

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #15 You Can Help Me with This Spanish Assignment, Can't You?

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# 15

## INFORMAL SPANISH

1. JORGE: Oye, quiero hablar contigo.
2. PATRICIA: Estoy muy ocupada ahora.
3. JORGE: ¿Podemos hablar después?
4. PATRICIA: Después, sí.

## ENGLISH

1. JORGE: Listen, I want to talk to you.
2. PATRICIA: I'm very busy right now.
3. JORGE: Can we talk later?
4. PATRICIA: Yes, later.

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class
hablar	to speak, to talk	verb
ocupado	busy, occupied	adjective
después	after, later	adverb, preposition
querer	to want, to love	verb
poder	to be able to, can	verb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

Hablamos sobre la historia en mi clase. "We talk about history in my class."	Los estudiantes están ocupados con sus estudios. "The students are busy with their studies."
Puedo irme a casa después de haber terminado. "I can go home after I've finished."	Después del almuerzo, regreso al trabajo. "After lunch, I go back to work."
¿No quieres un permanente? "Don't you want a perm?"	Te quiero. "I love you."
No voy a poder ir. "I won't be able to go."	¿Puedes cerrar esa ventana por favor? "Can you close that window, please?"
Puedes trabajar. "You can work."	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **hablar** ("to speak," "to talk")

Like the English verb "to speak," *hablar* can mean either "to speak a language" or it can mean "to have a conversation."

### **ocupado** ("busy")

This adjective is related to the verb *ocupar* ("to occupy," "to take up time").

### **después** ("afterward," "later")

We often combine this adverb with *de* to create the prepositional phrase *después de (algo)* ("after [something]").

### **querer** ("to want," "to love")

This verb can mean "to want" or "to love" depending on the context. When followed by an infinitive, it means "to want [to do something]."

### ***poder* ("can," "to be able")**

When this verb is followed by an infinitive, we usually translate it as "can [do something]."

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is the Modal Verbs *Querer* and *Poder*.**

***¿Podemos hablar después?***

**"Can we talk later?"**

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The verbs *querer* ("to want") and *poder* ("to be able") are both modal verbs; when followed by an action verb in the infinitive form, they add to the meaning of the action verb.

Both verbs are high frequency.

### **Conjugation and Use of *Querer* in the Present Tense**

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The verb *querer* means "to want (to do something)" when followed by an action verb. Note the stem change in the present tense (-e-

#### **For Example:**

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	<b>"English"</b>		
<b><i>Spanish</i></b>		<b><i>Spanish Example</i></b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>querer</i>	"to want"	<i>querer comer</i>	"to want to eat"
<i>quiero</i>	"I want"	<i>quiero comer</i>	"I want to eat"
<i>quieres</i>	"you want" (familiar)	<i>quieres comer</i>	"you want to eat"

<i>quiere</i>	"he, she, it wants"; "you want" (formal)	<i>quiere</i> <i>comer</i>	"he, she, it wants to eat"; "you want to eat" (formal)
<i>queremos</i>	"we want"	<i>queremos</i> <i>comer</i>	"we want to eat"
<i>queréis</i>	"you all want" (familiar, Spain)	<i>queréis</i> <i>comer</i>	"you all want to eat"
<i>quieren</i>	"they want," "you all want"	<i>quieren</i> <i>comer</i>	"they want to eat," "you all want to eat"

## Sample Sentences

1. *Esteban no quiere ayudarnos.*  
"Esteban doesn't want to help us."
2. *Yo quiero hablar menos y bailar más.*  
"I want to talk less and dance more."
3. *¿Ustedes quieren probar el gazpacho?*  
"Do you all want to try the gazpacho?"

## Conjugation and Use of *Poder* in the Present Tense

The verb *poder* means "to to be able (to do something)" when followed by an action verb; we often translate it into English as "can." Note the stem change in the present tense (-o-

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>"English"</b>	<b>Spanish Example</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>poder</i>	"to be able"	<i>poder</i> <i>comer</i>	"to be able to eat"

<i>pu<u>e</u>do</i>	"I can"	<i>pu<u>e</u>do comer</i>	"I can eat"
<i>pu<u>e</u>des</i>	"you can" (familiar)	<i>pu<u>e</u>des comer</i>	"you can eat"
<i>pu<u>e</u>de</i>	"he, she, it can"; you can" (formal)	<i>pu<u>e</u>de comer</i>	"he, she, it can eat"; "you can eat" (formal)
<i>pu<u>e</u>mos</i>	"we can"	<i>pu<u>e</u>mos comer</i>	"we can eat"
<i>pu<u>e</u>ís</i>	"you all can" (familiar, Spain)	<i>pu<u>e</u>ís comer</i>	"you all can eat"
<i>pu<u>e</u>den</i>	"they can," "you all can"	<i>pu<u>e</u>den comer</i>	"they can eat," "you all can eat"

## Sample Sentences

1. *Esteban no puede ayudarnos.*  
"Esteban cannot help us."
2. *Yo puedo hablar menos y bailar más.*  
"I can talk less and dance more."
3. *¿Ustedes pueden probar el gazpacho?*  
"Can you all try the gazpacho?"

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Heart-to-Heart Conversations in Spanish

*Hablar* and *platicar* are two very different types of conversation when matters of the heart are involved. The former is much more serious in tone and perhaps even consequence, while the latter is one you should welcome...unless, of course, your favorite sports team is on TV. I kid.

*Hablar* is the equivalent of saying to someone "We need to talk. Like now!" Okay, maybe without the exclamation point, but you get my drift. With *platicar*, you can even mention you'd like to grab a coffee and chat (not the online type.) *Vamos por un café para platicar (cómo has estado).*

The veiled nuance of *hablar* is that it's mostly a one-way conversation, er...a monologue. Very few times will you be able to interject, let alone answer whatever questions you're asked.

Am I projecting?