

Michel
Thomas[®]
**SPANISH
LANGUAGE
BUILDER**

Hodder Arnold

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Michel Thomas, 1914–2005

Michel Thomas, the internationally renowned linguist and language teacher, who was awarded the Silver Star by the US Army for his bravery in the Second World War, died of heart failure at his home in New York on 8th January 2005. He was 90.

To find out more, please get in touch with us

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Introduction

Who was Michel Thomas?

Michel Thomas was head of the Michel Thomas Language Centers and taught languages for over fifty years, primarily in New York, Beverly Hills, and London. He was a graduate of the Department of Philology at the University of Bordeaux, France, and studied psychology at the Sorbonne (Paris) and at the University of Vienna. However, it was his remarkable life experiences that fuelled his passion for teaching languages*.

Michel spent most of his childhood in Germany and France. With the rise of Hitler, he began his years of escape and resistance. He spent two brutal years in French concentration and slave labour camps, constantly threatened by deportation to German death camps. He escaped and fought for the French Resistance, surviving capture, interrogation and torture.

Michel's wartime experiences, particularly his torture by the Gestapo when he discovered the ability to block out pain, made him aware of the untapped potential of the human mind. However, it was his deeply held conviction that the biggest weapon in maintaining a free society was education that drove him to devote his life to probing the learning process. Michel moved to Los Angeles in 1947, and he set up a language institute in Beverly Hills. Over a period of fifty years, he developed a unique and revolutionary learning system that made him the world's leading language teacher.

What is the Michel Thomas method?

Over a period of fifty years, Michel Thomas developed and perfected a unique method of teaching languages**. In essence, he breaks a language down to its component parts and enables learners to reconstruct the language themselves to form their own sentences, to say what they want, when they want. The experience of learning a language becomes so exciting and satisfying that it stimulates self-motivation and builds confidence.

**For a full account of his fascinating life, read 'Michel Thomas: The Test of Courage' by Christopher Robbins, published by Hodder and Stoughton*

***U.S. patent 6,565,358*

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Who is the *Spanish Language Builder* for?**People who have already learned Spanish with Michel Thomas**

The *Language Builder* does just what its name suggests: it builds on the language Michel teaches in his Foundation (8-hour) and Advanced courses. It does this in two important and inseparable ways: by echoing the Foundation (8-hour) and Advanced courses to review key structures, while at the same time presenting new idioms (which are heard and used all the time in everyday Spanish but which are very rarely taught). This dual approach means that you painlessly review what you have learned as you simultaneously expand the range of your working and functional knowledge of the language.

People who have learned Spanish using other methods

You may have learned Spanish before and now want to brush it up for a holiday or business trip, or perhaps you are looking for a new approach to help with revision or to re-motivate you: either way, the *Language Builder* will give you a real insight into how the language works and will boost your confidence to speak.

You may find that it takes a while to get used to Michel's innovative way of teaching – it is certainly quite unlike any other method you will have come across – but once you have experienced the excitement of painless learning you will be hooked!

What does the pack contain?

The pack comprises approximately two hours of recorded material plus a 48-page booklet. The recordings are available on CD or audio cassette and feature Michel Thomas alone. To avoid wasting recording time, there are no pauses on the recordings, but you are strongly recommended to use the pause button on your player for maximum learning (see below). The booklet contains the key words and phrases to help you with written Spanish, but you do not need to use it at all if you just want to concentrate on improving your speaking and listening skills.

How do I use the recordings?

• Relax!

As far as possible, make yourself comfortable before playing the recordings and try to let go of the tensions and anxieties traditionally associated with all learning.

• Interact fully with the recordings

Use the pause button to stop the recording so that you have time to think out your translations. Then say the phrase or sentence out loud (or in a whisper, or in your head, if you are in a public place), before Michel does. This is essential. You do not learn by repetition but by thinking out the sentences yourself; it is by your own thought process that you truly learn.

• Stop the recording whenever it suits you

You will notice that the recordings are not divided into lessons*** so it is easy to stop wherever you want.

What level of language will I achieve?

The recordings will give you a practical and functional use of the spoken language. Michel Thomas teaches the everyday conversational language that will allow you to communicate in a wide variety of situations, empowered by the ability to create your own sentences and use the language naturally.

How can I go on to improve further?

Obviously, nothing compares with first-hand contact with native Spanish speakers, but if this is not possible for you, and if you have mastered the language in the Foundation (8-hour) and Advanced courses, Michel recommends reading Spanish newspapers and magazines as one of the best ways to keep up and extend your language. Interviews are particularly good, as they reflect Spanish as it is actually being spoken, rather than the language taught in schools or textbooks. You could also try the Michel Thomas Method Vocabulary courses. See the back of the booklet for details.

