

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S5 #1

Is There a Spanish Bar around Here?

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#1

DIALOGUE - FORMAL SPANISH

MAIN

1. Paco : Disculpe, ¿hay algún bar por la zona?
2. Vendedor : Sí, joven. Hay unos a dos cuadras de aquí.
3. Paco : ¿Y son caros?
4. Vendedor : Hay de todo... baratos y caros.

ENGLISH

1. Paco : Excuse me, is there a bar in this neighborhood?
2. Vendor : Yes, young man, there are some a few blocks from here.
3. Paco : And are they expensive?
4. Vendor : There are all kinds... cheap and expensive.

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
cuadra	block	noun	masculine
barato (a)	inexpensive, cheap	adjective	
caro	expensive, dear	adjective	
hay	there is, there are	verb	
unos	some	adjective, pronoun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Hay un parque en mi cuadra. "There is a park in my block."	¿Cuántas cuadras ya hemos caminado? "How many blocks have we walked now?"
No podemos comprar el auto en este momento, por más barato que esté. "Right now, we cannot buy the car as cheap as it may be."	El platillo más caro del menú era la langosta. "The most expensive dish on the menu was the lobster."
Ayer Mónica se compró unos aretes muy caros. "Yesterday, Monica bought really expensive earrings."	Acabo de comprar un boleto. Estuvo bien caro. "I just bought a ticket. It was really expensive."

<p>Es muy caro llamar a mi abuelo en España.</p> <p>"It is very expensive to call my grandfather in Spain."</p>	<p>Cuando hay un cambio de clima, siempre me da alergia.</p> <p>"When there is a change in the weather, my allergies start to bother me."</p>
<p>Cuando hay vagancia no hay desarrollo.</p> <p>"When the laziness is present, there is no development."</p>	<p>Al final, hay dos opciones.</p> <p>"In the end, there are two options."</p>
<p>Cuando hace mucho calor, no hay nada mejor que la limonada.</p> <p>"When it's really hot, there's nothing better than lemonade."</p>	<p>A Jorge le hacen falta unos zapatos nuevos.</p> <p>"Jorge needs a new pair of shoes."</p>
<p>Ayer Mónica se compró unos aretes muy caros.</p> <p>"Yesterday, Monica bought really expensive earrings."</p>	<p>El toro tiene unos cuernos muy afilados.</p> <p>"The bull has very sharp horns."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

hay ("there is," "there are") This is the impersonal present tense form of the verb *haber*, meaning "to have." We use it exclusively to indicate existence.

unos ("some") This word can be an adjective when it modifies a noun (e.g., **comí unos tacos** "I ate some tacos") It can also be a pronoun when it stands alone (e.g., **ya me comí unos**, meaning "I already ate some").

la cuadra ("block")

caro ("expensive," "dear")

barato ("inexpensive," "cheap")

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Existence.

¿Hay algún bar por la zona?

"Is there any bar in the neighborhood?"

In Spanish, we use the verb *haber* to talk about existence. In the present tense, there is a special form *hay*, which is equivalent to the impersonal expression "there is" or "there are." This form is invariable, regardless of number.

For Example:

1. *Hay mucha azúcar en mi café.*
"There's a lot of sugar in my coffee."

2. *Hay varias huellas en la arena.*

"There are several footprints in the sand."

Note that as in English, we use *hay* impersonally: it takes no grammatical subject.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Remember Your Manners in Spanish!

Disculpe ("excuse me"), *perdone* ("pardon me"), and *perdón* ("sorry") are all common polite ways to get a stranger's attention. Note that we conjugate the command forms, *disculpe* and *perdone*, in the formal register. *Perdón*, of course, is not a verb, so we do not conjugate it at all. Another common, polite way to get someone's attention is with *oiga* ("listen"), the formal register command form of the verb *oír* ("to hear").

To ask someone to move aside, or to ask politely to enter or exit a room, you may use *con permiso* ("excuse me").