

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Absolute Beginner S1 #16

Spanish Singles

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- Post and conversation banter, Eva and Fernando. This is Absolute Beginner Season 1, Lesson 16. It's just great, Fernando, and I'm pretty excited for this lesson. Now welcome to this lesson, you'll learn about tag questions, this conversation takes place in this dialogue between Eva and Marco.

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INTRODUCTION

FERNANDO: WELCOME EVERYONE, I'M FERNANDO. THIS IS ABSOLUTE BEGINNER SEASON 1, LESSON 16, SPANISH SINGLES. WHAT'S GOING ON JP?

JP: I'M DOING JUST GREAT, FERNANDO, AND I'M PRETTY EXCITED FOR THIS LESSON. NOW WELCOME EVERYONE TO THE NEW SPANISHPOD101.COM, WE'RE STUDYING SPANISH IN A FUN AND EDUCATIONAL FORMAT. WHETHER YOU'RE BRUSHING UP ON SPANISH THAT YOU STARTED LEARNING LONG AGO OR YOU'RE JUST STARTING WITH US TODAY, WE ARE GLAD TO HAVE YOU. FERNANDO, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO TALK ABOUT IN THIS LESSON?

FERNANDO: IN THIS LESSON, YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT TAG QUESTIONS, THIS CONVERSATION TAKES PLACE AT THE LIBRARY. OUR CONVERSATION IS BETWEEN EVA AND MARCO, AND THE SPEAKERS WILL BE USING FAMILIAR REGISTER.

JP: LET'S LISTEN TO THIS DIALOGUE BETWEEN EVA AND MARCO.

LESSON CONVERSATION

Eva: Eres soltero, ¿no?

Marco: Sí, ¿por qué?

Eva: Es que mi prima Elena...

Marco: Bueno ¿es bonita?

JP: Let's hear it again, dramatic speed.

Eva: Eres soltero, ¿no?

Marco: Sí, ¿por qué?

Eva: Es que mi prima Elena...

Marco: Bueno ¿es bonita?

JP: One more time with the translation.

Eva: Eres soltero, ¿no?

JP: You're single, right?

Marco: Sí, ¿por qué?

Fernando: Yes, why?

Eva: Es que mi prima Elena...

JP: It's just that my cousin Elena...

Marco: Bueno ¿es bonita?

Fernando: Well, is she pretty?

POST CONVERSATION BANTER

JP: We're back. Now Marco and Eva are having a kind of an odd conversation, seems very simple but it's pretty important.

Fernando: Pretty important, someone might get hitched?

JP: That's right. There's a chance of love.

Fernando: Eres soltero, ¿no?

JP: And Eva is asking if Marco is single. The word for a single man...

Fernando: soltero

JP: Soltero... Eres soltero, ¿no?, and how does Marco answer?

Fernando: Sí, ¿por qué?

JP: Yes, why? That question ¿por qué? is "why" And Eva's going to explain.

Fernando: Es que mi prima Elena...

JP: Dot, dot, dot ...

Fernando:

Um-hmm.

JP: Eva's suggesting that she has a cousin named Elena. Es que mi prima Elena...
It's that my cousin Elena.

Fernando: It's just that my cousin Elena, she's single as well.

JP: You're making a lot of hand gestures, Fernando.

Fernando: Well, yeah. You know, it's kind of like, you know...

JP: She's just trying to not say it.

Fernando: Right. You know how you try to communicate with the rest of your body when words just don't express what you want to convey to someone else.

JP: Well, she could just say, "I want you to go out with my cousin Elena."

Fernando: True.

JP: And it might work on Marco, you know, if he's kind of a pig.

Fernando: Okay. Ouch. I don't know any Marco but any way...

JP: I do.

Fernando: That pretty much sums it up, Marco is a pig.

JP: Anyway he interrupts her and says...

Fernando: Well, is she pretty?

JP: Okay, and that's the end of our dialogue. Bueno ¿es bonita?

Fernando: ¿es bonita? Is she pretty?

JP: Is she pretty? That word for pretty is: bonita. Let's review the vocabulary.

VOCAB LIST

Fernando: soltero

JP: Single.

Fernando: sol-te-ro, soltero. ¿Por qué?

JP: Why?

Fernando: ¿Por qué?, ¿Por qué? El primo.

JP: Cousin.

Fernando: el pri-mo, el primo. Bonito.

JP: Pretty.

Fernando: bo-ni-to, bonito.

KEY VOCABULARY AND PHRASES

JP: Let's take a closer look at some of these words. So should we start with: soltero.

Fernando: Why did you point at me?

JP: I just know, Fernando, that you are not married.

Fernando: Okay. Fair enough.

JP: And you're not widowed.

Fernando: True.

JP: And you're not divorced.

Fernando: True as well.

JP: So what is your marital status?

Fernando: Single.

JP: ¿En Español?

Fernando: Soltero

JP: Soltero. Okay? soltero, single, unmarried. Like Fernando.

Fernando: Next word. This is the follow up question.

JP: The follow up question. ¿Por qué?

Fernando: ¿Por qué? Why?

JP: Why? Fernando, ¿Por qué eres soltero?

Fernando: I'm still trying to answer that one and stuff.

