha: Fernando, when having a casual conversation in Mexico, are there any things we may or may not ask? Like cultural taboos?

Fernando: Not really. But, like in many other places, be careful about asking questions that are too personal in the beginning.

Alisha: Like, are you married?

Fernando: Exactly.

Alisha: How about how old are you?

Fernando: In the case of men it's okay, but with women it may be impolite.

Alisha: What about where do you live?

Fernando: It's kind of personal, but a lot of people ask it. Especially when they're trying to figure out what social position you have.

Alisha: So what are some typically safe topics?

Fernando: Place of origin, ancestry, siblings, parents, profession...

Alisha: Well, quite a lot then.

Fernando: Yes, I think Mexican people are quite open from the beginning.

Alisha: Good to know! Let's move onto the vocab section now.

VOCAB LIST

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

: The first word we shall see is:

Fernando: tener [natural native speed]

: to have

Fernando: tener [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Fernando: tener [natural native speed]

: Next:

Alisha: hermanos [natural native speed]

: siblings, brothers or sisters

Alisha: hermanos [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Alisha: hermanos [natural native speed]

: Next:

Fernando: un [natural native speed]

: a, one

Fernando: un [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Fernando: un [natural native speed]

: Next:

Alisha: hermano [natural native speed]

: brother

Alisha: hermano [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Alisha: hermano [natural native speed]

: Next:

Fernando: y [natural native speed]

: and

Fernando: y [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Fernando: y [natural native speed]

: Next:

Alisha: cuánto,: [natural native speed]

: how much, how many

Alisha: cuánto,: [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Alisha: cuánto,: [natural native speed]

: Next:

Fernando: años [natural native speed]

: years

Fernando: años [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Fernando: años [natural native speed]

: Next:

Alisha: veinte [natural native speed]

: twenty

Alisha: veinte [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Alisha: veinte [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. The first word we'll look at is....

Fernando: hermano

Alisha: Meaning "brother."

Fernando: Right.

Alisha: How about in the plural form?

Fernando: Good point! When we say 'hermanos', it means only brothers, or brothers and sisters

together.

Alisha: So if you're asking someone if they have any brothers or sisters, you use this?

Fernando: Right. For example, in the dialogue, Ashley said, "Tienes hermanos?"

Alisha: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Fernando: That's right.

Alisha: So if brother is 'hermano', then "sister" is...?

Fernando: 'Hermana'. Just change the 'o' at the end to an 'a'.

Alisha: Everyone, please repeat!

Fernando: Hermano [pause] Hermana [pause], hermanos [pause]

Alisha: And our next phrase is...

Fernando: ¿Cuántos años?

Alisha: How old...

Fernando: We use this to ask someone's age.

Alisha: What's the full phrase?

Fernando: It's '¿cuántos años tienes?'

Alisha: This is related to our grammar point, right?

Fernando: Yes, we'll be looking at the verb meaning "have", which is 'tener'.

Alisha: Okay, let's get to it!

LESSON FOCUS

Alisha: The focus of this lesson is using the verb "to have".

Fernando: In Spanish, this is 'tener'.

Let's go over the basic conjugations.

Alisha: Sounds good.

Fernando: They are... 'yo tengo'

Alisha: I have

Fernando: tu tienes

Alisha: you have

Fernando: él tiene

Alisha: he has

Fernando: ella tiene

Alisha: she has

Fernando: usted tiene

Alisha: you have (formal)

Alisha: So what are things people can have? For example, a

house?

Fernando: Sure, why not? Yo tengo una casa.

Alisha: I have a house. Repeat listeners...

Fernando: Yo tengo una casa [pause]

Alisha: Let's keep the same noun for house, and go for more conjugations using the verb 'tener', "to have". "You have a house."

Fernando: Tú tienes una casa.

Alisha: He has a house.

Fernando: Él tiene una casa.

Alisha: She has a house.

Fernando: Ella tiene una casa.

Alisha: Now in formal Spanish - "You have a house".

Fernando: Usted tiene una casa.

Alisha: What other things can you have using this verb?

Fernando: Like we mentioned earlier, when talking about brothers and sisters.

Alisha: Ah yes, just like in English. We use "have".

Fernando: To ask someone in casual Spanish if they have siblings, you can say - 'Tienes hermanos?'

Alisha: Do you have any siblings?

Fernando: And then to talk about siblings you have, you say Tengo... I have... and then you can say 'un hermano', "one brother", 'una hermana', "one sister", 'dos hermanos', "2 brothers" or "2 siblings"... whatever fits your situation.

Alisha: By the way, Fernando, do you have any brothers or sisters?

Fernando: Yes! 'Tengo una hermana.'

Alisha: You have a sister?

Fernando: You got it!

Alisha: Great! Okay, and any other important uses for "to have"?

Fernando: Age is a big one.

Alisha: Age?! But in English we say "I am..." and then the number of years old.

Fernando: I know, but in Spanish we use the verb to have, tener. So we say "I have 20 years," for example.

Alisha: How do you actually say that?

Fernando: Tengo veinte años.

Alisha: Literally, "I have twenty years", but it means I'm twenty years old.

Alisha: We saw an example of this in the dialogue.

Fernando: Yes, Ashley asked Jorge about his brother - ¿Cuántos años

tiene?

Ashley How old is he? And Jorge said...

Fernando: Mi hermano tiene veinte años.

Ashley "My brother is twenty years old." Okay, did you get all of that, listeners?

Fernando: Leave us a comment, and try using the verb 'tener'

Alisha: You can tell us something you have, how old you are, if you have any brothers or sisters... anything! Okay, well that's going to do it for this lesson.

Fernando: Thanks for listening everyone!

Alisha: Tune in next time for the last lesson of this series. Until then!

Fernando: Hasta la vista!