



3 MINUTE SPANISH COURSE 2 RECAP NOTES



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WHAT'S A VERB?

In course 2, we started to learn a few different verbs, but what is a verb? A verb is a word that describes some sort of action, and in English, you often see them with the word "to" in front of them:

to try, to pay, to make

In Spanish, verbs can end in either the letters "ar", "er" or "ir"

probar - (to) try

hacer - (to) make

salir - (to) leave

OPTIONAL "TO"

In English, the word "to" sometimes appears in front of a verb, but sometimes you don't need it:

*I would like **to** try the wine*
Can I try the wine?

In Spanish, however, you always just use the verb

*I would like **to try** the wine*
Quiero probar el vino

*Can I **try** the wine?*
¿Puedo probar el vino?

TO PAY (FOR)

In Spanish, you don't **pay FOR** something; you simply **pay**. What I mean is that you don't have to use the word "para" with "pagar", unlike English; we have to say "pay for"

¿Puedo pagar el vino?
Can I pay for the wine?

Quiero pagar la comida
I would like to pay for the food

¿CUÁNTO ES?

The phrase "¿Cuánto es?" is a useful way to ask how much something is. You can use it by itself to simply mean, "How much is it?", but you can also put things after it. In this case, you can think of it as meaning, "How much is...?"

¿Cuánto es?
How much is it?

¿Cuánto es eso?
How much is that?

¿Cuánto es el vino?
How much is the wine?

¿Cuánto es una botella de vino?
How much is a bottle of wine?

Just note, also, that in Spanish, you must start all questions with an upside question mark ¿





AT WHAT TIME? 🕒

In English, we can either use the phrase “**at what time**” or just “**what time**”. In Spanish, however, you always have to use the phrase “**a qué hora**”.

¿A qué hora es la reserva?

What time is the reservation?

At what time is the reservation?

THE BREAKFAST

In English, we can say things like:

What time is breakfast?

Lunch is delicious

I would like dinner here

However, in Spanish, before all the words for the different meals of the day, you have to put the words for “**the**” (*el / la*).

¿A qué hora es el desayuno?

What time is breakfast?

El almuerzo es delicioso

Lunch is delicious

Quiero la cena aquí

I would like dinner here

CUESTA

In Spanish, it's not really correct to use “*es*” when giving the price of something. Instead, you can use the word “**cuesta**”, which literally means “**it costs**”.

So, don't say, “**es diez euros**”; say, “**cuesta diez euros**”.

cuesta diez euros

it's ten euros

(it costs ten euros)

la botella cuesta quince euros

the bottle is fifteen euros

(the bottle costs fifteen euros)

eso cuesta ochenta céntimos

that's eighty cents

(that costs eighty cents)

You can also use “**cuesta**” when you're asking how much something is. We learnt that the question, “**¿Cuánto es?**” means “**How much is it?**”, but you could also use **cuesta**:

¿Cuánto cuesta?

How much does it cost?

¿Cuánto es?

How much is it?

TELLING THE TIME IN SPANISH

¿QUÉ HORA ES? WHAT TIME IS IT?
 ¿A QUÉ HORA ES...? (AT) WHAT TIME IS...?
 A LAS ... AT ... O'CLOCK
 SON LAS ... IT IS ... O'CLOCK



- 1 o'clock **la una**
- 2 o'clock **las dos**
- 3 o'clock **las tres**
- 4 o'clock **las cuatro**
- 5 o'clock **las cinco**
- 6 o'clock **las seis**
- 7 o'clock **las siete**
- 8 o'clock **las ocho**
- 9 o'clock **las nueve**
- 10 o'clock **las diez**
- 11 o'clock **las once**
- 12 o'clock **las doce**

- de la madrugada**
am (in the early morning)
- de la mañana**
am (in the morning)
- de la tarde**
pm (in the afternoon)
- de la noche**
pm (in the evening)

DE & A

The words **de** and **a** have two meanings each:

de of / from **a** at / to

quiero ir a Madrid

I would like to go to Madrid

estoy a la playa

I am at the beach

el recuerdo es de Madrid

the souvenir is from Madrid

es una botella de vino

it's a bottle of wine

THE SAXON GENITIVE

The **Saxon Genitive** is the proper name for the **apostrophe s** in English, which we use to show whom something belongs to. In Spanish, however, the **apostrophe s** doesn't exist, so you have to use another way of showing belonging. In Spanish, you use the word **de**, which means **of**.

