



# Personal Proficiency Trainer

Winter Series  
January 2009 Edition

Complete Transcript  
with Full Translation

## **January Edition - ¡Próspero Año Nuevo!**

I hope you all had a "Feliz Navidad" (Merry Christmas) and a "Próspero Año Nuevo" (Happy New Years). I hope your holidays were as festive as my own. I am proud to welcome you back to January's edition of the Personal Proficiency Trainer. Did you all write down "Learn Spanish!" as one of your New Year's resolutions? Here at Visual Link Spanish™ our resolution was: "continue giving you the best tools possible to help you reach your goal." ¡Sí se puede! (You can do it!).

This month's issue will continue our focus on Latin American Spanish with six new conversations by our speakers from Mexico; and since we are just starting a brand new year, our special feature this month will give us a peak into a wild Spanish New Years Eve.

Our first beginning conversation illustrates typical short conversations that might happen among friends at work. In our beginning travel feature we look at another common situation that is encountered whenever you venture to a foreign country--exchanging money.

Whether traveling or staying home, one of the most common places you will find to practice your Spanish is in restaurants. Let's learn to order our food in Spanish. Then in our advanced scenarios, we'll learn about a New Year's party in Spain and take a ride with a friendly taxi driver in Mexico. Let's go see the world--one conversation at a time.

### **CONVERSATIONS:**

#### **~BEGINNING~**

#### **Entre Amigos (Among Friends)**

Conversations happen everyday to everyone. If you are like me, a number of your day-to-day conversations are short, polite greetings with your friends and acquaintances. Let's practice two of these in Spanish with some friends at work.

Language Tip: Note in this first conversation, Elena says: "tengo mucha hambre" which literally translated means "I have much hunger." Although this may sound odd to us since we would instead say "I am very hungry", Spanish speakers use the verb "tener" (to have) to express basic human needs such as hunger, thirst, sleep, cold or hot. So instead of saying "I am thirsty, I am sleepy, or I am cold," they would always say "I have thirst, I have sleep, or I have cold." Pay attention in the conversations and pick out more places where the speakers use the verb "tener."

Speakers: Claudia and Sandro from Mexico City, Mexico

Title	[Conversación #1-"Salir a comer"] [Conversation #1 - "Going Out To Lunch"]
Elena	Hello Alexander, how's it going?

Hola Alejandro, ¿Qué tal?

Alejandro Good, good, how about you?

Bien, bien, ¿y tú?

Elena Very good, thanks. Where are you going?

Muy bien, gracias. ¿Adónde vas?

Alejandro I am going out to eat today. Would you like to come with me? (accompany me) My treat. (I'll invite)

Voy a salir a comer hoy. ¿Te gustaría acompañarme? Yo invito.

Elena Thanks Alex; I am really hungry. (I have much hunger) But I will pay for my own. Where do you want to go?

Gracias Alex; tengo mucha hambre. Pero yo pago la mía. ¿Adónde quieres ir?

Alejandro I don't know, what sounds good to you?

No sé, ¿qué se te antoja?

Elena Oh anything, but I don't have a lot of time, can we go somewhere close?

Ay lo que sea, pero no tengo mucho tiempo, ¿podemos ir a un lugar cerca?

Alejandro Yeah sure. Do you like Mexican food?

Sí claro. ¿Te gusta la comida mexicana?

Elena Yes, I love it.

Sí, me encanta.

Alejandro I know a Mexican restaurant that isn't very far

Conozco un restaurante mexicano que no está muy lejos.

Elena Well, I like Mexican food, but I don't eat a lot of meat. Do you know if they have good salads?

Bueno, me gusta la comida mexicana, pero no como mucha carne. ¿Sabes si allí tienen ensaladas buenas?

Alejandro Yeah, they have really good salads there.

Sí, allí venden ensaladas muy ricas.

Elena Great, lets go then. Thanks for inviting me.

Bien, vámonos entonces. Gracias por invitarme.

Alejandro No problem. (You're welcome)

No hay de que.

Title [Conversación #2– “Saludo Amable”]

[Conversation #2 – “Polite Greeting”]

- Claudia Good morning Paul. How are you?  
Buenos días Pablo. ¿Cómo está?
- Pablo Great, thanks; how is everything with you?  
Muy bien gracias; ¿y Ud. qué tal?
- Claudia I am fine. But I am very busy as always.  
Estoy bien. Pero muy ocupada como siempre.
- Pablo Yeah, well with five kids, I can imagine they keep you busy. How are all your little ones?  
Sí pues con cinco niños, me imagino que le tienen ocupada. ¿Cómo están todos sus pequeñitos?
- Claudia Fine thank you although the youngest is a little sick.  
Bien gracias aunque la menor está un poco enferma.
- Pablo Oh no. What does she have?  
Oh no. ¿Qué tiene?
- Claudia Well, she just has a cold. I think that it's because of the cold weather. She loves playing outside.  
Pues, tiene gripa nada más. Creo que es por el frío. Le encanta jugar afuera.
- Pablo Oh poor thing! She's in elementary school, isn't she? (right?)  
¡Ay pobrecita! ella está en la primaria ¿verdad?
- Claudia Well, actually she is still in kindergarden. She likes school a lot; that's why she is so sad that she can't go for now.  
Bueno, de hecho todavía está en el jardín de niños. A ella le gusta mucho la escuela; por eso está muy triste que no puede asistir por ahora.
- Pablo Oh, well I hope she gets better soon.  
Oh, pues espero que se mejore pronto.
- Claudia Yeah I do too because I don't like leaving her with the babysitter-- she always cries a lot when I leave her there. The problem is that my husband and I have to work during the day.  
Sí yo también porque no me gusta dejarla con la niñera-- siempre llora mucho cuando la dejo allí. El problema es que mi esposo y yo tenemos que trabajar durante el día.
- Pablo Well um, if you need help, let me know. Maybe my wife could help to take care of her.  
Bueno, pues si necesita ayuda, me avisa. A lo mejor mi esposa podría ayudar a cuidarla.

