

Speak Spanish Pronto

Beginner Lessons

Lesson 5: Survival Spanish

Getting by in a Spanish-speaking country is nearly impossible without these basics. Be sure to listen and repeat the audios for good pronunciation practice.

Greetings and Pleasantries

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Hola | <i>Hi; hello</i> |
| Buenos días | <i>Good morning</i> |
| Buenas tardes | <i>Good afternoon</i> |
| Buenas noches | <i>Goodnight</i> |
| Adiós | <i>Goodbye</i> |
| Chao | <i>Bye</i> |
| Hasta luego | <i>See you later</i> |
| Nos vemos | <i>See you later</i> |

When you're comfortable, switch up the last four in order to vary your speech just a bit.

Being Polite

Disculpa

Excuse me; pardon me

To get someone's attention, like in a restaurant

Perdón

Excuse me

To apologize for something, like bumping into someone accidentally

Con su permiso

Excuse me

To get by someone, like in the metro, on the street or in any crowded space

Con permiso

You can use *con (su) permiso* which means *with (your) permission*

Permiso

Or simply use *permiso*

(Muchas) gracias

Thank you (very much)

De nada

You're welcome

Communication

Hablo inglés/español

I speak English/Spanish

No hablo español

I don't speak Spanish

Hablo un poco de español

I speak a little Spanish

¿Me puedes ayudar?
¿Puedes ayudarme?

Can you help me?

They both mean the same thing; use whichever one you remember

Necesito ayuda

I need help

Asking for Directions

¿Dónde está...

Where is...

- esta dirección?
- este hotel?
- la plaza principal
- esta/este _____?

- *this address?*
- *this hotel?*
- *the main square/plaza*
- *this _____?**




*You can always ask “*Where is this _____?*” and then point at a map or something else to indicate what you’re talking about.

¿Dónde hay...

- un banco?
- un restaurante?
- un supermercado/mercado?
- un hospital?

Where is...

- a bank?
- a restaurant?
- a supermarket/market?
- a hospital?

 *¿Dónde está...?* is used with **specific** places, whereas, *¿Dónde hay...?* is used for **general** places.

 You can also use, “*¿Dónde queda...?*” for **general** places.

For example, if you're looking for an ATM and *any* ATM will do,

“*¿Dónde queda un cajero?*” and “*¿Dónde hay un cajero...?*” are nearly interchangeable.

¿Dónde puedo...

- tomar el metro?
- pedir un taxi?
- encontrar un baño público?

Where can I...

- take the metro?
- order a taxi?
- find a public restroom?

Just by practicing a few key phrases, you'll be much better off than someone who doesn't put in any effort.

You will absolutely get treated better just by being polite and asking a few questions in Spanish during your time abroad.

And you'll no doubt need to learn a bit about asking questions.

The [next lesson](#) will help you with that.