



RADIO LINGUA



Coffee Break **Spanish** Magazine

Season 1, Episode 1

Learn a language in your Coffee Break

An introduction to the course

Welcome to this first edition of the Coffee Break Spanish Magazine, a new production from the Radio Lingua Network.

We're producing the Coffee Break Spanish Magazine in seasons of ten episodes. In this first season each episode will have three elements and each of these elements has been produced in response to the requests from the Radio Lingua language-learning community:

- ❖ *First of all we're bringing you real, **authentic interviews with native Spanish speakers**: we've actually been out filming on the streets of Barcelona, and those of you who have listened to our Show Time Spanish course will remember Alba. You'll be delighted to know that Alba is presenting this part of the show. Although these interviews are coming from Barcelona, we've actually interviewed Spanish speakers from around the world, so you'll be getting a range of accents and indeed vocabulary in these interviews.*
- ❖ *The second part of our course involves idiomatic expressions presented by a new member of the Radio Lingua community, Laura. Laura will be providing us with a series of idiomatic expressions: expressions which mean one thing literally but idiomatically mean something completely different. Just as in English we talk about "raining cats and dogs" and "having butterflies in your stomach", there are many idiomatic expressions which exist in Spanish. In each episode Laura will be introducing one expression to us, giving us an explanation of what the expression means and providing us with plenty of examples to help us fully understand how the expressions are used.*
- ❖ *Finally, we're answering listeners' questions about grammar and usage. For this segment of the show we're going over to*

Seattle where JP and Nahyeli have been working on our Q&A Spanish show over the past year. In each episode of the Coffee Break Spanish Magazine, JP and Nahyeli will answer a listener's question, providing explanations and examples.

We very much hope you enjoy using the Coffee Break Spanish Magazine to improve your Spanish. Let us know what you think by posting a comment on the website: [http://
coffeebreakspanishmagazine.com](http://coffeebreakspanishmagazine.com).

Section 1: La pregunta del día

Introduction

This week's question is:

¿Cómo pasabas el verano cuando eras niño?

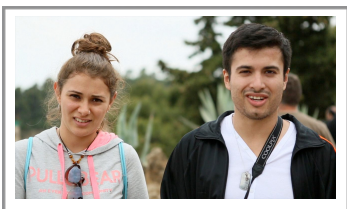
How did you spend your summer when you were a child?

Note the imperfect tense **pasabas**: the imperfect is used to refer to repetitive actions in the past, and the question is referring to multiple summers.

Start by watching the video interviews. The first time you see the interviews there are no subtitles, so at this stage you should try to concentrate on the language used and try to identify as many of the individual words as possible. You can then watch the interviews again, this time with subtitles and see how much you can understand.

Transcript of interviews

INTERVIEW 1:



De viaje, en alguna playa en algún sitio de México.

INTERVIEW 2:



De niño, el verano lo pasaba en el pueblo de mis padres, de mi madre más concretamente. Es un pueblo de Galicia muy pequeño y lo pasábamos siempre cuando podíamos en la playa cuando no lloviendo que era el clima de allí.

más concretamente

more exactly, to be precise

pequeñito

very small

Galicia

a region in the northwest of Spain

el clima

the climate

INTERVIEW 3:



Solíamos ir en familia: somos una familia numerosa, tenemos muchos hermanos, y pues, solíamos estar un mes en una ciudad o en

Galicia, o en Ali..., bueno en Almería, generalmente en la playa, en el agua casi 24 horas, nadando, corriendo, poco más.

solíamos < soler

we tended to; **soler** means “to tend to do something” and is followed immediately by an infinitive

numeroso/a

numerous, large

Almería

a city in the southeast of Spain

en el agua casi 24 horas

in the water almost 24 hours a day

corriendo < correr

running (about)

Language study: audio

We now suggest that you listen to Mark’s discussion of the interviews to help you to understand more about the language used by our interviewees.

Next steps

Ready to move on? You can now learn this week’s *frase idiomática*.

Section 2: La frase idiomática de la semana

Transcript and vocabulary

It's time now to move on to the second section of our magazine show and that's where we say "hello" to Laura.

Mark: Hola, Laura. ¿Qué tal?

Laura: Hola, Mark. ¿Qué tal?

Mark: Yo, muy bien. Y entonces tú eres española, ¿no?

Laura: Sí, soy española. Nací hace veintisiete años en España en Granada en el sur de España.

Mark: Y ¿estás trabajando o estudiando aquí?

Laura: Bueno, mi objetivo primero fue venir para practicar inglés así que ahora me dedico a perfeccionarlo con un par de cursos en la universidad.

Mark: Muy bien. And how is your English?

Laura: Well, I think it is improving.

Mark: Good, excellent. You're going to be speaking mostly in Spanish for our little sections each week and you have been looking for some idiomatic phrases to help our listeners. Is that correct?

Laura: Yes, that is correct.

Mark: Bueno, Laura. Tengo una pregunta. Tú tienes un acento un poco distinto, ¿no?

Laura: Sí, en Andalucía solemos hablar con un tono diferente. Además no pronunciamos las eses finales, y además a veces nos comemos letras.

Mark: Os coméis letras.

Laura: Nos comemos letras.

Mark: So you "eat" your letters, literally.

Laura: Sí, sí.

Mark: Os coméis letras. Bueno, para nosotros vas a hacer un esfuerzo muy grande, ¿no?

Laura: Voy a hacer un esfuerzo y estoy segura de que me van a entender perfectamente nuestros amigos.

Mark: Pues, perfecto. Cada semana tú vas a traernos una frase interesante, una frase idiomática.