Claudia

Oh thank you Paul, you and your wife are so kind. Anyway I think that she will get better soon. But thank you.

Ay gracias Pablo, Ud. y su esposa son tan amables. Comoquiera yo creo que pronto se va a mejorar. Pero muchas gracias.

Pablo

Well you're welcome Claudia. You know you can count on me.

Pues de nada Claudia. Ya sabe que puede contar conmigo.

Claudia

Thanks Paul.

Gracias Pablo.

## Cambio de Dinero (Exchanging Money)

One thing that is an absolute necessity when traveling anywhere is money; Especially if you are headed to a foreign country. What type of currency is used in the country you would like to visit? In today's economy the value of the dollar is constantly going up and down. Do you think the dollar is worth more or less in the places you would like to visit? Let's travel to Mexico where a dollar is certainly worth at least a little more. Since we'll be doing a lot of shopping for souvenirs, let's learn to exchange our dollars into Mexican currency--"pesos".

Language Tip: Notice in this conversation when the "Empleado" (clerk) is telling the "Viajera" (traveler) about the street markets, he says "El más grande está..." meaning "the biggest one is..." In Spanish, there is no equivalent "est" ending to add onto words (e.g. oldest, shortest, cheapest). So instead they always just say "más" (most) before the word (e.g. most old, most short, most cheap).

Speakers: Claudia and Sandro from Mexico City, Mexico.

Viajera	Hello, can I exchange my money here?
	Hola, ¿puedo cambiar mi dinero aquí?
Empleado	Yes. You can exchange it here.
	Sí. Aquí lo puede cambiar.
Viajera	And do the vendors in this area accept (American) dollars?
	Y ¿aceptan dólares los vendedores de esta área?
Empleado	Usually yes.
	Mayormente sí.
Viajera	Excuse me, do I need to exchange my money then or can I buy everything with dollars?
	Perdone, ¿necesito cambiar mi dinero entonces o puedo comprar todo con dólares?
Empleado	That depends. If you are going to go shopping at the street markets, perhaps you are going to need pesos; but if not, in all of the big stores they accept dollars.
	Depende. Si va a ir de compras en los mercados callejeros tal vez va a necesitar pesos; pero si no, en todas las tiendas grandes aceptan dólares.
Viajera	Alright, I think that I am going to exchange it. What is the exchange rate? (How much is the dollar at?)
	Bueno, creo que sí lo voy a cambiar. ¿A cuánto está el dólar?
Empleado	It's at about one to thirteen for the moment.
	Está a más o menos uno a trece por el momento.
Viajera	Then I would like to exchange three hundred dollars.

Entonces me gustaría cambiar tres cientos dólares.

Empleado Alright. That comes to (that will be) three thousand seven hundred and ninety pesos and (with) seventy nine cents; here you are (have).

Muy bien. Son tres mil setecientos noventa pesos con setenta y nueve centavos; aquí tiene.

Viajera Thank-you. Excuse me I am curious about the street markets; can you recommend one to me?

Gracias. Disculpe tengo curiosidad acerca de los mercados ambulantes; ¿puede recomendarme uno?

Empleado Of course. The biggest one is in the city center (downtown) Every Wednesday morning.

Claro. El más grande está en el centro todos los miércoles por la mañana.

Viajera And where is the city center?

¿Y dónde está el Centro?

Empleado Actually it is very close by-- a few blocks north of here. If you follow the street that's right here out front you'll see a Catholic church and after the church you'll see the city center on the right.

De hecho está muy cerca-- a unas a cuadas al norte de aquí. Si sigue la calle qué está aquí en frente va a ver una iglesia Católica y después de la iglesia verá el Centro a la derecha.

Viajera Thank-you very much. I appreciate it.

Muchas gracias. Se lo agradezco.

Empleado You're welcome, have a nice day! (may it go well for you!)

De nada, ¡que le vaya muy bien!

## ~INTERMEDIATE~

### El Restaurante (The Restaurant)

If I had to pick the things that I enjoy most about the Hispanic culture, I would undoubtedly list "the food" near the top. Spanish-speakers from all different countries are known for their rich and spicy cooking. Let's cross the border and see if we can sample the traditional cuisine in an authentic Mexican restaurant. Another thing Spanish restaurants are known for is their excellent service. Let's see how good the service is here at "The Matador" restaurant. Be sure to ask the waiter about the traditional dishes of the region.

Language Tip: One of the great things about the PPT is that since you are listening to real native speakers having real conversations, you will be able to pick up a lot of idioms (common expressions peculiar to a language). Idioms often don't make sense if they are taken literally; think about some of our English idioms: "I've got a frog in my throat, I'm under the weather, he kicked the bucket." Learn to recognize these in English and try not to translate them directly into Spanish since they will not make sense at all! Here is a fun one from this conversation: when the waiter tells them to take a look at the menu he says "...echan un ojito al menu", literally meaning: "put an eye onto the menu."

