

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #11

## How Do You Feel about My Spanish Cooking?

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# 11

## INFORMAL SPANISH

1. MARCO:                   ¿Qué tal la sopa? ¿Te gusta?
2. EVA:                        Sí, está rica.
3. MARCO:                   ¿Te sirvo más?
4. EVA:                        Aún no, pero gracias.

## ENGLISH

1. MARCO:                   How is the soup? Do you like it?
2. EVA:                        Yes, it's good.
3. MARCO:                   Shall I serve you some more?
4. EVA:                        Not yet, but thanks.

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
¿qué tal?	how are you, how is it	phrase	
la sopa	soup	noun	feminine
rico (a)	tasty, delicious, rich	adjective	
servir	to be useful, to serve, to be good for	verb	
aún no	not yet	phrase	

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>¿Qué tal te fue en la entrevista? "How did it go in the interview?"</p>	<p>Pidan una sopa de brocoli. "Order the broccoli soup."</p>
<p>Si yo fuera rico, viajaría todo el año. "If I were rich, I would travel all year long."</p>	<p>El pollo está muy rico. "The chicken is very tasty."</p>
<p>¿Te sirvo una taza de café o vos preferís una infusión? "Can I serve you a cup of coffee or do you prefer herbal tea?"</p>	<p>A Hernán no le sirve el horario de la universidad de la mañana, él trabaja. "Hernan can't manage the morning university schedule he works."</p>

Aún no sé si asista a la ceremonia religiosa.

"I still don't know if I'm attending the religious ceremony."

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **¿qué tal?** ("How are you?" "How is it?")

We use this phrase to ask for an adjectival or adverbial description: for example, how something is (e.g., "fine," "delicious," "good," "not bad," "not so great," etc.) It is almost interchangeable with the interrogative pronoun *¿cómo?* ("how"), which we use to question manner. Note that when we use *¿Qué tal?* in isolation, it is often a personal inquiry, as in "How are you?"

### **la sopa** ("soup")

This form of liquid nourishment has many regional variations, both in recipe and in vocabulary. See the Cultural Insight for more details.

### **rico** ("rich," "tasty")

When we use it with *ser* ("to be"), this adjective means "rich" or "wealthy," as *ser* is a verb of identity. However, when we use *rico* with *estar* ("to be"), it often refers to a sensual

experience: for example, "tasty" or "delicious."

### ***servir* ("to serve," "to be useful," "to be good for")**

Depending on the context, this verb can refer to serving as in serving food or serving guests. Alternatively, we can use it to describe the purpose or utility of a person or object.

### ***aún no* ("not yet")**

The adverb *aún* (with an accent) means "still" or "yet." When combined with the negative *no* ("not"), it means "not yet." Note that *aun* (without the accent) is a different adverb that means "even."

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is Question Formation.**

***¿Qué tal la sopa? ¿Te gusta?***

**"How is the soup? Do you like it?"**

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There are two kinds of questions: those with yes/no answers and those that request specific information.

### **Forming Questions with Interrogative Pronouns**

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We form questions that request specific information by using interrogative pronouns (commonly called "wh-" words in English). As in English, the interrogative pronouns are often the first word in the question, but this is not obligatory.

#### **For Example:**

1. ***quién, quiénes* ("who"/"whom")**  
We use this question word when the answer to the question is a person. Note the plural form *quiénes*.
2. ***qué* ("what")**  
This is the all-purpose question word; the answer may be an object, idea, concept, organization, or anything not human.
3. ***dónde* ("where")**  
We use this question word when the answer to the question is a place.

4. **cuándo ("when")**  
We use this question word when the answer is a moment in time.
5. **cuál, cuáles ("which," "which one," "which ones")**  
We use this question word for options when we have defined possible options.
6. **cómo ("how")**  
We use this question word when the answer to the question is a manner.
7. **cuánto, cuánta, cuántos, cuántas ("how much," "how many")**  
We use these question words when the answer to the question is a quantity. For neuter concepts, use the masculine *cuánto*. When referring to a specific noun, this word will agree in person and number with the noun in question.

We commonly use *¿Qué tal?* ("How is it?") in place of *¿cómo?* Note that when we use it in isolation, we understand *¿qué tal?* to mean "How are you?" or "How's it going?"

## Forming Yes/No Questions

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For yes/no questions, the primary indication is rising question intonation. Word order is rarely inverted.

### For Example:

1. *¿No vamos a la fiesta? No, no vamos a la fiesta.*  
"Are we not going to the party? No, we're not going to the party."

We form tag questions with a declarative sentence plus a short question tagged at the end.

### For Example:

1. *Todos vamos a la fiesta, ¿verdad?*  
"We're all going to the party, right?"
2. *Todos vamos a la fiesta, ¿no?*  
"We're all going to the party, aren't we?"
3. *Todos vamos a la fiesta, ¿o no es así?*  
"We're all going to the party, isn't that the case?"

4. *Todos vamos a la fiesta, ¿va?*  
"We're all going to the party, right?"

## Note

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In written Spanish, we mark questions with a question mark at the end of the question, as well as the inverted question mark preceding the question. This is an important distinction from English.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Hungry for Some Soup? Dig in Here!

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In the previous Spanish lesson of this series, I discussed the different Spanish names for soup. In this lesson though, I'm just going to aim to make your mouth water by describing some of our most famous soups in the Spanish-speaking world (men: you're going to thank me for this; women: yes, I am single and am still trying to figure out why.).

Let's start out in the mother country, Spain, with one of its most famous soups: *sopa de gazpacho* or *gazpacho*. This is a cold, tomato-based raw vegetable soup that is a prime choice for the summer. Picture a pleasant stroll along an Andalusian town in the summer, where you then come across a quaint café overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. Yes, please have a seat and order the gazpacho.

<http://simplyrecipes.com/recipes/gazpacho/>

Crossing the Atlantic into Mexico, we find ourselves enjoying a hearty bowl of *sopa de tortilla*. This is a tomato- and dry chile-based soup garnished with dried/fried tortilla strips, avocado cut into cubes, pulled chicken meat, more dried chiles, (e.g., chipotle, pasilla, ancho), grated cheese, and a discretionary squeeze of lime juice. Now if that doesn't spell Mexican soup, I don't know what else will.

<http://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/cooking-live/sopa-de-tortilla-a-la-mexicana-tortilla-soup-mexican-style-recipe/index.html>

If you find yourself craving more soups from the Spanish-speaking world, this following link might further help you out.

[http://gosouthamerica.about.com/od/soupsandstews/Soups\\_and\\_Stews.htm](http://gosouthamerica.about.com/od/soupsandstews/Soups_and_Stews.htm)

*!Provecho!*

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