So, instead of saying, "María's address", you have to say, "the address of María".

la dirección de María

María's address

(literally: the address of María)

el coche de Pedro

Pedro's car

(literally: the car of Pedro)

DE + EL = DEL

There's one thing to keep in mind when saying whom something belongs to in Spanish. The word **de** contracts with the masculine words for **the**:

de + el = del

la dirección del restaurante

the restaurant's address

(literally: the address of the restaurant)

el coche del hombre

the man's car

(literally: the car of the man)

This doesn't happen with the feminine word for **the** (**la**) or the plural words for **the** (**las & los**)

MORE EXAMPLES OF THE SAXON GENITIVE

Here are just a few more examples of the **Saxon Genitive**, you can really get your head around it.

el coche de la mujer

the woman's car

la casa del presidente

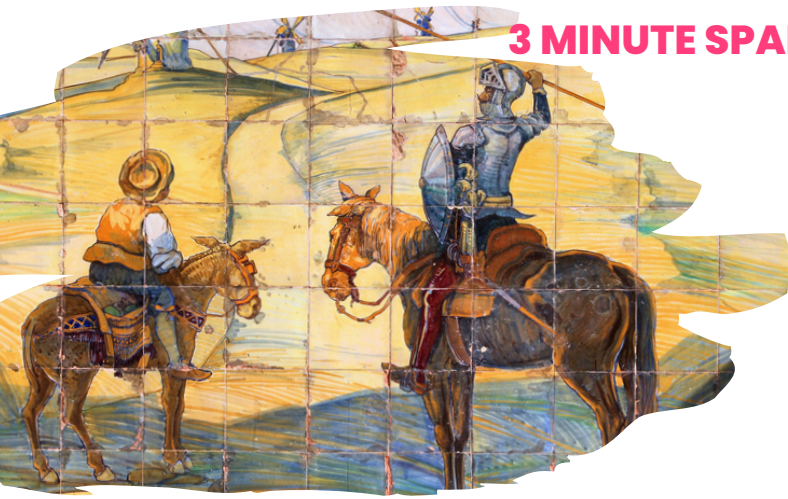
the president's house

el perro de la chica

the girl's dog

la casa de Pedro

Pedro's house



ANOTHER CONTRACTION

Similar to the “**de**” contraction, there is another contraction that takes place with the Spanish word “**a**”, meaning “**to**” or “**at**”. Again, this only happens with the masculine word for **the (el)**, and not the feminine **la** or the plural **los** or **las**:

a + el = al

estoy al restaurante

I’m at the restaurant

quiero ir al restaurante

I would like to go to the restaurant

estoy al hotel

I’m at the hotel

quiero ir al hotel

I would like to go to the hotel

CONTRACTIONS KEY

de + el = del of the / from the

a + el = al at the / to the

POR VS. PARA

The words “**por**” and “**para**” both mean “**for**” in Spanish, but they’re used in different way. Most of the time, you can simply use “**para**”:

para mí - *for me*

para Pedro - *for Pedro*

para esta noche - *for tonight*

However, if you want to say, **for a length of time**, you use “**por**” instead of “**para**”.

por un día - *for one day*

por dos días - *for two days*

por tres semanas - *for three weeks*

The word “**por**” can also be used to mean “**per**”.

por año - *per year*

por persona - *per person*

por día - *per day*

DÍA

I just wanted to make a quick note about the word “**día**”. You’ll notice that it ends in the letter **a**, but it is, in fact, a masculine word. So, you can see that there are exceptions to the rule that if a noun ends in an **a**, it must be feminine.

un día - *one day*

This is why the phrase for “**good day**” is “**buenos días**”. We use the masculine plural form of “**bueno**” since it’s describing a masculine plural noun, “**días**”. (Literally, “**buenos días**” means “**good days**”)

SON LAS VS. A LAS

Let's just briefly head back to the topic of time in Spanish. The two phrases "**son las**" and "**a las**" can sometimes cause a bit of confusion.

In Spanish, if you want to tell somebody what the time is right now, you would say "**son las...**" followed by whatever time it is. You can use this in answer to the question, **¿Qué hora es?**

son las dos - *it's two o'clock*

son las tres y media - *it's half past three*

son las dos menos cinco - *it's five to two*

If you want to say what time something is at, such as a reservation, you can use the phrase "**es a las ...**" to mean, "**it's at ...**". You can use this in answer to any question that starts with **¿A qué horas es ...?**

es a las dos - *it's at two o'clock*

es a las tres y media - *it's at half past three*

es a las dos menos cinco - *it's at five to two*

ADDRESSES

Addresses in Spanish are a tiny bit different to addresses in English. In English, we tend to put the number first, but in Spanish, the number goes after the street name.

Calle de Madrid, 2
Plaza Mayor, 15
Calle de Barcelona, 3

CON BALCÓN

The phrase "**con balcón**" can be used to mean "**with a balcony**". In Spanish, after the word "**con**", you don't need to use an indefinite article (**un, una**), which is unlike English.

con balcón - *with a balcony*

con tarjeta - *with a card / by card*

con televisor - *with a television*

TELEVISION

We've learnt that "**television**" in Spanish is "**televisor**", but I just wanted to point out that there are actually two words for "**television**".

The word "**un televisor**" means the actual television set - the appliance, or the box that sits on the wall or on the side.

The second word is, "**televisión**". This means the medium of television. So, you can say things like, "**en televisión**", which means "**on television**". Have a look at the difference between these two sentences:

está en el televisor - *it's on the television*
(meaning: it's on top of the TV box)

está en la televisión - *it's on the television*
(meaning: it's playing on the TV)

