

Spanish Travel Phrases Every Traveller Needs To Know

Knowing how to greet people is the most basic thing you can learn in a language and yet its importance should not be underestimated.

Even if you aren't fluent enough to hold a long conversation, a simple *¡Hola! ¿Que tal?* (Hello, how are you?) can make all the difference.

People appreciate if you make an effort to speak their language when you visit their country, even if it's only a few words.

Spanish-speaking countries are especially polite and greeting people correctly will go a long way towards endearing you to the locals, be they friends, people you meet in shops or on the street.

- **#1 ¡Hola!** – Hello
 - (*O-la*)
- **#2 ¡Buenos días!** – Good morning!
 - (*BWAY-nos DEE-as*)
- **#3 ¡Buenas tardes!** – Good afternoon/good evening!
 - (*BWAY-nas TAR-des*)
- **#4 ¡Buenas noches!** – Good night
 - (*BWAY-nas NOH-chays*)
- **#5 ¿Cómo está?** – How are you? (formal, to a stranger)
 - (*KOH-moh eh-STAH*)
- **#6 ¿Cómo estás?** – How are you? (informal, to someone you know)
 - (*KOH-moh eh-STAHs*)
- **#7 Bien, gracias** – I'm fine, thank you.
 - (*bee-EN GRA-thee-as [Spain] / GRA-see-as [Latin America]*)
- **#8 ¿Cómo te llamas?** – What's your name?
 - (*KOH-moh te ya-mas?*)
- **#9 Me llamo...** – My name is...
 - (*May ya-moh...*)

- **#10 *Mucho gusto*** – Nice to meet you.
- (*MOO-choh GOO-stoh*)

And of course, let's not forget common courtesy!

- **#11 *Por favor*** – please
- (*por fa-vor*)
- **#12 *Gracias*** – thank you
- (*GRA-thee-as [Spain] / GRA-see-as [Latin America]*)

If you get stuck in your Spanish conversation, you can always fall back on these next two phrases to get you out of trouble.

- **#13 *Yo (no) entiendo*** – I (don't) understand
- (*yo no en-tee-EN-doh*)
- **#14 *¿Habla inglés?*** – Do you speak English?
- (*Ab-la in-GLAYS*)

The Verb Querer (To Want)

The verb in question is *querer* (to want) and in the first person form, it becomes *quiero* (I want).

Let's take a look at how you can use it:

- **#15 *Yo quiero un menu*** – I want a menu
- (*YO kee-EH-ro oon me-noo*)
- **#16 *Yo quiero un taxi*** – I want a taxi
- (*YO kee-EH-ro oon taxi*)
- **#17 *Yo quiero una cerveza*** – I want a beer
- (*YO kee-EH-ro oo-na ser-vay-za*)

If you'd like to be a bit more polite (which is usually a good idea), you can also use:

- **#18 *Quisiera ...*** – I would like ... (lit. *I would want*)
- (*kee-see-eh-ra...*)

Asking For & Understanding Directions

The simplest way to ask where something is, is to use *¿Dónde está?* followed by the noun you are looking for:

- **#19 *¿Dónde está el baño?*** – Where is the bathroom?
 - (*DON-day es-tah el BAH-nyo?*)
- **#20 *¿Dónde está el banco?*** – Where is the bank?
 - (*DON-day es-tah el BAN-koh?*)
- **#21 *¿Dónde está la calle [de Alcalá]?*** – Where is [Alcalá] Street?
 - (*DON-day es-tah la ka-yay de al-cal-AH?*)

If you are asking someone on the street for directions, don't forget your manners! To get someone's attention, start by saying:

- **#22 *Disculpe*** – Excuse me
- **#23 *Con permiso/Perdóname*** – Excuse me
 - (*Con per-MEE-soh / Per-DOH-nah-may*)
- **#24 *Estoy perdido*** – I'm lost
 - (*eh-stoy per-DEE-doh*)

Asking for directions is one thing but it's pretty pointless if you don't know how to understand the directions that are given to you!

