Absolute Beginner S1 #8
There Is Always Something to Do in Latin America

CONTENTS

8

INFORMAL SPANISH

1.	JORGE:	Ya es hora, gracias a Dios.
2.	VALENTINA:	¿Haces algo esta noche?
3.	JORGE:	No, nada. Me voy a casa.
4.	VALENTINA:	Pues hasta mañana.

ENGLISH

1.	JORGE:	It's time now, thank God.
2.	VALENTINA:	Are you doing something tonight?
3.	JORGE:	No, nothing. I'm going home.
4.	VALENTINA:	Then see you tomorrow.

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class
hacer	to do, to make	verb
algo	something	indefinite pronoun
nada	nothing, not at all, nothingness	pronoun
irse	to leave, to take off, to get out	verb
Hasta mañana.	See you tomorrow.	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Tengo que hacer la tarea.	Ella hace dibujos bonitos.
"I have to do my homework."	"She makes pretty drawings."
Por favor come algo.	Quiero tomar algo.
"Please eat something."	"I want to drink something."
¿Por qué no haces nada?	Ya llegó la hora de irse
"Why don't you do anything?"	The time has arrived to leave.

Ya me voy. ¡Hasta mañana!

"I'm taking off. See you tomorrow!"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

hacer ("to do," "to make")
This is an all-purpose verb in Spanish that we use in many phrasal expressions.

algo ("something")
 This is an indefinite pronoun representing an inanimate noun. Its opposite is *nada* ("nothing").

nada ("nothing")
 This indefinite pronoun is the opposite of *algo* ("something"). We often find it in the structure *no...nada* ("not...anything").

irse ("to go away," "to leave," "to take off")
 This reflexive verb is different from regular *ir* ("to go") in that it emphasizes the "leaving" aspect of the action.

Hasta mañana. ("See you tomorrow.")
 This is a leave-taking phrase that lacks the formality and finality of *adiós* ("good-bye").

GRAMMAR

 The Focus of This Lesson Is the Word *Nada*.

No, nada. Me voy a casa.
"No, nothing. I'm going home."

We can use the indefinite pronoun *nada* ("nothing") independently, as is the speakers use it in this dialogue.

We can also use it as the subject of a sentence; in such cases, we conjugate the verb in the third person singular.

For Example:

1.	*Nada me va a impedir.*
	"Nothing is going to get in my way."

When *nada* is the object of a sentence or when it is a subject that appears after the verb, we must use the construction *no...nada* ("nothing, not...anything").

For Example:

1.	*No vamos a comer nada.*
	"We are not going to eat anything."

2.	*No me va a impedir nada.*
	"Nothing is going to stop me."

We sometimes use *nada* and *no...nada* adverbially; in this case they would mean "not at all" or "nothing."

1.	*No es nada metiche.*
	"She's not at all nosy."

2.	*Sólo quiero hablar contigo, nada más.*
	"I just want to talk to you, nothing more."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Put Your Spanish Title to Work!

Generally speaking, workplace titles in Spanish-speaking countries should be very easy to remember as there are only three you need to focus on. Before though, I should preface that these titles are given to college graduates or post-graduate degrees. Here they are:

- *Licenciado*: Commonly used to address graduates in the humanities or in business. So if you're a lawyer and your name is John López, you will typically be called *Licenciando López.* Pretty straightforward. These graduates' business cards will carry the prefix "**Lic.**" before their name.

- *Ingeniero*: This one is for college graduates from the engineering department. A civil, industrial, and mechanical engineer will all employ the same formula mentioned above: Title + last name. And their business cards will carry the prefix "**Ing.**"

- *Doctor*: Pretty simple here. Anyone with an M.D. or Ph.D. degree. Gene Simmons would be the exception to the rule here seeing as he's the one they call **Dr. Love.**

Just remember that if the person you're addressing is female to replace the letter -O with the letter -A. In the case of *doctor,* all you need to do is add the letter -A.

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