Laura: Os voy a traer una frase que significa algo diferente a lo que literalmente es para que entendáis el significado.

Mark: Pero claro, vas a explicar la frase; vas a explicarnos cuál es el sentido literal de la frase, y darnos un ejemplo de cómo se utilizaría esta frase.

Laura: Os daré la frase en español; una en inglés para que entendáis el sentido; y unos ejemplos.

Mark: Perfecto.

nací hace veintisiete años

I was born twenty-seven years ago

el objetivo primero

the main objective, the main aim

me dedico a + infinitive

I'm concentrating on..., I'm dedicating myself to...

perfeccionar

to perfect

un par de cursos

a couple of courses

un acento

an accent

Andalucía

Andalusia, a region in the south of Spain

un tono diferente

a different tone

nos comemos letras

*literally: “we eat up our letters”. This refers to the fact that Spanish speakers from the south of Spain “swallow” the final letters of words, particularly words which end in -s.

hacer un esfuerzo

to make an effort

para que entendáis el significado

so that you understand the meaning. The expression **para que** is followed by the subjunctive.

el sentido literal

the literal meaning

cómo se utilizaría esta frase

how this phrase would be used

os daré la frase en español

I will give you the phrase in Spanish

un ejemplo

an example

Mark: *Entonces, ¿cuál es la frase idiomática del día?*

Laura: **De perillas.**

Mark: *De perillas.*

Laura: **Sí, me viene de perillas.**

Mark: *Una pregunta, entonces: ¿qué es una perilla?*

Laura: *Una perilla tiene muchos significados. Uno de ellos es en la montura del caballo.*

Mark: *So, in a horse saddle.*

Laura: *La perilla es la parte de la montura que utiliza la persona encima del caballo para mantener el equilibrio.*

Mark: *Entonces, en inglés, creo ... (no estoy seguro porque no sé nada de los caballos), pero creo que esto se llama “the pommel”. It’s the part of the horse’s saddle that the person who is riding the horse uses to keep their balance.*

Laura: *Yes, that’s it exactly.*

Mark: *Ok, pero ¿qué quiere decir **venir de perillas**?*

Laura: *¿Qué tiene que ver, verdad? Se refiere a algo que es exactamente lo que necesitas.*

Mark: *Y entonces esta cosa te viene de perillas.*

Laura: *Te viene de perillas.*

Mark: *Como la perilla que te ayuda a mantener el equilibrio si el caballo está...*

Laura: *Cabalgando.*

Mark: *Cabalgando.*

Laura: *Sí. Te pongo un ejemplo. Si me dices, “tengo un amigo que está vendiendo su casa” y yo en ese momento estoy buscando casa para comprar y nos pones en contacto, me viene de perillas. Me viene muy bien.*

Mark: *Entonces, te viene exactamente en el mismo momento en el cual necesitas esta cosa. En este caso, la casa...*

Laura: *La información, la casa. Sí.*

Mark: *Muy bien, pues si nuestros oyentes estuvieran buscando alguna frase interesante que utilizar esta semana...*

Laura: *¡Esta frase les viene de perillas!*

Mark: Pues, muchas gracias Laura. Y ¿quieres volver la semana que viene?

Laura: Por supuesto. Estoy muy dispuesto.

Mark: Perfecto.

una perilla

pommel (support on a horse saddle)

una montura de caballo

horse saddle

encima de

on top of

mantener el equilibrio

to maintain balance

no sé nada de los caballos

I don't know anything about horses

cabalgar

to ride

poner a alguien un ejemplo

to give (someone) an example

poner a alguien en contacto con alguien

to put someone in contact/touch with someone

el oyente

listener

si nuestros oyentes estuvieran buscando...

if our listeners were looking for... Note that this expression uses the imperfect subjunctive as it is part of a conditional sentence. The verb **estuvieran** comes from **estar** and it is the imperfect subjunctive which links to a conditional which should follow in the next sentence. However, Laura finishes Mark's sentence with a present indicative. The "correct" Spanish here would be *si nuestros oyentes estuvieran buscando una frase interesante, esta frase les vendría de perillas*, using the conditional form of **venir**.

por supuesto

of course

estar dispuesto/a

to be willing

Ready to move on?

Listen to the Q&A Spanish segment from JP and Nahyeli next.

Section 3: Q&A Spanish

Question

Molly wants to know about how to distinguish between masculine and feminine gender: are there rules which you can follow to “guess” if a word is masculine or feminine?

Answer

With some words it's really easy: many masculine nouns end in **-o** and many feminine nouns end in **-a**.

la silla (feminine)

the chair

el libro (masculine)

the book

Of course in English “books” and “chairs” are not associated with a particular gender. However this is necessary in Spanish.

When you're learning words it's a very good idea to learn the gender along with the word so that you can use the word in the correct way when you need to.

There are exceptions to the general rule above. For example:

el problema (masculine)

the problem

la mano (feminine)

the hand

Words ending in **-e** are more complicated: indeed some of these can be either masculine or feminine:

el estudiante

the (male) student

la estudiante

the (female) student

It's always better therefore to learn the words with their gender: don't just look at the word **libro** and learn that; instead learn the word as **el libro**.

Translation exercise

Here are some sentences to test your translation skills based on the content of this Q&A segment.

1. This book is a problem.

2. The (female) student has a book in her hand.

3. The (male) student did not sit in the broken chair.

Check your answers in the resources section.

Section 4: Resources

Key to exercise

The sentences provided for translation practice in Section 3 are given in Spanish below:

1. Este libro es un problema.

2. La estudiante tiene un libro en la mano.

3. El estudiante no se sentó en la silla rota.