Memorise these phrases to help you understand what the friendly locals are trying to tell you when you ask for their help:

- **#25 *Aquí*** – here
 - (*Ah-KEE*)
- **#26 *Allí*** – there
 - **#26 *Allí*** – there
 - (*ay-EE*)
 - **#27 *A la derecha*** – on the right
 - (*A la de-RE-cha*)
 - **#28 *A la izquierda*** – on the left
 - (*A la iz-kee-ER-da*)
 - **#29 *Derecho*** – straight ahead

- (De-RE-cho)
- #30 *En la esquina* – at the corner
 - (En la es-KEE-nah)
- #31 *A una cuadra* – in one, two, three, four blocks
 - (A oo-na kwAD-rah)

Getting Around

Here are a few simple phrases you can use to locate a bus, train or taxi and get to wherever you need to go:

- #32 *¿Dónde puedo encontrar un taxi?* – Where can I get a taxi?
 - (DON-day pway-doh en-kon-trar oon taxi?)
- #33 *¿Dónde está la parada de autobús más cerca?* – Where's the nearest bus stop?
 - (DON-day eh-STAH la pa-RAH-dah de oww-to-BOOS mas SER-ka?)
- #34 *¿Dónde está la estación de ferrocarril más cerca?* – Where's the nearest railway station?
 - (DON-day eh-STAH la es-tah-see-ON de ferro-carr-EEL mas SER-ka?)
- #35 *¿Cuánto cuesta un billete para ... ?* – How much does a ticket to ... cost?
 - (KWAN-ta KWES-ta oon bee-YET-ay pa-ra ...)
- #36 *Un billete para ..., por favor.* – A ticket to ... please.
 - (oon bee-YET-ay pa-ra ... por fa-vor)

At A Restaurant

To start with, you need to be prepared to hear and understand certain questions in restaurants, such as:

- #37 *¿Quieres algo para comer?* – Would you like something to eat?
 - (kee-EH-res AL-go pa-ra koh-mer?)
- #38 *¿Quieres algo para beber?* – Would you like something to drink?
 - (kee-EH-res AL-go pa-ra beh-ber?)
- #39 *¿Qué quieres comer?* – What would you like to eat?
 - (KAY kee-EH-res koh-mer?)

When you read the menu, you'll see the available food grouped into different

- **#40 una entrada** – an appetizer
 - (oo-na en-TRA-da)
- **#41 un plato principal** – a main dish
 - (oon pla-toh prin-si-pal)
- **#42 un postre** – a dessert
 - (oon pos-tray)
- **#43 una bebida** – a drink
 - (oo-na beh-bee-da)

When you're ready to order, use either *quiero* (I want) or *quisiera* (I would like) with the items on the menu to tell the waiter what you'd like. For example, *quiero...*

- **#44 una sopa** – soup
 - (oo-na soh-pah)
- **#45 una ensalada** – salad
 - (oo-na en-sa-la-da)
- **#46 el pollo** – chicken
 - (el poy-oh)
- **#47 la carne** – the meat (beef)
 - **#47 la carne** – the meat (beef)
 - (la car-nay)
 - **#48 una agua** – water
 - (oo-na ag-wa)
 - **#49 un vino tinto /blanco** – red wine
 - (oon vee-noh tin-toh / blan-koh)
 - **#50 una cerveza** – beer
 - (oo-na ser-vay-sa)
 - **#51 un café** – coffee
 - (oon ka-fay)

So, for example, to order that ice-cold beer you're looking forward to at the end of a long day, you'd say *quiero una cerveza*.

Finally, let's learn a couple of quick phrases you can use to ask about prices and pay the bill.

- **#55 ¿Cuánto cuesta?** – How much is it?
 - (KWAN-to KWES-ta?)
- **#56 La cuenta, por favor** – The bill, please.
 - (la KWEN-ta por fa-vor)

Key Spanish Question Words

Here are some key Spanish question words you need to know:

- **#57 ¿Quién?** – Who?
 - (KEE-en?)
- **#58 ¿Qué?** – What?
 - (kay?)
- **#59 ¿Dónde?** – Where?
 - (DON-day?)
- **#60 ¿Cuándo?** – When?
 - (KWAN-doh?)
- **#61 ¿A qué hora?** – When/what time?
 - (A kay AW-ra?)
- **#62 ¿Por qué?** – Why?
 - (Por kay?)
- **#63 ¿Cómo?** – How?
 - (KOH-moh?)
- **#64 ¿Cuánto?** – How much?
 - (KWAN-toh?)
- **#64 ¿Cuánto?** – How much?
 - (KWAN-toh?)
- **#65 ¿Cuántos?** – How many?
 - (KWAN-tohs)
- **#66 ¿Cada cuánto?** – How often?
 - (kah-dah KWAN-toh?)
- **#67 ¿Por cuánto tiempo?** – How long?
 - (Por KWAN-toh tee-em-poh)