

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Basic Bootcamp #1

A Pleasure to Meet You

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INTRODUCTION

JP: This is Basic Bootcamp Lesson 1. My name is JP and I'm here with Fernando. Hi, Fernando.

Fernando: Hey, JP. How are you?

JP: I'm great. Today we have the first lesson in our series of five Basic Boot Camp lessons. Since this is the very first lesson in Basic Boot Camp we're going to hear a very basic conversation, and it's about greetings, how people say hello to each other. So here we go.

DIALOGUE

JESÚS: Hola, soy Jesús.

MONSERRAT: Yo soy Monserrat, mucho gusto.

JESÚS: El gusto es mío.

JP: Let's hear it again, dramatic speed.

JESÚS: Hola, soy Jesús.

MONSERRAT: Yo soy Monserrat, mucho gusto.

JESÚS: El gusto es mío.

JP: One more time with the translation.

JESÚS: Hola, soy Jesús.

JESÚS: Hi, I'm Jesús.

MONSERRAT: Yo soy Monserrat, mucho gusto.

MONSERRAT: I'm Monserrat; it's a pleasure to meet you.

JESÚS: El gusto es mío.

JESÚS: The pleasure is mine.

POST CONVERSATION BANTER

JP: Alright, Fernando, we're back. Now what just happened here?

Fernando: Sounds like Jesus and Monserrat met each other for the first time.

JP: Ok, so what was with the kissing sound at the end?

Fernando: Oh, this is an important cultural point. When you meet a Spanish speaking woman, you greet her with a kiss.

JP: Even if you're meeting her for the first time?

Fernando: Yes, even if it is for the first time.

JP: Ok, well, I like that.

Fernando: Yeah, I thought you would. Let's look at the vocabulary.

JP: Alright.

VOCAB LIST

Fernando: Hola

JP: Hello, hi.

Fernando: Hola

JP: What's next?

Fernando: Yo

JP: I.

Fernando: Yo

JP: What's next?

Fernando: Ser

JP: To be.

Fernando: Ser

JP: What's next?

Fernando: Mucho gusto.

JP: It's a pleasure to meet you.

Fernando: Mucho gusto.

JP: Ok. Last one.

Fernando: El gusto es mío.

JP: The pleasure's mine.

Fernando: El gusto es mío.

VOCAB AND PHRASE USAGE

JP: Ok, Fernando, which word do you want to start with?

Fernando: Let's start with hola. Hola, JP.

JP: Hola, Fernando. This is how you say "Hi" in Spanish, right? Hola. Remember that Hola is just a simple O, don't drag it out into an OH, like an English OH. oh-la.

Fernando: Yo

JP: What's next.

Fernando: Yo

JP: "You" next?

Fernando: Right.

JP: Ok, Yo. So this is the first person singular subject pronoun. It's kind of like the English word "I".

Fernando: Right. It's the word you say when you point to yourself.

JP: Ok, he's pointing to himself ladies and gentlemen. But they can't see you, Fernando. Ok, anyway, I'm pointing to myself though. Yo

Fernando: What?

JP: Yo

Fernando: What?

JP: I'm pointing to myself.

Fernando: Ok.

JP: Ok, so, Fernando, people want to know...

Fernando: What do they want to know?

JP: We've all heard our Latino friends pronounce this word, Yo/Yo/Yo/Yo. Which one is correct?

Fernando: They're all fine.

JP: Ok, but which one is the most correct?

Fernando: Depends on where you're from, but really it's not a big deal.

JP: Not a big deal. Not a big deal because to us Yo and Yo and Yo they sound radically different.

Fernando: But to us it doesn't matter, they don't sound that different. I mean we hear the difference but we understand all of them.

JP: Ok, so what pronunciation do you do?

Fernando: I usually say Yo, but sometimes you will hear me say Yo as well. It really doesn't matter.

JP: Ok. So what's next on our list? The verb Ser.

Fernando: Yes. Ser is the verb we use in Spanish to talk about identity. In English we'd use "to be".

JP: Alright, now this is kind of a trick because we didn't actually hear the word ser in the dialogue. Technically we heard the form for the first person singular, which is soy. Jesus say soy Jesús, which is like "I'm Jesus", so he's using ser to identify himself and then he gave his name.

Fernando: Exactly. And then Monserrat does the same thing when she gives her name and she says Yo soy Monserrat.

JP: Ok, so that soy means “I am”. It’s the first person form of ser, which is “to be”.

Fernando: Ok, shall we move on?

JP: Alright, what’s next?

Fernando: Mucho gusto. This is how you tell someone in Spanish that you’re glad to meet them. Mucho gusto.

JP: Mucho gusto. Right. gusto is the word for “pleasure” so Mucho gusto. is like “much pleasure”. Mucho gusto.

Fernando: And when someone tells you Mucho, the standard response is El gusto es mío.

JP: El gusto es mío.

Fernando: If we break it down we can see the word gusto again. So el gusto is “the pleasure, and then es mío.

JP: es mío is like “it’s mine”. So if you put it together...

Fernando: El gusto es mío.

JP: El gusto es mío.

LESSON FOCUS

JP: This takes us to the grammar section of the podcast and I want to look at a few things very quickly. First of all, we said earlier that we use ser to talk about identity. We heard Jesus and Monserrat identifying themselves to each other.

Fernando: Yes, they said soy Jesús, soy Monserrat.

JP: That word soy is the first person singular form of ser, it means “I am”.

Fernando: Soy Fernando.

JP: Y yo soy JP. Hey, we just used ser to identify ourselves.

Fernando: Yeah.

JP: Now I want to look at the word es that we heard in the phrase El gusto es mío. So the word es in this sentence means “it is” and it’s also a form of the verb ser. In this case it’s the third person singular form and it means like “it is”, “he is” or “she is”.

Fernando: Yes, es. We should also say that we’re using ser here for possession.

JP: Right. “The pleasure is mine. The pleasure belongs to me. I possess this pleasure.” El gusto es mío. And the form of ser that means “I am”?

Fernando: Soy.

JP: Soy. Cool. Now the last thing I wanted to mention today is how we use the word yo.

Fernando: Yo is like “I”.

JP: Yeah, it means "I". However, it acts a little bit differently, right? So yo doesn't always have to be there.

Fernando: Ok. You better explain that.

JP: That's easy. In English, we always have to have a pronoun with our verb. If you're going to say the verb "am" in a sentence, you always have to say "I" before it. The "I" needs to be there.

Fernando: Ok.

JP: In Spanish, the verb form soy is a lot more independent. It doesn't have to be with that pronoun yo. It's fine without it. And actually all Spanish verbs are like that, they can stand without the pronoun.

Fernando: So that's why Jesus says soy Jesús without any yo.

JP: Right.

Fernando: So then why does Monserrat come back and say Yo soy Monserrat?

JP: Well, if you look at what's happening, Fernando, Monserrat is changing the subject of the conversation. In the first sentence we were talking about Jesus, but now Monserrat wants to emphasize the new subject which is herself, right? So that's why she uses the pronoun, in this case Yo. Yo soy Monserrat.

Fernando: So subject pronouns are for emphasis.

JP: Yes, that's it in a nutshell. In English, if you want to emphasize you use stress, right? You say "He's Jesus, but I'm Monserrat". In Spanish you don't use stress that way, right? You don't say YO~

Fernando: No, you don't.

OUTRO

JP: Alright, folks, that's it for Basic Bootcamp Lesson 1. We'll see you in the later lessons. Remember, this is only one of five, there are four more to go. See you next time!

Fernando: Hasta luego!