Speakers: Luis and Marlen from Zacatecas and Hidalgo, Mexico

Mesero	<div>Good afternoon American girls (slang), welcome to the Matador restaurant, come right this way. How many are coming?</div> <div>Buenas tardes güeritas, bienvenidas al restaurante El Matador, pásenle por acá. ¿Cuántos vienen?</div>
Turista	<div>Just three for now.</div> <div>Solamente tres por ahora.</div>
Mesero	<div>Here is your table, please have a seat, I'll bring the menu right away.</div> <div>Aquí está su mesa, siéntense por favor, ahorita les traigo el menú.</div>
Turista	<div>Thank you very much.</div> <div>Muchas gracias.</div>
Mesero	<div>Wow, what cute daughters you have, eh?</div> <div>Oiga, qué bonitas hijas tiene, ¿eh?</div>
Turista	<div>Oh, thank you.</div> <div>Ay, gracias.</div>
Mesero	<div>Are they twins?</div> <div>¿Son gemelas?</div>
Turista	<div>No, they are a year apart.</div>



No, se llevan por un año.

Mesero Oh, very cute, very cute, congratulations.

Oh, muy bonitas, muy bonitas, felicidades.

Turista Oh, thank you. Hey and you know you can give me the menu, but we are...we want to try the typical food from around here.

Oh, muchas gracias. Oiga y sabe que me da el menú, pero andamos...queremos probar la comida típica de aquí.

Mesero Alright, like what do you...like what do you feel like eating? Is it your first time here in Tijuana?

Bueno, ¿como qué se le...como qué se le antoja? ¿Es su primera vez aquí en Tijuana?

Turista You know what it is, it's the first time so we aren't very familiar with the typical food. We have heard that it is very good, but we'll like to try (the food).

Sabe que sí, es la primera vez entonces no estamos muy familiarizadas con la comida típica. Hemos escuchado que es muy rica, pero nos gustará probar.

Mesero Great, well, not to brag, (it isn't for nothing) but the Americans like this restaurant a lot because we take good care of them here (we attend them very nicely). Look for example, I can recommend the daily special (the special of now).

Bueno, mire, no es por nada, pero esta restaurant les gusta mucho a los güeros porque aquí los atendemos muy bien. Mire por ejemplo, le puedo recomendar el especial de ahora.

Turista What is the daily special?

¿Cuál es el especial de ahora?

Mesero The daily special is goat-meat tacos and it is a very authentic dish from the city. The Americans and their families just love it.

El especial de ahora son tacos de cabrito y es un plato muy autentico de la ciudad. Les gusta mucho a los güeros y a sus familias.

Turista And what else would you recommend me?

Y ¿qué más me recomendaría Ud.?

Mesero You can have yourself a fish stew, a return-to-life (Mexican seafood cocktail), a rice with Pueblan mole (sweet chile-pepper sauce)

Puede echarse un caldo de pescado, un vuelve a la vida, un arroz con mole poblano.

Turista That sounds good. You know what? Why don't you give us a minute to think about it (to think it over well).

Eso suena bien. ¿Sabe que? ¿Por qué no nos da un minuto para pensarlo bien.

Mesero

How about if I go to get (for) your water and meanwhile you can glance at (idiom: put an eye in) the menu and if you decide on something special, let me know and I can inform you, I can tell you if...if it's good, if it's bad, if you like spicy foods, if the girls don't, You just let me know and I will gladly help you.

¿Qué tal si voy por su agua y mientras Uds. le echan un ojito al menú y si se animan por algo especial, avísenme y yo los puedo informar, les puedo decir si...si es bueno, si es malo, si a Ud. le gusta el picante, si a las niñas no, Ud. nada más dígame y yo la atiendo con mucho gusto.

Turista

Great, if you'll bring the waters and meanwhile I'll talk with the girls to see what it is that they want to eat.

Bueno, si nos trae las aguas y mientras yo converso con las chicas para ver qué es lo que quieren comer.

## El Restaurante, Part II

I hope you like spicy food. In a lot of Spanish food you will find a wide variety of spicy seasoning, salsa, and hot chili peppers. Make sure to ask the waiter for something to suit your tastes--especially if you brought your family with you. Younger children with their acute taste buds don't often like the same hot, spicy food that many adults do. In addition to the food, the Spanish have some interesting and tasty drinks. I recommend trying some fresh "horchata" (sweet, rice-based drink) if you have a chance. ¡Buen provecho! (bon appétit!).

Language Tip: let's look at the first phrase of this conversation when the waiter says: "...tomo su orden?" meaning "can I take your order?" Notice the waiter doesn't say "puedo tomar su orden." Often in Spanish the present tense alone is enough to signify "can" or "may". So you could say "¿le ayudo con eso?" instead of "¿le puedo ayudar con eso?" to mean "can I help you with that?"

Speakers from: Zacatecas and Hidalgo, Mexico

Mesero	<div>So may I take your order now?</div> <div>Entonces ¿ya le tomo su orden?</div>
Turista	<div>You know what, yes. For them (the girls), please bring me a Pueblan mole (sweet chili-pepper sauce). And for me, bring me the special that you recommended me.</div> <div>Sabe que sí. Para ellas, tráigame por favor un mole poblano. Y a mí tráigame el especial que Ud. me recomendó.</div>
Mesero	<div>The goat-meat tacos?</div> <div>¿Los tacos al cabrito?</div>
Turista	<div>Yes, the goat-meat tacos. and if you can bring us a salsa, I just tried that one and it is very spicy (hot), but if you bring--that is fine for me, but can you bring me one...a little less spicy for the...for my daughters.</div> <div>Sí, los tacos al cabrito, y si nos trae una salsa, esa la acabo de probar y está muy picosa, pero si me trae--eso está bien para mí, pero me trae una...un poquito menos picosa para las...para mis hijas.</div>
Mesero	<div>There isn't any problem friend (slang: American girl) We'll take care of you right away like you deserve and don't worry, You'll come back to this restaurant. I guarantee it.</div> <div>No hay ningún problema güerita, ahorita la atendemos como Ud. se merece y no se preocupe, Ud. va a regresar a este restaurant. Se lo garantizo.</div>
Turista	<div>Ok, we hope so. Hey and a...apart from the waters, please bring us, (on it) I see here that you have some fresh lemonades, please bring us some lemonades and an horchata (sweet, rice-based drink) for the girls.</div>

Bueno, esperamos que sí. Oiga y a...aparte de las aguas, tráiganos por favor, le veo aquí que tienen unas limonadas frescas, tráiganos por favor unas limonadas y una horchata para las chicas.

