

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Absolute Beginner S1 #18

Here's Another Excuse in Spanish for Not Having Your Work Done

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INTRODUCTION

Fernando: Welcome, everyone. This is Absolute Beginner, Season 1 Lesson 18, “Here’s another excuse in Spanish for not having your work done.”

JP: O-oh.

Fernando: I think I know a few of these, JP.

JP: Howdy, Fernando? Everyone, this is JP and welcome to the new SpanishPod101.com where we’re setting modern Spanish in a fun and educational format, so whether you’re brushing up on a Spanish that you started learning long ago or you’re starting with us with this podcast here today, we are glad that you’re with us. Fernando, what’s going on in this lesson?

Fernando: In this lesson, you will learn how to express existence with the verb “haber”. The conversation takes place at the office. The conversation is between Belen and Patricio. The speakers will be using the familiar register.

JP: Let’s listen to this dialogue.

LESSON CONVERSATION

Belén: ¡No puedo trabajar!

Patricio: ¿Por qué?

Belén: ¡No hay internet!

Patricio: ¡Aprovecha entonces!

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

Belén: ¡No puedo trabajar!

Patricio: ¿Por qué?

Belén: ¡No hay internet!

Patricio: ¡Aprovecha entonces!

JP: One more time with the translation.

Belén: ¡No puedo trabajar!

JP: I can’t work.

Patricio: ¿Por qué?

Fernando: Why not?

Belén: ¡No hay internet!

JP: There’s no Internet.

Patricio: ¡Aprovecha entonces!

Fernando: Then, enjoy it.

POST CONVERSATION BANTER

JP: All right, Fernando we're back and it seems that there is a lull in the office, productivity has plummeted.

Fernando: And all because of our dependency on Internet.

JP: That's right. I know if Internet is out. You'll see a smoke outline of me.

Fernando: I've seen that. I've seen that a couple of times.

JP: Where is JP? Well, the Internet is not working, so.

Fernando: Yes, which is what I believe Belen is looking for.

JP: Right, I said this sentence before. She says, "I can't work."

Fernando: No puedo trabajar.

JP: No puedo trabajar. All right, let's break this down. What's that last word in the sentence, "to work?"

Fernando: trabajar

JP: Trabajar, means to work. Now, Belen says, "I can't work."

Fernando: No puedo.

JP: No puedo, means "I can't," right?

Fernando: trabajar

JP: No puedo trabajar, "I can't work." We see the modal verb, poder, which means "to be able to," which is usually translated as, "can." So, "I can," is: puedo; and "I can't?"

Fernando: No puedo.

JP: No puedo trabajar, "I can't work."

Fernando: Patricio intrigued obviously, ¿Por qué?

JP: ¿Por qué? These are two little words that together mean, "why," ¿por qué?

Fernando: No hay internet, dice Belen.

JP: Okay, that's her answer, "no Internet." Now, the content word in that sentence is the word Internet which means Internet, right? In English, we would say, "Internet." In Spanish you can't say, "Internet." You have to say, "Internet."

Fernando: It's all in the pronunciation.

JP: Right. And to say that there is none that it doesn't exist, that's not working?

Fernando: No hay.

JP: No hay, so we have that word "hay" which is the existence article and then we're negating it by saying, "no hay". No hay internet.

Fernando: Aprovecha entonces.

JP: Okay, Patricio is saying, "We should take advantage of it. You should enjoy it while it's...?"

Fernando: While it's available.

JP: Um-hum. The verb is "aprovechar" and it means to take advantage of, to make the

best of it. And “entonces” is therefore. So therefore make the best of it. Enjoy it.

Fernando: Yes.

JP: All right, let's move to the vocabulary.

VOCAB LIST

Fernando: trabajar.

JP: To work.

Fernando: tra-ba-jar, trabajar. Hay.

JP: There is, there are.

Fernando: hay, hay. El internet.

JP: Internet.

Fernando: el in-ter-net, internet, el internet. Aprovechar.

JP: To enjoy, to take advantage of.

Fernando: a-pro-ve-char, aprovechar.

JP: All right, we're back and we covered most of these words but let's just go over them quickly one more time.

Fernando: Let's start with: trabajar.

JP: Trabajar, “to work.”

KEY VOCABULARY AND PHRASES

Fernando: Which is what we're doing here.

JP: This is what we are doing.

Fernando: Which we enjoy.

JP: Yes. Our listeners might not be at work, but then again they might be. I don't know where you all are listening to this podcast.

Fernando: Maybe they're not working, but they're studying for work.

JP: Maybe so.

Fernando: And maybe they are going on a foreign assignment.

JP: Maybe so. Anyway, the word is: trabajar , “to work”, trabajar.

Fernando: The next word, hay.

JP: Hay, we're going to talk about this word later. It's the verb “haber” and it's conjugated into the third person, but there's no person. It's just an impersonal verb and it means, “there is” and “there are.” It just talks about existence. We're going to talk

about it later, hay.

Fernando: El internet.

JP: El internet. As we said before, this is the Internet. And if you are listening to this podcast, you are aware of what the Internet is, El internet.

Fernando: Say hi to Mr. Gore.

JP: What's the last word?

Fernando: Aprovechar

JP: Aprovechar, "to take advantage of" or, "to enjoy," or "to make the best of", aprovechar.

Fernando: Aprovechar. Let's move on to the grammar.

LESSON FOCUS

JP: As we promised we're going to talk about this word "hay" which means there is or there are. It's the verb "haber", but that's a little abstract to this point. What I want to tell you about, hay, is that it is both singular and plural. In English we have "there is" and "there are." "There is," is something singular. So "There is an elephant in this room."

Fernando: Hay un elefante en este cuarto.

JP: That's right, hay un elefante... Use that "hay". If there are more than one elephants, if I say, "There are seven elephants in this room."

Fernando: Hay siete elefantes.

JP: Besides being in a ridiculous situation, notice that Fernando used the word "hay" both times. It doesn't matter how many elephants are in the room, whether several or just one, it's always invariable. It's always going to be "hay".

Fernando: That's a good observation, JP.

JP: Good, I'm glad. Now, hay, is useful of course if we're talking about the existence of things. And remember that it's never going to have a subject. It's always going to be impersonal. And if you're going from English, "there is" and "there are," it behaves the same way impersonally. So let's talk about some things that are in this studio, Fernando.

Fernando: How about the microphones?

JP: Okay, there are two microphones.

Fernando: Hay dos micrófonos.

JP: Hay dos micrófonos. What else is in this room?

Fernando: Hay un aire acondicionado.

JP: "There is one air conditioning unit." It's not working right

now.

Fernando: No, it isn't.

JP: We'll turn it on after the podcast.

Fernando: Um-hum.

JP: One more example, what else is there in this room?

Fernando: Hay una pantalla.

JP: "There is a screen," the computer monitor.

Fernando: Um-hum.

JP: All right.

Fernando: Hay dos ventanas.

JP: "There's two windows".

Fernando: There is or there are?

JP: Yeah, I'm doing that thing where I speak colloquially again.

Fernando: Yes, which is...

JP: "There are two windows."

Fernando: "There are two windows."

JP: Okay, it doesn't matter. You know what, in Spanish, it's "hay" and "hay", okay?

Fernando: Um-hum.

JP: So no matter whether you're talking in singular or in plural, it's always "hay". And if you would like to see the summary of this grammar point, please go to the website, www.spanishpod101.com and find the grammar section in the lesson notes of this lesson.

Fernando: And if you don't want to, but want to leave us a comment, that's more than welcome as well.

JP: Absolutely. For now though, it's time for us to say ¡hasta luego!

Fernando: Adiós.