

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #12

It's Just that I Haven't Studied Spanish Today!

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INFORMAL SPANISH

1. BELÉN: Quiero ir a la playa.
2. ESTEBAN: Pero tenemos mucho trabajo.
3. BELÉN: Es que estoy harta.
4. ESTEBAN: Ni modo.

ENGLISH

1. BELÉN: I want to go to the beach.
2. ESTEBAN: But we have a lot of work.
3. BELÉN: It's just that I'm sick of it.
4. ESTEBAN: There's nothing we can do about it.

VOCABULARY

| Spanish | English | Class | Gender |
|------------|--|-----------|-----------|
| la playa | beach | noun | feminine |
| el trabajo | job, work | noun | masculine |
| harto | fed up | adjective | |
| ni modo | there's nothing anyone can do about it | phrase | |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>No hay nada como descansar en la playa.</p> <p>"There's nothing like relaxing on the beach."</p> | <p>Acabo de conseguir un nuevo trabajo.</p> <p>"I just got a new job."</p> |
| <p>¡Ya! Estoy harto!</p> <p>"Enough! I'm fed up!"</p> | <p>Ni modo, ya es muy tarde.</p> <p>"There's nothing anyone can do about it: it's too late."</p> |

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

la playa ("beach")

This word is especially useful in Mexico, Spain, and the Caribbean.

el trabajo ("job," "work")

This noun refers to "a job." Many regional colloquialisms exist; for example, *la chamba* (México), *el curro* (Spain), and so forth.

harto ("fed up," "sick and tired")

This adjective expresses satiation, wither literal or figurative.

ni modo ("oh well," "nothing can be done")

This is a common, very colloquial expression of resignation.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Transition Words and Phrases.

Es que estoy harta.

"It's just that I'm sick of it."

As in most languages, Spanish speakers often use transition words and phrases to begin sentences in colloquial speech. These words and phrases serve to link or conjoin the ideas of a previous sentence to the ideas of a sentence that follows.

Common Transition Words and Phrases

Here are just a few examples of some common transition words and phrases in Spanish. Note that in most cases, their literal meaning differs from their corresponding English equivalent transition.

For Example:

| <i>Spanish</i> | "English" |
|--------------------|---|
| <i>Y...</i> | "And so..." (literally, "and") |
| <i>¿Y...?</i> | "What about...?" (literally, "and") |
| <i>Es que...</i> | "It's just that," "the thing is" (literally, "it is that") |
| <i>Pero...</i> | "but" |
| <i>Entonces...</i> | "so then" (literally, "therefore") |
| <i>O sea...</i> | "it's like..." (literally, "or be it") |
| <i>Muy bien...</i> | "all right" (literally, "very well") |
| <i>Bueno...</i> | "okay" (literally, "good") |
| <i>En fin...</i> | "anyway" (literally, "in the end"); use to summarize and move on. |

Sample Sentences

1. *Y conseguí que me dieran el dinero.*
"And so I managed to get my money back."
2. *¿Y tu hermana? ¿No tiene hambre?*
"What about your sister: isn't she hungry?"

3. *No gracias. Es que acabo de comer.*
"No, thank you. The thing is, I just ate."
4. *Y yo les dije, "¡pero qué sinvergüenzas son ustedes!"*
"And so I told them, 'What a couple of jerks you are!'"
5. *Entonces, ¿no vas a asistir?*
"So then you're not going to attend?"
6. *O sea ¡hazte a un lado y deja pasar a los demás! O sea...¡hello!*
"It's like, pull over to the side and let other people pass! It's like...hello!"
7. *Muy bien, vamos a ver.*
"All right, let's see."
8. *Bueno, no le echas tanta sal.*
"Okay, don't add so much salt."
9. *En fin, ¿de qué vamos a hablar hoy?*
"Anyway, what are we going to talk about today?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Latin American Beaches: Good for More Than Just Tanning!

Ah, the beach. The beautiful, relaxing beach. What could be better than living on the...oh yeah...working on the beach. Literally.

If you've been to a beach in Spanish-speaking America, you may have noticed a few people selling various pieces of artisan jewelry, hammocks, clothing, or even fresh fruit. We call these people **vendedores ambulantes**. These are locals who through craftsmanship, access to local produce, and "colorful" selling, now walk along the beaches hoping to share their traditional jewelry products with tourists and the like. What's more, if you fancy something, make sure to play it cool, and then start negotiating a price. There's nothing better than getting something you want for the price you want. Trust me. And, you'll also be practicing your Spanish. Now that is killing two birds with one stone (while at the beach)!

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