Mesero At your service, friend, at your service.

A la orden, güerita, a la orden.

Turista Thank you very much.

Muchas gracias.

Turista Mr., Edward?

¿Señor, Eduardo?

Mesero One second Ma'am. Go ahead (Tell me). How (in what) can I help you?

Un segundo Señorita. Dígame. ¿En qué les puedo servir?

Turista Yes, can you please bring me my bill to pay?

Sí, ¿por favor me trae mi recibo para pagar?

Mesero Of course I can, Miss, look, I've got it here now ready and if you want I can take it to the cash register and pay it and bring you your change however you like or (you) at the exit can pay there.

Claro que sí, Señorita, mire, aquí lo traigo ya listo y si quiere yo puedo llevarlo a la caja y pagarle y traerle su cambio como quiera o Ud. en la salida puede pagar allí.

Turista Hey, and if you take it up to pay... Does the tip come included? Do we leave the tip on the table?

Oiga, y si Ud. lleva a pagar... ¿la propina va incluida? ¿La propina la dejamos en la mesa?

Mesero Oh, well, it doesn't come included so it's, it's however you want.

Oh, mire, no va incluida así que es, es como Ud. quiera.

Turista Alright, then why don't you do me the favor of paying?

Bueno, entonces ¿por qué no me hace el favor de pagar?

Mesero With pleasure, Miss, let's see, excuse me, I'll be right back.

Con mucho gusto, Señorita, a ver, permítame, ahorita regreso.

Turista Ok, thanks a lot eh?

Bueno, muchas gracias eh?

Mesero I'm back. Here it is, Miss, I hope that you liked the food a lot and that you'll please recommend it to your friends because honestly, this is a restaurant (that is) of the best

Ya vuelvo. Aquí está Señorita, espero que les haya gustado mucho la comida y que por favor se lo recomienden a sus compatriotas porque de verdad, este es un restaurant de lo mejorcito.

Turista

You know what we are leaving (quite) satisfied. Thank you very much. I think that we'll come back because we are going to spend some time more here in the city, we'll come back...um... to try some other of your dishes.

Sabe que nos vamos satisfechas. Muchas gracias. Yo creo que vamos a regresar porque vamos a pasar un tiempo más aquí en la ciudad, vamos a regresar...este... a probar algún otro de sus platillos.

Mesero

Alright, have a nice day (may it go well for you) take care, and take care of your very pretty daughters and God bless you.

Bueno, que les vaya bien, cuídense y cuide a sus hijas muy bonitas y que Dios los bendiga.

~ADVANCED~

## La Noche Vieja (New Years)

Did you throw a New Year's Eve party? Did you have fun or was it somewhat tedious? Maybe next year you could throw a little Spanish flair into your party. Let's ask our friend Rodrigo from Spain how they celebrate the New Year in his country. Which of his traditions are similar to yours? Don't forget to buy enough grapes for one of his more interesting traditions!

Language Tip: One of the key things you can learn from the PPT is the differences in word order between Spanish and English. Although similar, in general word order in Spanish is more flexible than in English. For example, in English the subject always comes before the verb (i.e. Jon runs), but in Spanish it is just as common for it to come after (runs Jon). In this conversation Rodrigo says "...suenan doce campanas" (ring twelve bells). Take note whenever the words switch places in the English translation; you will gradually get a feel for the differences in Spanish sentence structure.

Speakers: Cristóbal y Lola from Cartagena, Spain

Jane	Hi Rodrigo.
	Hola Rodrigo.
Rodrigo	Hi.
	Hola.
Jane	Hey um, now that I see you, I wanted to ask you something, because I am planning to throw (do) a...an end of the year party, but a Spanish-styled one.
	Pues mira, ya que te veo, quería yo consultarte algo, porque estoy planeando hacer una...una noche de fin de año, pero al estilo español.
Rodrigo	You don't say!
	¡No me digas!
Jane	Of course, because the thing is all the previous parties have been very boring (have bored me a lot).
	Por supuesto, porque es que las...la... todas las noches anteriores me han aburrido mucho.
Rodrigo	You couldn't have asked anyone better. We Spaniards have a lot of fun.
	No le has podido preguntar-- a nadie mejor. Los españoles nos divertimos muchísimo.
Jane	That's why I wanted to come to you (for help). I want you to explain all of the details.
	Por eso, quería acudir a ti. Quiero que me expliques todos los detalles.
Rodrigo	Alright, well to begin with, it's... we call it the old night.

Bueno para empezar, es... le llamamos la noche vieja.

Jane Old night? Why is it old?

¿Noche vieja? ¿Por qué es vieja?

Rodrigo Becuase it's the oldest night of the year. Don't you think?

Porque es la noche más vieja del año. ¿No Crees?

Jane Oh, of course, that makes sense.

Oh, claro, tiene sentido.

