

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #1 Is That a Spanish Name?

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INFORMAL SPANISH

1. JORGE: Hola, me llamo Jorge. Mucho gusto. ¿Cuál es tu nombre?
2. ANDREA: Mi nombre es Andrea. Igualmente, mucho gusto.
3. JORGE: ¿Nos vamos a la tienda?
4. ANDREA: Sí, vamos.

ENGLISH

1. JORGE: Hi, I'm Jorge. Nice to meet you. What's your name?
2. ANDREA: My name is Andrea. Likewise, nice to meet you.
3. JORGE: We're off to the store?
4. ANDREA: Yes, let's go.

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
¿Cuál es tu nombre?	What is your name? (informal)	expression	
mucho gusto	it's a pleasure	phrase	
llamarse	to be called	verb	
tienda	store	noun	feminine
ir	to go	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>¿Cuál es tu nombre, pequeña?</p> <p>"What is your name, little one?"</p>	<p>Mucho gusto.</p> <p>"It's a pleasure."</p>
<p>¿Cómo te llamas?</p> <p>"What's your name?"</p>	<p>Yo compraba queso de la tienda en la esquina.</p> <p>"I used to buy cheese from the corner store."</p>
<p>¿Te gustaría ir a nadar?</p> <p>"Would you like to go swim?"</p>	<p>¿Puedo ir contigo?</p> <p>"May I go with you?"</p>
<p>¿Quién irá a la playa el próximo fin de semana?</p> <p>"Who is going to the beach next weekend?"</p>	<p>Ellos van a la playa.</p> <p>"They are going to the beach."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

llamarse ("to be called") Literally, this is **llamar**, meaning "to call," plus **se**, meaning "oneself." We often more comfortably translate this reflexive in Spanish as the English passive voice, hence "to be called."

Mucho gusto ("A pleasure to meet you.") This is the common phrase we use when meeting someone for the first time. The standard response is *igualmente*, meaning "likewise."

¿Cuál es tu nombre? ("What is your name?") We use this phrase less often than the equivalent **¿cómo te llamas?** that uses **llamarse**.

la tienda ("the store," "the shop") We can also use this word to mean "tent."

ir ("to go") This very common verb is highly irregular in the present and past tenses.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Saying Your Name.

Hola, me llamo Jorge.

"Hi, I'm Jorge."

There are a few common ways to give your name in Spanish; the most common is to use the verb **llamarse**, meaning "to be called." Literally, this is **llamar**, meaning "to call," and **se**, meaning "oneself."

Llamarse

The table below shows the conjugation of the verb **llamarse** in the present tense. This is the most common and most current way to give people's names.

Spanish	"English"
<i>me llamo</i>	"I am called"
<i>te llamas</i>	"you are called" (familiar)
<i>se llama</i>	"he/she/it is called," "you are called" (formal)
<i>nos llamamos</i>	"we are called"
<i>os llamaís</i>	"you all are called"
<i>se llaman</i>	"you all are called," "they are called"

For Example:

1. *Hola, me llamo Jorge.*
"Hi, I'm Jorge."

Using the *mi nombre es...* Formula

Another way people give their names and the names of others is the **mi nombre es...** formula. It is less common than **llamarse** and more antiseptic in tone.

Spanish	"English"
<i>mi nombre es...</i>	"my name is..."
<i>tu nombre es...</i>	"your name is..."
<i>su nombre es...</i>	"he/she/it's name is..." "your name is (formal)"
<i>nuestro nombre es...</i>	"our name is..."
<i>vuestro nombre es...</i>	"your name is..."
<i>su nombre es...</i>	"your name is," "their name is..."

For Example:

1. *Mi nombre es Andrea.*
"My name is Andrea."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Exchanging Names in Spanish

¿Cómo te llamas? is by far the most common and most colloquial way of asking someone their first name in Spanish. **¿Cuál es tu nombre?** has a more antiseptic tone, and is more appropriate for non-social situations.

To ask someone their last name, use the questions **¿Cómo te apellidas?** or **¿Cuál es tu apellido?** The noun is **apellido** ("last name, family name") and the verb is **apellidar** ("to be (last) named").