JP: All right, well, the thing you think about, and I'm not talking about the grammar of "¿por qué?" It's two words and together the two words count for an interrogative pronoun. In English, you just say "Why?" And when you ask a "por qué, question", you're going to expect an answer, like a reason or an explanation or an excuse, right Fernando?

Fernando: Yeah, sure.

JP: ¿Por qué? What's the next word?

Fernando: El primo

JP: El primo. Okay, this is the family-relation word and it literally means, "the cousin". El primo, cousin. And of course, that's a masculine form. We can also use a feminine form.

Fernando: La prima

JP: La prima. That would be a cousin that's a girl. We can do it in plural as well. Los primos, las primas.

Fernando: And when they're both mixed, let's say, a group of cousins, female cousins and male cousins, we would use, the male plural form.

JP: We would use: los primos.

Fernando: Los primos. Exactly. Last word,

bonito.

JP: Bonito. Usually we say, this means nice and then we have the feminine form, bonita, which is like pretty.

Fernando: bonito

JP: Bonito, I always say, “Que bonito día” What a nice day.

Fernando: Today is a very nice day.

JP: It is. It’s beautiful in Manhattan.

Fernando: Está muy bonito hoy.

JP: It is really nice today. And of course, the feminine form we say with particular joy when we’re talking about a woman...

Fernando: Que bonita.

JP: Ay, que bonita. She’s so pretty. Should we go to the grammar?

Fernando: Yes, we should.

LESSON FOCUS

JP: In the grammar today, we’re going to talk about some tag questions, “preguntas de coletilla”

Fernando: Preguntas de what?... de coletilla.

JP: de coletilla.

Fernando: Okay.

JP: Tag questions. For those of you who have studied English as a second language, tag questions are enough to make you run screaming out the room because English tag questions are crazy, aren’t they?

Fernando: Oh.

JP: They’re, isn’t it? Isn’t he? Isn’t she? There’s like all those grammar that you have to do. For Spanish, it’s not that difficult actually. What we do usually is just assert the truth of a proposition. So for example, I can ask, “Breakfast is ready, right?”

Fernando: El desayuno está listo, ¿verdad?

JP: Yes, Fernando you ended the sentence with, ¿verdad?

Fernando: I could have ended it with: El desayuno está listo, ¿no?

JP: ¿No? These are tag questions, ¿verdad? and ¿no?. These are the tag questions and the effect they have is to make whatever comes before it into a question.

Fernando: But notice how I intonate these words.

JP: Yes.

Fernando: That’s also an important part of tag questions in

Spanish.

JP: So, let's hear that example again. "Breakfast is ready, right?"

Fernando: El desayuno está listo, ¿verdad?

JP: ¿Verdad? The part that came beforehand, the supposition, El desayuno está listo, "Breakfast is ready." That is a declarative sentence. We could have put a period after it and then walked away. But we didn't, we made it into a question just by asking that tag question, ¿verdad?

Fernando: And never walk away from breakfast either.

JP: Well, maybe you can walk toward breakfast.

Fernando: Yes. What other tag question examples do we have JP?

JP: Oh, well, there are plenty in Spanish and before I give you the list of them, I just want to say that that intonation that you mentioned earlier is going to make it obvious to you that it's a tag question. So even if you hear one that's not on this list that we're about to give you, you're going to know it's a tag question because it goes "eh...?" like Scooby Doo, right?

Fernando: That's why he's so popular in Spanish-speaking countries.

JP: Because he asks tag questions as a dog.

Fernando: Yes.

JP: All right. You already mentioned two of them, ¿verdad? and ¿no?

Fernando: And I will mention more.

JP: Oh, good.

Fernando: ¿Está bien?

JP: ¿Está bien? that's a good one. ¿Está bien? "Is that okay?"

Fernando: Voy a mencionar algunas más, ¿está bien?

JP: Fernando, "¿está bien?" is a tag question.

Fernando: ¿Está bien?

JP: Yes.

Fernando: Okay.

JP: That's a great one. Another one that we can use is: ¿No es así?

Fernando: For example, England has a good soccer team, ¿no es así?

JP: Inglaterra tiene una buena selección nacional, ¿no es así?

Fernando: There you go. England has a good national team, right?

JP: ¿no es así?, literally, it says, "is it not so?"

Fernando: Is it not so?

JP: Is it not thus? in Spanish: ¿no es así? Did we already say ¿cierto?

Fernando: No, we

haven't.

JP: Okay. ¿Cierto?, can be used as a tag question as well.

Fernando: Hoy vas a lavar ropa, ¿cierto?

JP: Today, you're going to do laundry.

Fernando: No, I'm asking you JP.

JP: Correct. Is it true?

Fernando: Just answer the question, JP.

JP: The answer, yes. Today, it is my laundry day. I'm not going to go out tonight.

Wow, these questions are getting personal. I think it's time to end the podcast.

Fernando: Okay.

JP: Now listen if you want to look at a more exhaustive list of these tag questions, you can find them in the grammar section of the lesson notes of this lesson. You'll find all the lesson notes at the website, www.spanishpod101.com.

Fernando: And we want to hear from you, so please leave us a comment, leave us a question, whatever suggestions you might have about this podcast, we want to hear from you.

JP: All right, for now, it's time to say good bye. Hasta luego.

Fernando: Adiós.