Rodrigo Of course. Uh, well look, that night...um... we eat supper very late

Claro. Eh, pues mira, esa noche...em... cenamos muy tarde

Jane and we make a very big supper.

y hacemos una cena muy abundante.

Rodrigo The purpose is we eat late...um... so that when the supper is over we will be really close to twelve midnight.

El propósito es que cenamos tarde...eh... para que cuando se termine la cena estemos ya muy cerca de las doce de la medianoche.

Jane And why is that?

Y eso ¿por qué?

Rodrigo Because at twelve at night all of our traditions begin.

Porque a las doce de la noche empieza todo lo que son nuestras tradiciones.

Jane Explain, explain!

¡Explica, explica!

Rodrigo Well, when it hits twelve...uh we connect...with...by television with the Gate of the Sun.

Pues, cuando dan las doce...eh... conectamos ...con...por televisión con la Puerta del Sol.

Jane The gate of what?

¿La puerta de qué?

Rodrigo The Gate of the Sun?

La Puerta del Sol.

Jane And what's that?

Y eso, ¿que es?

Rodrigo Well it's a town square that is there in Madrid. And there is a tower there.

Pues eso es una plaza que hay allí en Madrid. Y allí hay una torre—

Jane Madrid, the capitol.  
Madrid, la capitol.

Rodrigo Yeah.  
Sí.

Jane Ah, I do know that much.  
Ay, eso sí lo sé.

Rodrigo Well, good for you for knowing that much, eh?  
Oh, menos mal que lo sabes, ¿eh?

Jane Of course.  
Claro.

Rodrigo Well in that square there is a tower with a clock which is the clock from where the time is set for all of Spain (all the spanish time is set).  
Pues en esa plaza hay una torre con un reloj que es el reloj por donde se rige toda la hora española.

Jane Mmmhmm interesting.  
Mmmhmm interesante.

Rodrigo So about twelve minutes before the...the...midnight twelve bells ring.  
Entonces como doce minutos antes de la...del... de la medianoche suenan doce campanas.

Jane Twelve minutes?  
¿Doce minutos?

Rodrigo Like twelve seconds, sorry. Twelve twelve chimes and with each chime we gulp down a grape. (we go taking)  
Como doce segundos, perdona. Suenan doce campanadas y con cada campanada nos vamos tomando una uva.

Jane A grape. But in twelve seconds?!  
Una uva. Pero ¡¿en doce segundos?!

Rodrigo In twelve seconds. You have to be very quick, You have to swallow (go swallowing) them very quickly and it's really fun.  
En doce segundos. Tienes que ser muy rápido, te las tienes que ir tragando muy rápido y es muy divertido.

Jane Ah, I don't want an accident to happen.  
Ay, no quiero que ocurra un accidente.



Rodrigo

No no, there's no accident. We gulp down (go drinking) the grape quickly and if we can't gulp it down well then, there are people the...that get them all bunched up in their mouth. And then normally you laugh, sometimes he laughs and they slip out (escape), the grapes come flying out.

No no, no hay accidente. Nos vamos tomando la uva rápido y si no nos la podemos tomar pues bueno, hay personas se las...a las que se las acumulan todas en la boca. Y entonces normalmente te ríes, a veces él se ríe y se le escapan, salen las uvas volando.

Rodrigo

That's great! (How nice)

¡Qué bien!

## La Noche Vieja, Part II

One of the many benefits of the Personal Proficiency Trainer is that you are able to listen to the accents of speakers from many different countries. Tuning your ear to distinguish between the accents will help you understand Spanish-speakers from all different countries as well as improve your overall grasp of the language.

Language Tip: One feature of the Spanish accent that is fairly easy to distinguish and that we have highlighted in previous months is their use of the theta. The theta is a "th" sound that is used to pronounce the letters "z" and "c" (if followed by an "i" or "e"). Listen for examples of this in the following conversations in words such as "entonces" (then), "empieza" (it begins), and "abrazamos" (we hug).

Speakers: Cristóbal y Lola from Cartagena, Spain

Rodrigo	<div>Then we all make a toast, We toast with cava. In our family we don't drink alcohol, so we toast with something else.</div> <div>Después todos brindamos, brindamos con cava. Nosotros en nuestra familia no tomamos alcohol, entonces brindamos con otra cosa.</div>
Jane	<div>Great. How nice.</div> <div>Muy bien. Muy bonito.</div>
Rodrigo	<div>And then...well, then the best part starts.</div> <div>Y después...bueno, después empieza lo mejor.</div>
Jane	<div>Oh yeah? I thought that's when it was going to end.</div> <div>¿Ah sí? Yo pensaba que ya se iba a terminar.</div>
Rodrigo	<div>No no, that is when it gets going (begins).</div> <div>No no, entonces es cuando empieza.</div>
Jane	<div>What is it that happens?</div> <div>¿Qué es lo que ocurre?</div>
Rodrigo	<div>Well, after making the toast, everyone gives each other hugs, everyone gives each other kisses.</div> <div>Bueno, después de brindar, nos abrazamos todos, nos besamos todos.</div>
Jane	<div>I hope I can get that.</div> <div>Espero poder conseguir eso.</div>
Rodrigo	<div>Well, we all kiss, and when I say everyone, it's everyone, even the guys.</div> <div>Bueno, nos besamos, cuando digo todos, es todos, hasta incluso los hombres.</div>
Jane	<div>That's why I say, I am going to have to talk with my family.</div>

Por eso digo, voy a tener que hablar con mi familia.

Rodrigo Well, the guys only kiss if we are related. (in the family) If we aren't related, we just give each other a hug.

