

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #16

Spanish Singles

CONTENTS

- 2 Informal Spanish
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 3 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

16

INFORMAL SPANISH

1. EVA: Eres soltero, ¿no?
2. MARCO: Sí, ¿por qué?
3. EVA: Es que mi prima Elena...
4. MARCO: Bueno, ¿es bonita?

ENGLISH

1. EVA: You're single, right?
2. MARCO: Yes, why?
3. EVA: It's just that my cousin Elena...
4. MARCO: Well, is she pretty?

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
soltero	single	adjective	
por qué	why	interrogative pronoun	
el primo	cousin	noun	masculine
bonito	pretty	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Mi hermano es soltero, no está casado todavía.</p> <p>"My brother is single; he is not married yet."</p>	<p>¿Por qué no trabajas?</p> <p>"Why don't you work?"</p>
<p>Veronica es tu prima hermana.</p> <p>"Veronica is your first cousin."</p>	<p>¡Qué bonito día!</p> <p>"What a nice day!"</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

soltero ("single," "unmarried")

We use this adjective with ***estar*** ("to be") to describe marital status.

por qué ("why")

This interrogative pronoun tells the listener that an explanation is expected.

el primo ("cousin")

This is a family relation term, describing the son of a parent's sibling. The feminine version is ***la prima*** ("cousin").

bonito ("pretty")

This adjective describes attractiveness.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Forming Questions.

Eres soltero ¿no?

"You're single, right?"

There are three ways that we form questions in Spanish:

1. **Intonation:** Typically, phrasal intonation rises at the end of a question. This creates yes-no questions.

2. **Tag questions:** These are phrases that we add to the end of a declarative statement, making the entire proposition a question. This creates yes-no questions.
3. **Interrogative pronouns:** These are the question words (often called "wh-" words in English). Questions we construct with interrogative pronouns are not yes-no questions.

Formation

Tag questions work by asking the listener to question the truth of a proposition.

For Example:

1. *Roberto llega a las tres, ¿verdad?*
"Roberto arrives at three o'clock, right?"

Some common tag questions are:

Spanish	"English"
<i>¿verdad?</i>	"True?"
<i>¿no? or ¿que no?</i>	"No?"
<i>¿cierto?</i>	"True?"
<i>¿no es así?</i>	"Isn't it so?"
<i>¿está bien?</i>	"Is it okay?"

Sample Sentences

1. *Nos vemos al rato, ¿está bien?*
"We'll see each other in a bit, okay?"

2. *Tú sí te quieres quedar un día más, ¿verdad?*
"You do want to stay another day, right?"
3. *Ella se quedó sola, ¿que no?*
"She was left all alone, right?"
4. *Sí pasé el examen profe, ¿cierto?*
"I did pass the test, professor, right?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Spanish-speaking countries (the majority residing in North and South America) have yet to catch on to the online dating phenomena that has become a part of mainstream American culture. From my own personal point of view, a traditional courtship is still the widely accepted form of dating. That is, through a mutual friend, one's social network, work, or at a bar/nightclub. However, print ads in the classified section of newspapers have been more prevalent as of late. Many of these are quite humorous and have made the rounds among friends, who forward the various personal ads via e-mail.

However, because of the new social media frenzy that has currently taken hold of the new generation, people now use sites such as Facebook and Foursquare to contact people and meet up (after a few initial e-mail exchanges.) Not to be the last in this new wave of meeting significant others, the American-based online dating site match.com has already set up country-specific websites catering to those willing to embrace a new form of dating.

-fernando@spanishpod101.com