****Tracking breaks have been inserted on the CDs: you may find it helpful to make a note of these (or the timings, if you have audio cassettes) in this booklet to help you get back immediately to where you left off or to review specific points*

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Who has Michel Thomas taught?

People came from all over the world to learn a foreign language with Michel Thomas – because his method works. His students, numbering in the thousands, included well-known people from the arts and from the corporate, political and academic worlds. Michel's list of clients included:

- *Celebrities*: Emma Thompson, Woody Allen, Barbra Streisand, Warren Beatty, Melanie Griffith, Eddie Izzard, Bob Dylan, Jean Marsh, Donald Sutherland, Mrs George Harrison, Anne Bancroft, Mel Brooks, Nastassja Kinski, Carl Reiner, Raquel Welch, Johnny Carson, Julie Andrews, Isabelle Adjani, Candice Bergen, Barbara Hershey, Priscilla Presley, Loretta Swit, Tony Curtis, Diana Ross, Herb Alpert, Angie Dickinson, Lucille Ball, Doris Day, Janet Leigh, Natalie Wood, Jayne Mansfield, Ann-Margaret, Yves Montand, Kim Novak, Otto Preminger, Max Von Sydow, Peter Sellers, François Truffaut, Sofia Coppola.
- *Diplomats, dignitaries and academics*: US Ambassador to France, Walter Curley; US Ambassador to the UN, Joseph V. Reed; Cardinal John O'Connor, Archbishop of New York; Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua, Archbishop of Philadelphia; Armand Hammer; Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York; Professor Herbert Morris, Dean of Humanities at UCLA; Warren Keegan, Professor of Business at Pace University in New York; Professor Wesley Posvar, President of the University of Pittsburgh.
- *Executives from the following corporations*: AT&T International, Coca-Cola, Procter & Gamble, Chase Manhattan Bank, American Express, Merrill Lynch, New York Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Boeing Aircraft, General Electric, Westinghouse Electric, Bank of America, Max Factor, Rand Corporation, Bertelsmann Music Group-RCA, Veuve Clicquot Inc., McDonald's Corporation, Rover, British Aerospace.

What do his students say?

Academy® award winning director and actress, **Emma Thompson** (as quoted in the *Guardian*): 'The excitement of learning something new was overwhelming. Michel not only taught me Spanish, he opened my eyes to

the possibilities of a completely different kind of learning. Michel forbids his students to practise, or to try to remember. Michel takes the burden off the student and upon himself... Learning Spanish with Michel was the most extraordinary learning experience of my life – it was unforgettable.'

New York film-maker **Woody Allen**, (as quoted in *USA Today* and *Business Life*): 'I am a poor student, particularly with languages. I had years of Spanish in school and could never speak a word... (but) learning with Michel: it's like a kid who loves baseball and who just knows every ball player, every batting average, every statistic about the game. They've learned it all effortlessly. It's the same with Michel. You learn a language effortlessly. It is amazing. (He)...had me speaking French and I learned it in a way I've never forgotten, and it was painless. A tremendous experience.'

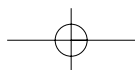
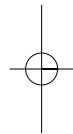
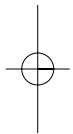
Customer feedback

'I am writing to congratulate you on the highly original and successful language courses by Michel Thomas; I am currently working on German and French while my daughter, at my suggestion, has bought the Italian course.'

R Harris

'I have now finished the eight cassette Italian course and would like to say how pleased I am with it. I am a scientist, with all my neurones in the side of my brain that deals with understanding, and next to none on the side that deals with memory. This has meant my ability to retain vocabulary and learn a language has been about as bad as it comes. Against all odds, the Michel Thomas course has left me with a real sense of achievement, and a tremendous basis for further progress in learning Italian.'

T A Whittingham



Recording 1

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Vamos a comenzar / vamos a empezar

comenzamos / empezamos

empecemos

Me gusta ...

Me gusta estar aquí

We are going to start

we're going to start

let's start

I like ...

I like to be here

Quiero hacerlo pero ...

I want to do it but ...

lo haré, lo hará *I will do it, he/she/you will do it*

no lo haré, no voy a hacerlo
hoy porque ...

*I won't do it, I won't do it
today because*

... estoy muy ocupado

... I'm very busy

... estoy demasiado ocupado ...

... I'm too busy

... para hacerlo

... to do it

Tengo ganas de ...

I feel like ...

Tengo ganas de hacerlo

I feel like doing it

No tengo ganas de ir allí

I don't feel like going there

No tengo ganas de quedarme aquí

I don't feel like staying here

Tengo ganas de salir

I feel like going out

Me parece que ...

It seems to me that, I think that ...

creo que ..., pienso que ...

I believe that ..., I think that ...

