

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1

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INFORMAL SPANISH

1. RODRIGO: Oye, ¿Qué estás comiendo?
2. VIOLETA: Papitas.
3. RODRIGO: ¿Me das unas?
4. VIOLETA: ...no. Ya me las comí todas.

ENGLISH

1. RODRIGO: What are you eating?
2. VIOLETA: Potato chips.
3. RODRIGO: Will you give me some?
4. VIOLETA: ...No. I ate them all.

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
comer	to eat	verb	
las papitas	potato chips	noun	feminine
dar	to give	verb	
ya	already, now	adverb	
todo	all	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Estamos supuestos a comer al menos tres veces al día.</p> <p>"We are supposed to eat at least three times a day."</p>	<p>Comí un arroz chaufa bien taypá.</p> <p>"I ate tons of fried rice."</p>
<p>Ellos comen mucho.</p> <p>"They eat a lot."</p>	<p>¿Me compras una bolsita de papitas, por favor?</p> <p>"(Will you) buy me a bag of chips, please?"</p>
<p>Te han dado el crédito que estoy segura que tú no mereces.</p> <p>"You have been given the credit that I'm sure you don't deserve. "</p>	<p>Dame un vaso de agua</p> <p>"Give me a glass of water."</p>
<p>El gobierno ya tiene demasiado poder.</p> <p>"The government already has too much power."</p>	<p>El carro ya está adentro de la cochera.</p> <p>"The car is already inside the garage."</p>
<p>Dividimos los platos entre todas las personas.</p> <p>"We divided out the plates among all the people."</p>	<p>Viajamos toda la semana.</p> <p>"We traveled all week."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

comer ("to eat")

In this dialogue, we hear *comer* in two forms: the present participle *comiendo* ("eating") as well as in the preterit *comí* ("I ate").

las papitas ("potato chips")

This is the Latin American word. In European Spanish, they say *patatas fritas de bolsa* or simply *patatas fritas*.

dar ("to give")

In the dialogue, we hear the second person singular form of the present tense *das*, meaning "you give."

ya ("now," "already")

When we use *ya* with a verb in the past tense, we usually translate this adverbial particle as "already." When we use it with a present action, we usually translate it as "now."

todo ("all")

As all adjectives do, *todo* reflects the gender and number of the noun it modifies. The feminine form is *toda*, and the plural forms are *todos* and *todas*. We usually understand *todos*, in the absence of a noun, to mean "everyone."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Direct Object Pronouns.

Ya me las comí todas.

"I already ate them all."

Just as in English, in Spanish direct objects can be pronominalized; that is to say, we can use a pronoun in place of a direct object for the sake of brevity, rather than repeating the full form of the direct object each time we refer to it. Unlike English, Spanish direct object pronouns precede the conjugated verb in a simple sentence.

Spanish direct object pronouns agree in person, gender, and number with the noun they replace.

Spanish Direct Object Pronoun	"English"
<i>me</i>	"me"
<i>te</i>	"you"
<i>lo</i>	"you" (formal), "him"

<i>la</i>	"you" (formal), "her"
<i>nos</i>	"us"
<i>os</i>	"you all" (familiar, Spain)
<i>los</i>	"you all" (Latin America), "them"
<i>las</i>	"you all" (Latin America), "them" (feminine)

Sample Sentences

1. *Me besó.*
"She kissed me."
2. *Te besó.*
"She kissed you."
3. *Lo besó.*
"She kissed you." (formal)
"She kissed him."
4. *La besó.*
"She kissed you." (formal)
"She kissed her."
5. *Nos besó.*
"She kissed us."
6. *Os besó.*
"She kissed you all."
7. *Los besó.*
"She kissed you all."
"She kissed them."

8. *Las besó.*
"She kissed you all."
"She kissed them."

Language Expansion

In simple sentences, direct object pronouns precede the conjugated verb, as shown above.

However, we may also suffix direct object pronouns to infinitives and present participles. This often occurs in more complex sentences involving phrases with unconjugated verbs. When we suffix object pronouns, we use an accent mark to preserve the tonic stress of the verb.

For Example:

1. *Ella me quiere pegar.* (The direct object pronoun precedes the conjugated verb.)
"She wants to hit me."
2. *Ella quiere pegarme.* (The direct object pronoun is suffixed to the infinitive.)
"She wants to hit me."
3. *Ella sigue pegándome.* (The direct object pronoun is suffixed to the present participle, and the stress is marked.)
"She keeps hitting me."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Is It Snack Time Yet in Spain?

Who doesn't like throwing back a couple of potato chips when that four o'clock p.m. hunger starts lurking at the office? I'll tell you who... Rather, I won't. What I will say is that snacking takes on a different meaning in Spanish-speaking countries. Take for example Spain, a country deeply rooted in tradition. When snack time comes around, the Spanish are more

likely to head to a café and order a cup of coffee and piece of sweet bread. Other times, a snack might entail a beer and some olives. Granted, in bigger, more bustling cities such as Madrid or Barcelona, time constraints won't permit this type of snacking.

So if a work assignment to Spain arrives on your desk, take it. Immediately. Immediately!
Or let me know, and I'll go in your place.