

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #10 Tell Me in Spanish What You Did Yesterday!

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FORMAL SPANISH

1. DAVIDICO: Oiga, ¿qué es esto?
2. MESERA: Su sopa de tomate...
3. DAVIDICO: Pero pedí un café con leche...
4. MESERA: Perdón, señor, me equivoqué.

ENGLISH

1. DAVIDICO: Excuse me, what's this?
2. WAITRESS: Your tomato soup.
3. DAVIDICO: But I ordered a latte.
4. WAITRESS: Sorry, sir; I made a mistake.

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class
Oiga...	Hey..., Excuse me...	phrase
pedir	to ask for, to request	verb
perdón	pardon	interjection
equivocarse	to make a mistake, to get (something) wrong	verb
¿Qué es esto?	What is this?, What's this?	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Oiga, ¿a qué hora abren? "Hey, at what time do you open?"	Pediste un plato de arroz con pollo. "You asked for a dish of rice with chicken."
Perdón, ¿me podrías ayudar? "Excuse me, could you help me?"	Nos equivocamos de sitio. "We got the location wrong."
¿Qué es esto? ¿Cómo se come? "What is this? How do you eat it?"	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Oiga... ("Excuse me...")

Literally, the form *oiga* is the formal imperative form for the verb *oír* ("to hear"). We may use it to get the attention of someone we're not familiar with; for example, a server at a restaurant or a clerk at a store.

¿Qué es esto? ("What is this?")

We can use this question both to ask someone to identify the object or situation in question or to express exasperation or incredulity.

pedir ("to request," "to ask for")

Do not confuse this verb with *preguntar* ("to ask (a question)").

Perdón... ("Sorry.")

We can use this interjection as an apology as well as an attention-getter.

equivocarse ("to make a mistake")

This is a reflexive verb.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the First Person Singular Form of the Preterit.

Pero pedí un café con leche...

"But I ordered a latte..."

The preterit tense is the tense we use for simple actions in the past. In this lesson, we will review the first person singular forms.

Formation

For regular *-ar* verbs, the first person singular preterit form ends in *-é*.

Infinitive	"English"	First Person Singular	"English"
<i>bailar</i>	"to dance"	<i>bailé</i>	"I danced"
<i>tomar</i>	"to take," "to drink"	<i>tomé</i>	"I took," "I drank"
<i>juzgar</i>	"to judge"	<i>juzgué</i>	"I judged"

Note: A *-u* appears in the form *jugué* in order to preserve the hard [g] sound in the stem.

For regular *-er* and *-ir* verbs, the first person singular preterit form ends in *-í*.

Infinitive	"English"	First Person Singular	"English"
<i>comer</i>	"to eat"	<i>comí</i>	"I ate"
<i>volver</i>	"to return"	<i>volví</i>	"I returned"
<i>vivir</i>	"to live"	<i>viví</i>	"I lived"
<i>escribir</i>	"to write"	<i>escribí</i>	"I wrote"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Subtle Distinctions between Latin Liquid Meals

This section may not be as insightful as you may expect (I know, I've raised the bar pretty high here.) Anyway, I want to highlight the following:

Caldo ("broth"): We make *caldo* from adding meat and/or vegetables to a liquid, usually water. We use it as a basis for other food items, such as soup, and it tends to have a clear consistency. A *caldo* I enjoy is *caldo de fideo*, which is a vermicelli-based Mexican broth that has tomatoes, cilantro, onions, and, if you're feeling spicy, some green jalapeños.

Sopa ("soup"): This word comes from the French *soupe* and is the end product made from broth. The best and easiest example of this type of water-based food item is the perennial tomato soup. It's so yummy, yet also highly nutritious. A very popular *sopa* is *Ajiaco*, a Colombian soup consisting of potatoes, some chicken, and corn.

Consomé ("consomme"): Consommés, which are also known as bouillon (think of the cubes you throw into boiling water), are soups that are clearer in consistency yet do not qualify as a basic broth.

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