

Private Spanish Tutor in Dar Es Saalam

INTRODUCTION AND GREETINGS

Buenos días: from the morning until lunchtime (in the morning).

Buenas tardes: from noon until dinner.

Buenas noches: from dinner until dawn, also when saying good-bye.

Hola: at any time during the day. A rather informal greeting, it is often used (especially in Spain) in combination with one of the previous greetings (¡Hola, buenos días!) or with question ¿qué tal?(nobody expects a really detailed answer).

**H is always silent in Spanish (Oh-lah)*

Grammar Tip: In Spanish, nouns take up either **masculine or feminine gender**, for example 'Día' is masculine. The **adjectives** describing these nouns therefore also need to reflect the same gender. Since 'Día' is masculine we will use the masculine form of 'good' Hence we will add an 'o' at the end and make it 'Bueno'.

Did you notice? Día has an 'i' marked with an accent ('í') If a word is marked with an accent, then that syllable receives the stress.

Grammar Tip: Greetings such as 'Good morning' and 'Good afternoon' etc. always take up plural forms in Spanish.

¿Cómo te llamas?

¡Hola! ¿Qué tal?

¡Hola! ¿Cómo te llamas?

Juan, ¿y tú?

Celia.

¿De dónde eres?

Soy peruana, de Lima, ¿y tú?

Yo soy español, de Málaga.

Pronunciation tip: Did you notice the letter 'ñ' in español? This letter is peculiar to Spanish. It is pronounced as 'ny' like in 'canyon'

Grammar Tip: ¡double exclamations! The upside-down or inverted exclamation ¡! Points are unique to Spanish. This is to ensure that when you're reading, you can tell long before the end of a sentence whether you're dealing with an exclamation!

THE ALPHABET

NACIONALIDADES

España

español

española

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Venezuela	venezolano	venezolana
Perú	peruano	peruana
Alemania	alemán	alemana
Austria	austríaco	austríaca
Suiza	suizo	suiza
Inglaterra	inglés	inglesa
México	mexicano	mexicana
Nicaragua	nicaragüense	nicaragüense

Pronunciation tip: Did you notice that the 'x' in 'mexicano' is pronounced as 'h' While 'x' is usually pronounced as 'x' in 'flexible'; it is pronounced as a throaty 'h' in the words México, mexicano and Oaxaca (a state in Mexico)

Pronunciation tip: Did you notice the symbol on 'u' in nicaragüense? 'gü' when followed by another vowel like in 'güe', is pronounced like 'Gw' in Gwen (eg: nicaragüense -> nicaragwense)

Pronunciation tip: 'argentino' is pronounced as 'arhentino' In Spanish, 'g' when followed by 'e' or 'i', is pronounced like a throaty 'h'

Grammar tip: Have you noticed that some nationalities have two different endings? We use different endings for masculine (usually end with -o) and feminine (usually end with -a) objects.

argentino = masculine | argentina = feminine

argentinos = masculine, pl. | argentinas = feminine, pl.

For plural form, we just add an 's'

Grammar tip: You may have noticed that nationalities are not capitalized in Spanish (eg: argentino)?

That's because in Spanish, although names of countries and cities are capitalized, words derived from them (languages, nationalities) are not. So while the 'e' in España is capitalized, the 'e' in español would not be.

PERSONAL PRONOUNS (WHO?)

Yo	I
Tú	you
Él	he

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Ella	she
Usted	you (singular/plural, formal addressing)
Nosotros	we (masculine)
Nosotras	we (feminine)
Vosotros	you (plural, masculine)
Vosotras	you (plural, feminine)
Ellos	they (masculine)
Ellas	they (feminine)
Ustedes	you (singular/plural, formal addressing)

Forms for the Masculine and Feminine Gender in Plural

There are different forms for the masculine and feminine gender in plural. If feminine and masculine nouns are referred to at the same time, the masculine form is used:

Men = **ellos**

women = **ellas**

a man and a woman = **ellos**

men and a woman = **ellos**

a man and women = **ellos**

men and women = **ellos**

Formal addressing of one person is **usted**, of more people **ustedes**. In written language, both forms are usually abbreviated to: **Vd./Ud.** and **Vds./Uds.**

In Latin America, **ustedes** is used instead of **vosotros /-as** for addressing of more people even if they are on informal terms.

Formal or informal addressing?

Informal addressing is becoming more and more common in Spain and in Latin America. It is used even in situations when people do not know each other (too) well, e.g. in shops, bars etc.

The form **tú** is used as the common form of address at work, when talking to colleagues and superiors, in courses and in other groups regardless of age and social position.

Usted is used in formal situations, when meeting somebody for the first time or when talking to older people.

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“Ser” (To Be)

We can determine the person from the verb form. Therefore personal pronouns are used only for emphasis of the person.

(yo)soy (I am)

(tú)eres (you are - singular)

(él/ella/usted)es (he/she is, you are - formal address, singular)

(nosotros/-as)somos (we are)

(vosotros/-as)sois (you are - plural)

(ellos/-as/ustedes)son (they are, you are - formal address, plural)

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