Bueno, solamente nos besamos los hombres si somos de la familia. Si no somos de la familia, solamente nos damos un abrazo.

Jane Oh, alright. Well that's interesting.

Oh, muy bien. Bueno es interesante.

Rodrigo And afterwards we all go dancing.

Y después vamos todos a bailar.

Jane What kind of food do you make?

¿Y qué tipo de comida hacéis?

Rodrigo Well we make a dinner normally based on roasts, of meat or of fish, seafood, the truth is that we spend a lot of money that night.

Pues hacemos una comida normalmente se basa de asados, de carne o de pescados, mariscos, la verdad es que esa noche gastamos mucho dinero.

Jane Well hey, I am thinking that why don't you invite me to your old night party, between both our families, we can... we can celebrate it better. And a Spanish party even which is what we wanted.

Pues mira estoy pensando que ¿por qué no me invitas a tu noche de noche vieja, entre las dos familias, lo podemos... lo podemos celebrar mejor. Y justo una noche española que es lo que nosotros queríamos.

Rodrigo Well yeah, delighted, delighted. You can come to our house and between the two of us we'll prepare it; and you'll see how you'll have great time, you and your family.

Pues mira, encantado, encantado. Puedes venir a nuestra casa y entre los dos lo preparamos; y verás como te vas a divertir tu y tu familia mucho.

Jane Well, ...let's plan it out right now, from this moment, because we only have two weeks.

Pues, nada...ahora mismo lo vamos a planear, desde este momento, que tenemos dos semanas nada más.

Rodrigo Great. I'll tell me wife about it and you'll see, everything is going to turn out great.

Muy bien. Voy a decírselo a mi esposa y verás que todo va a salir bien.

Jane Then you'll let me know what it is that you need.

Ya me dirás que es lo que necesitas.

Rodrigo Great.

Muy bien.

Jane Well thanks so much.

Pues muchísimas gracias.

Rodrigo

You're welcome. You're welcome. See you later

De nada. De nada. Hasta luego, espera mi llamada.

Jane

Bye.

Bye.

Rodrigo

Good bye.

Adiós.

## Tomar un Taxi (Taking a Taxi)

Taxi! Taxi! Luckily this is one word that you won't have to learn how to say in Spanish because it is one of many loanwords. A loanword is a word that is adopted into one language from another. This is especially common in areas of the world where different cultures interact frequently with each other. For that reason Spanish that is spoken here in the United States and in Northern Mexico is full of loanwords.

Language Tip: Take note whenever you hear or read a loanword (see above) as a way to quickly build your vocabulary--often the only difference is the pronunciation. For example, in this conversation Martha wants to get to her hotel, which in Spanish is "el hotel". However, since the "h" is silent in Spanish you would of course say: "el 'otel". Good Luck driving through traffic!

Speakers: Luis and Marlén from Zacatecas and Hidalgo, Mexico

Martha Taxi! Taxi!

¡Taxi! ¡Taxi!

Raúl Yes, good afternoon ma'am.

Sí, buenas tardes señora.

Martha Good afternoon. Can you please take me to the Rose hotel?

Buenas tardes. ¿Me puede llevar por favor al hotel La Rosa?

Raúl The Rose...The Rose... The one that is downtown?

La Rosa...La Rosa... ¿La que está en el centro?

Martha Yes, they told me that it's downtown. How much will you charge me?

Sí, me dijeron que está en el centro. ¿Cuánto me cobra?

Raúl Well it's normally eighty pesos, but I like you, I'm going to leave it at ninety for you.

Pues normalmente son ochenta pesos, pero Ud. me cae bien, se lo voy a dejar a noventa.

Martha Hey...why...if you like me, shouldn't you lower lower the price?

Oiga...porque...si le caigo bien, que no debería de bajar el precio.

Raúl Oh, I'm just playing with you, I'll leave it at seventy-five.

Ah, nada más estoy cotorreando, se lo dejo a setenta y cinco.

Martha Alright then, can you help me to load up the suitcases please?

Ándale pues, ¿me ayuda a subir las maletas por favor?

Raúl Well hey, what--are you coming to stay or what? You have (bring) like five suitcases.

Oiga pues ¿qué--viene a quedarse o qué? Trae como cinco maletas.

Martha Well not really to stay, but I am going to need enough things; so that's why I have (bring)

Pues no precisamente a quedarme, pero sí voy a necesitar suficientes cosas; así que por eso traigo...

Raúl Well, don't you worry, we'll put them in right away however they fit (fall). Go ahead, sit wherever you like; if you want here in front or in back wherever you like.

Bueno, Ud. no se preocupe, ahorita las metemos cómo caiga. Pásele, siéntese donde quiera; si quiere acá en frente o atrás donde quiera.

Martha Do I have to put all the suitcases in the back, or can I --[Raúl: No, no,]-- bring (carry) something with me?

¿Tengo que echar todas las maletas atrás? o ¿puedo --[Raúl: No, no,]-- llevarme algo conmigo?

Raúl you can bring whatever you like with you, and just tell me what you want me to throw in the trunk.

No no, Ud. llévese lo que Ud. quiera con Ud., y nada más dígame qué quiere que le eche atrás en la cajuela.

Martha Alright, I'm just going to bring my purse and these small bags and everything else if you can please throw it back atrás --[Raúl: Alright,]-- in the trunk.

Bueno, nada más me voy a llevar mi bolsa y estas maletas pequeñas y lo demás si por favor me lo eche atrás --[Raúl: Bueno,]-- en la cajuela.

