

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #20

## Are you lost in Latin America?

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# # 20

## INFORMAL SPANISH

1. ESTUDIANTE:           ¿Estás perdido?
2. SERGIO:                Un poco. Busco el departamento de historia.
3. ESTUDIANTE:         Pasando la cafetería, a tu izquierda.
4. SERGIO:               Ya sé dónde. Gracias.

## ENGLISH

1. STUDENT:             Are you lost?
2. SERGIO:               A little. I'm looking for the History department.
3. STUDENT:             Through the cafeteria, to your left.
4. SERGIO:               Now I know where. Thank you.

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
perdido	lost	adjective	
un poco	a little	phrase	
buscar	to seek, to look for	verb	
pasar	to pass, to go by, to come by	verb	
cafetería	cafeteria, coffee shop	noun	feminine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>El niño está perdido en el supermercado.</p> <p>"The child is lost in the supermarket."</p>	<p>Ellos están un poco retrasados.</p> <p>"They are a little late."</p>
<p>Esta película está un poco aburrida.</p> <p>"This movie is a bit boring."</p>	<p>¡Busquemos un nuevo restaurante!</p> <p>"Let's look for a new restaurant!"</p>
<p>Acabamos de pasar el Palacio Real.</p> <p>"We have just passed the Royal Palace."</p>	<p>Pásame la sal y la pimienta, por favor.</p> <p>"Pass me the salt and pepper, please."</p>
<p>Yo paso mucho tiempo con mi familia.</p> <p>"I pass a lot of time with my family."</p>	<p>La cafetería está al final de la calle, pero puede ser que ya esté cerrada.</p> <p>"The cafeteria is at the end of the street, but it may already be closed."</p>

Tengo hambre. Vamos a la cafetería.

"I'm hungry. Let's go to the cafeteria."

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **perder ("to lose")**

*Perdido* is the participle of the verb *perder*. In the dialogue, a student uses it in a question, asking whether Sergio is lost.

### **buscar ("to look for," "to seek")**

Unlike some of its English equivalents, the verb *buscar* does not require any preposition before the object.

### ***un poco* ("a little")**

We can translate *un poco* as "a little" and also as "a bit."

### ***pasar* ("to pass by")**

The verb *pasar* means to "pass by" or "go through."

### ***la cafetería* ("cafeteria")**

A cafeteria is a type of food service that involves selling coffee and other things in most cases. In the United States, it is very common to find a cafeteria, and the prices are very reasonable. On the other hand, in other countries, coffee shops can be very expensive, especially if it is a worldwide, known brand like Starbucks, for example.

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is Getting Directions.**

***Busco el departamento de historia.***

**"I'm looking for the history department."**

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One of the most important things to know when traveling to other countries is being familiar with questions regarding how to get to places. In Spanish-speaking countries, it is very common for people to tell you that what you are looking for is near a popular business or street. That way, in most cases, it would be a lot easier to understand.

### **Phrases for Getting Directions**

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Let's take a look at some useful phrases and vocabulary words for when you are lost.

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<b><i>Spanish</i></b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Estoy perdido(a).</i>	"I'm lost."
<i>¿Dónde está ____?</i>	"Where's the ____?"
<i>Busco</i> (noun).	"I'm looking for (noun)."
<i>izquierda</i>	"left"
<i>derecha</i>	"right"
<i>derecho</i>	"straight"

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<i>buscar</i>	"to look for"
<i>dar vuelta</i>	"to turn (left, right, etc.)"
<i>pasar</i>	"to pass by," "to go through"

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## Examples from This Dialogue

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1. *¿Estás perdido?*  
"Are you lost?"
2. *Busco el departamento de historia.*  
"I'm looking for the history department."
3. *Pasando la cafetería, a tu izquierda*  
"Through the cafeteria, to your left."

## Sample Sentences

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1. *Pasando el hotel Mirage, a tu derecha.*  
"Passing the hotel Mirage, to your right."
2. *Antes de la calle Union, a tu izquierda.*  
"Before Union street, to your left."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

When getting directions in countries that we visit, we have to remember that since we do not know that country, it is always best to get information that we need from the hotel where we are staying or from the tour company that we are part of. No matter how safe a

country is, getting lost is never fun. If you do have to ask a stranger, though, you should know that people in Spanish-speaking countries are usually very friendly and helpful when it comes to helping people find their way.