

Coffee Break **Travel Diaries**

Season 1, Lesson 1

Transcript and Notes



Study text

¡Por fin ha llegado el día! Abel y yo, Victoria, vamos a hacer una ruta por el norte de España como viaje de luna de miel. Cuando me lo propuso, me sorprendí bastante, porque Abel es muy casero. Pero él también sabía que era una parte del país que me apetecía conocer. Los dos somos de Aragón, ¡por lo que ver todo el norte parecía un planazo!

¡Por fin ha llegado el día!

Finally the day has arrived!

luna (f) de miel

honeymoon

cuando me lo propuso < proponer

when he suggested it to me

The verb **proponer** means "to suggest" or "propose" something. Often, verbs are contained within verbs, and in these cases, the conjugation follows the same pattern as the original verb. Here, the verb **poner** which means "to put" is found inside the verb **proponer**, meaning the same pattern is applied across all tenses.

In the present tense "I suggest" is **propongo**, and in the preterite tense "I suggested", is **propuse**. It then follows that the third person is **propuso**. Other examples of verbs which follow this pattern are **suponer**, "to suppose" and **oponer**, "to oppose."

me sorprendí bastante < sorprenderse

I got quite a surprise

Literally, this sentence means "I surprised myself" as the verb is reflexive. It is a regular preterite tense example.

casero

a person who likes to stay at home, a home buddy

Casero comes from the word **casa**, meaning "house" or "home". Normally, **casero**, the adjective, means **hecho en casa**, "made at home", or "home made". When it is used to describe a person, the meaning changes to that of a person who likes to stay at home, and doesn't usually like to travel.

él también sabía < saber

he also knew

The word **él**, with an accent means, "he", whereas **el** without an accent means "the".

me apetecía conocer < apetecer

I fancied / I felt like getting to know

The verb **apetecer** means "to feel like" or "fancy doing something" and is used often in colloquial Spanish. For example, **¿te apetece ir al teatro el sábado?** means "do you feel like going to the theatre on Saturday?" The example in the text is in the imperfect tense as Victoria is describing a situation in the past.

This sentences in the text also contains two examples of the use of the verbs “to know” in Spanish. **Saber** is used for knowing a fact, or knowing how to do something, eg **sé dónde vives** means “I know where you live”, and **no sé nadar** means “I don’t know how to swim”. On the other hand, **conocer** is used for knowing a person or place as in **conozco a tu hermano**, “I know your brother”. It is a useful expression for saying “to get to know something”, as in the phrase in the text.

los dos somos

we are both

Here the both are referring to Abel and Victoria, but if it were two females or feminine nouns, “both” would then be **las dos**.

por lo que

for that reason

parecía un planazo < parecer

it seemed to be a great plan

Endings of words like **-azo** are colloquial and used to increase the emphasis of a word, or exaggerate it. **Un plan** is a simple “plan”, but **un planazo** is “a great plan”. Another example is **sueldazo**, “a great salary”.

Empezamos en San Sebastián. No teníamos pensado pasar la noche allí, por lo que iba a ser un día bastante ajetreado. Lo primero que hicimos fue subir al Monte Urgull: fue un paseo precioso, porque vimos las caballerizas y la fortaleza medieval. Lo que más me gustó fue ver la Isla de Santa Clara desde arriba: ¡parece una tortuga!

San Sebastián

a coastal city in the Basque Autonomous Community in the North of Spain, also known as Donostia in the Basque language

no teníamos pensado < tener

we hadn't planned to

A simple verb "to plan" would be **planear**, however **tener pensado hacer algo** is a more colloquial way of saying this. An example is **este año tenemos pensado aprender alemán**, "this year, we are planning to learn German".

hacer noche

to spend the night

You can also say **pasar la noche**, but note that in the expression **hacer noche** there's no definite article.

iba a ser < ir

was going to be

ajetreado/a

extremely busy

lo primero

the first thing

subir

to go up

las caballerizas

stables

lo que más me gustó

what I liked the most

desde arriba

from above

parece una tortuga

it looks like a tortoise

Por supuesto, fuimos a comer pintxos en varios bares por la Plaza de la Constitución en el casco antiguo de la ciudad. ¡Nos pusimos morados! De hecho, habíamos planeado subir al monte Igueldo, pero como habíamos comido tanto, al final pasamos la tarde en la playa de la Concha y vimos el palacio de Miramar. Estuvimos tanto tiempo allí que salimos a Guernica, un pueblo que está entre San Sebastián y Bilbao, con dos horas de retraso. ¡Menuda forma de empezar el viaje!

por supuesto

of course

comer pintxos

to eat the local tapas in the Basque country

The word **pinchos** exists in Spanish as another name for **tapas**. **Pintxos** is the Basque spelling. Each region of Spain has its own unique specialities.

el casco antiguo

the old part of a city or town

Nos pusimos morados < ponerse

We stuffed ourselves, we had loads to eat

Ponerse las botas is another expression to say "to eat a lot". In Latin America it would be more likely to hear **darse un atracón**, but there are many regional or national variations in these types of phrases.

de hecho

in fact

habíamos planeado

we had planned

al final

in the end

estuvimos tanto tiempo que... < estar

we were there for so long that...

con dos horas de retraso

with a two hour delay

menuda forma

what a way

Menudo is used with nouns, for exclamations in the same way **qué** can be used.

¡Menudo trabajo! or **¡Qué trabajo!** could be used to say "What a job!" The connotations could be either positive or negative, depending on the situation.

Coffee Break Spanish™

<http://coffeebreakspanish.com>

Coffee Break Spanish audio, video and lesson notes ©Copyright Radio Lingua Ltd 2020

All Rights Reserved