Raúl hop in, I'll be right back. I'll throw them in. Where did you say again? To The Rose hotel, right?

súbase, ahorita vengo. Las voy a echar. Otra vez ¿adónde dijo? Al hotel La Rosa, ¿no?

Martha To The Rose hotel.

Al hotel La Rosa

Raúl Alright, hang on because here we go.

Bueno, agárrese porque ya nos vamos.

Martha Hey and does it always rain so much here?

Oiga y ¿siempre llueve tanto aquí?

Raúl Well of course, we're in Tabasco; here it is certain rain. Except that now they've crossed the line, Little Saint Peter is going to throw the whole tank on us.

Pues claro, estamos en Tabasco; aquí es lluvia segura. No más que ahora se pasaron de la raya, San Pedrito nos va a echar todo el tanque.

Martha Oh, and it's raining so hard and I who didn't bring enough clothes for rainy weather. I thought that it would be warm. They told me that in this area it was warm; so I have only clothes for warm weather. --[Raúl: Didn't your family --your]--

Ay, que llueve tan fuerte y yo que no traje suficiente ropa para tiempo de lluvia. Pensé que haría calor. Me dijeron que en este lugar hacía calor; así que tengo pura ropa para el clima --[Raúl: Que su familia --Su]-- caliente.

Raúl family didn't tell you or at work they didn't tell you--what are you here for anyway? (to what do you come?) What...what is your visit about, or what?

familia no le dijo o en el trabajo no le dijeron--¿a qué viene oiga? ¿De qué...qué es su visita, o qué?

Martha Well I am here for...um...to... I am here for a business trip more than anything.

Bueno yo vengo...este...a... vengo por viaje de negocios más que nada.

Raúl Hey, is it alright if I call you (talk to you) by your name or what?

Oiga, ¿está bien si le hablo por su nombre o qué?

Martha Well, uh, yes.

Pues, ah, sí.

Raúl Yeah? And what did you say your name was? (you call yourself)

¿Sí? Y ¿cómo dijo que se llama?

Martha My name is Martha.

Yo me llamo Martha.

Raúl What?

¿Cómo?

Martha Martha.

Martha.

Raúl That's fine. I'm just going to call you Cuca (Mexican nickname).

Está bien. Le voy a decir Cuca.

Martha No, no. Call me Mar...Martha.

No, no. Llámeme Mar...Martha.

Raúl Alright, I'll give it a try (make the attempt), but no, I don't make any guarantees. My name is Raúl, nice to meet you.

Bueno, voy a hacer el intento, pero no, no se lo garantizo. Yo me llamo Raúl, mucho gusto.

Martha Hey Raúl...um...and About how longer to the hotel from here? (how much time is the hotel from here)

Oiga Raúl...este...y ¿Como cuánto tiempo nos queda el hotel de aquí?

Raúl

Well no, it isn't so...not so much, look, in about half an hour we'll get there like this, nice and slow. Now if you want to get there really fast, I won't charge you, but well hold on tight because I can give this thing a lot of speed, a lot of speed--

Pues no, no es tan...no tanto, mire, como en media hora llegamos de así tranquilito. Ahora que si quiere llegar bien rápido, no le cobro, pero pues agárrese bien porque le puedo meter mucha velocidad a este asunto, mucha velocidad--

Martha

No, no no no no no no. No no. Better just drive carefully. We have time, Don (respectful title) Raúl, don't worry. Hey and...um...you know I am going to be here for a little while, are there some places that... that you might recommend me to visit?

No, no no no no no no. No no. Mejor maneje con precaución. Tenemos tiempo, Don Raúl, no se preocupe. Oiga y...este...sabe que voy a estar aquí por un tiempesito, ¿hay algunos lugares que... que me recomienda Ud. para visitar?

Raúl

Well yes, that depends on...depends on what you like, I mean if you are very intelectual, well we have museums; and if you like history, we have ruins nearby; and if you like partying, well there are lots of clubs.

Pues sí, depende que...depende que le guste, o sea si es muy intelectual, pues tenemos museos; y si le gusta la historia, tenemos ruinas aquí cercas; y sí le gusta la farra pues hay muchas discos.

Martha

And what is "la farra"?

Y ¿qué es "la farra"?

Raúl

Well...partying and drinking and all that, dancing and you know.

Pues...la fiesta y tomar y todo esto, bailar y Ud. sabe.

Martha

Oh no, no no no no. Instead...the museum seems...seems fine to me. Any other place that you might recommend?

Oh no, no no no no. Mejor el museo me parece...me parece bien. ¿Algún otro lugar que me recomiende?

Raúl

Well, like I said (I already told you) if you want to go to the ruins, or if not well you can also go walking down to the... to what is the beach and see the... the tankers, the cargo ships when they come in here to...to the dock. But I don't know, it depends on what you want, there are quite a few things.

Pues ya le dije si quiere ir a las ruinas, o si no pues también puede ir caminando a la... a lo que es la playa y ver los... los cargueros, los buques cargueros cuando entran aquí a...al muelle. Pues no sé, depende de lo que Ud. quiera, hay varias cosas.



## Tomar un Taxi, Part II

Make sure to ask the taxi driver to tell you about the surrounding area. What are some of the major attractions that you might like to visit? What is the best way to get around in the city? And of immediate importance--where can you buy an umbrella for the extremely wet and rainy weather?

Language Tip: In some of the conversations, you may be confused as to why the same word is sometimes translated in different ways. The short answer to this is that just like in English, most words have multiple meanings; the correct meaning is determined by context. This is especially true with "filler" words such as "um, uh, okay, alright, hey, well, so, like." Since these are real conversations, you will hear of the most common Spanish filler words pop in constantly. Notice the varying translations of "bueno, oiga, mire, and pues" which usually mean "good/okay, hey, look/listen, and well".

Speakers: Luis and Marlén from Zacatecas and Hidalgo, Mexico

Martha 

And when you talk to me about ruins, what kind of ruins...because do you know what? I visited México City a few years ago and they took me to Teotihua...Teotihuacan, something like that.
--

Y cuando Ud. me habla de ruinas, ¿qué tipo de ruinas...porque sabe que? yo visité a México hace unos años y me llevaron a Teotihua...Teotihuacán, algo así.

Raúl 

Yeah, go figure you said it right. Teotihuacan But, well, they are like the most commercial. Everyone (the whole race) knows that place (there), even the...the foreigners, the Americans (slang), everyone that comes here to visit, the whole world knows those, but these over here are the Palenque ruins. They are here in the state of Chiapas, it's a neighbor of Tabasco, they are really cool and it is worth your while (the trouble) to pass by so if you have a little time, you should run down there.
---

Sí, fíjese lo dijo bien. Teotihuacán, sí están...están muy bonitas esas ruinas. Pero, pues, son como las más comerciales. Toda la raza conoce allí, aun los...los extranjeros, los gringos, todos los que vienen de visita acá, todo el mundo conoce esas, pero estas de acá son las ruinas de Palenque. Están aquí en el estado de Chiapas, es vecino de Tabasco, están bien padres y vale la pena darse la vuelta así si tiene tiempito, debería correrle para allá.

Martha 

Hey and how can I find transportation there? Are there busses, or can I grab a taxi right there or...
---

Oiga y ¿cómo puedo encontrar transporte allí?, ¿hay camiones, o allí mismo puedo encontrar un taxi o...

Raúl 

well, I don't reccomend the bus; because it takes forever (a gush) to get there and besides they mug you for free there.
--

Pues, el camión no se lo recomiendo; porque se tarda un chorro para llegar y aparte asaltan gratis allí.

Martha Oh, they mug? No no no no no no, that doesn't sound good.

Oh, ¿asaltan? No no no no no no, eso no me parece bien.

Raúl And if you want a taxi, well those from the hotel there should point you to where to grab one; or you can call the station (base) of where I work and there they'll send you one to the hotel any...well anyway.

Y si quiere taxi, pues allí los del hotel le deben de orientar a donde agarrar uno; o puede hablar a la base de donde yo trabajo y allí le mandan uno al hotel como...comoquiera.

Martha Oh, so, I think that at the hotel it will be better for me to rent a...a taxi. Hey, one other question. I am a little embarrassed, but like I was saying, I didn't bring clothes for this weather, is there some...some store where I might go to buy even if it's just a jacket since it rains so much in this place.

Oh, entonces, yo creo que en el hotel va a ser mejor que rente un...un taxi. Oiga, otra pregunta. Me da un poco de pena, pero como le decía, no traje ropa para el clima, hay algún...alguna tienda donde yo pueda ir a comprar aunque sea una chamarra que llueve tanto en este lugar.

Raúl Well if I had brought my umbrella, I would give it to you. But well I don't even use it, I'm used to it now; but right there close to the hotel it seems to me that in the block behind it there is a store there where they have some of everything. They sell it at tourist prices, but you can find whatever you want there. You can find ponchos or umbrellas or whatever you want; hats or like...anyway.

Pues si yo trajera mi paraguas, yo se lo daba. Pero pues yo ya ni lo uso, ya estoy acostumbrado; pero allí cerca del hotel se me hace que en la cuadra de atrás allí hay una tienda donde tienen de todo. Lo venden a precio turista, pero allí puede encontrar lo que quiera. Puede encontrar ponchos o paraguas o lo que quiera; sombreros o como...como quiera.

Martha Oh well, good thing I've talked with you so I'm going to be prepared. Hey, is...that is the hotel; now I can see it, it's The Ros--yeah, yeah it's The Rose yeah that's it where, --[Raúl: Well, look at that, didn't I tell you]-- where we're going--

Oh mire, que bueno que he conversado con Ud., así voy a estar preparada. Oiga, es...ese es el hotel; ya lo puedo mirar, es La Ros--sí sí es La Rosa, sí es ese adonde, --[Raúl: Pues, a ver, ¿no le dije]-- adonde vamos--

Raúl that it wasn't too far? Look, that's twenty-nine minutes!

que no estaba tan lejos? Mire, son veintinueve minutos.

Martha Thank goodness --[Raúl: Listen, let's do something]--we arrived.

Que bueno que ya --[Raúl: Mire, vamos a hacer una cosa]-- llegamos.

Raúl once I park, you get out and run to the entrance of the hotel, and I will help the bag boy to unload your luggage so that it doesn't get too wet.

en cuanto a me estacione, Ud. se baja y le corre a la entrada del hotel y yo le ayudo al maletero a bajar sus maletas para que no se moje tanto.

Martha

Oh, you are so kind. Alright then we'll do it like that. O.K. I'm going inside. Um...let me give you your tip. Here you go (take).

Ay, Ud. tan amable. Bueno entonces así le hacemos. Bueno, voy para adentro. Este...déjeme darle su propina. Tome.

Raúl

Wow, one hundred and twenty pesos! Oh, well thank-you very much miss, thank-you very much.

¡Orale, ciento veinte pesos! Oh, pues muchas gracias señorita, muchas gracias.

Martha

Alright Mr. Raul, thanks a lot, ok? Goodbye!

Bueno Señor Raúl, muchas gracias, eh? ¡Adiós!