Me parece que ella no tiene
ganas de ir allí

*It seems to me that she doesn't
feel like going there*

Estoy de acuerdo con usted

I agree with you

De acuerdo

OK, agreed

No estoy de acuerdo con él

I don't agree with him

¿Cuál es su opinión?

What is your opinion?

¿Cuál es tu opinión?

What is your opinion?

¿Qué piensa?

What do you think?

¿Qué piensas, Roberto?

¿Qué piensan ustedes?

Me interesa

It interests me

Me interesa mucho, muchísimo

It interests me a lot, very much

Desafortunadamente no me interesa

Unfortunately it doesn't interest me

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Creo que ...

Creo que él va a estar allí ...

... esta tarde

Es demasiado tarde para hacerlo

*I think that ...**I think that he will be there ...**... this afternoon**It's too late to do it**tarde means 'late' as well as 'afternoon'; es tarde is 'it is late'*

Creo que él va a estar aquí esta

noche

Veremos, vamos a ver

*I think that he is going to be here**tonight**We will see***No será posible ...**

... hacerlo así

No lo creo

*It won't be possible ...**... to do it like this, in this way**I don't think so, I don't believe it***Seguro**, seguramente**Claro**

Naturalmente

Claro que estoy seguro

*sure, surely**Of course**Naturally**Of course I'm sure***Mira / Mire ...**

... está sobre la mesa

¿Puede ponerlo, podría ponerlo ...

... debajo de la mesa?

*Look ...**... it's on the table**Will / Can you put it, could you put it ...**... under the table?***Es necesario ...****Tenemos que ...****Hay que ...**

... ir allí

No es necesario / No

hay que comprarlo ...

... porque es muy caro

*It is necessary ...**We have to ...**One must ...**... to go there**It is not necessary to buy it ...**... because it is very expensive***Necesito, lo necesito**

No lo necesito ahora

Es todo lo que necesito

*I need, I need it**I don't need it now**It is all I need**Note the use of lo que in the middle of the sentence (literally 'all what I need')*

Esto / Eso es todo lo que necesito

Es todo lo que quiero

¿Esto es todo lo que quiere?

Quiero algo más

*This / That is all I need**It is all I want**Is this all you want?**I want something else*

¿Necesita algo más?

Do you need anything else?

No gracias, esto es todo

No thank you, that's all

¿Puede mostrarme ...?

Will you / Can you show me?

Sí, voy a mostrarle, le muestro

Yes, I'll show you

PRESENT TENSE USED FOR FUTURE

mostrar means 'to show'

muestro means 'I show, I'll show'; le muestro, 'I'll show you'

The future is often expressed by the present tense in Spanish

¿Puede / podría decirme ...

Will you / Can you / Could you tell me ...

... a qué hora va a estar listo?

... what time it is going to be ready?

... a qué hora estará listo?

... what time it will be ready?

Voy a informarme

I will find out

(literally, inform myself)

Necesito cierta información

I need certain information

Tengo que informarme

I have to find out

Voy a decirle mañana, le diré mañana

I will tell you tomorrow

poder means 'to be able'; podré I will be able

No voy a poder, no podré ...

I will not be able ...

... hacerlo

... to do it

No podrá venir con nosotros

He will not be able to come with us

No va a poder venir con nosotros

He isn't going to be able to come with us

buscar means 'to look for'

Lo busco, lo estoy buscando ...

I am looking for it ...

... pero no puedo encontrarlo

... but I can't find it

¿Tiene algo para mí?

Do you have something for me?

No, no tengo nada

No, I don't have anything.

I have nothing

Ya no tengo más

I don't have it any longer, any more

Hay un mensaje para usted

There is a message for you

Hay unos mensajes para usted

There are some messages for you

¿Hay mensajes para mí?

Are there messages for me?

¿Hay algún mensaje para mí?

Is there any message for me?

Sí, hay algunos

Yes, there are some

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¿Cuánto es?

¿Cuánto es esto / eso?

¿Cuánto cuesta?

¿Cuál es el precio?

¿Cuánto vale?

No vale mucho

¿Cuánto le debo?

How much is it?

How much is this / that?

How much does it cost?

What is the price?

How much is it worth?

It's not worth much

How much do I owe you?

debo *means 'I must, I'm supposed to, I should'*
¿Qué debo hacer? *is 'What should I do?'*
Debo salir *is 'I must go out'*

Está muy bien

Está bien así

It's fine, all right

It's OK like this

Me parece que / creo que ...

I think that ...

... va a decidir / decidirá hacerlo

... he will decide to do it

Voy a hacerlo ...

I'm going to do it ...

... inmediatamente / ahora mismo

... immediately / right now

... en seguida

... right away

Quiero hacerlo

I want to do it

Me gustaría hacerlo

I would like to do it

me gusta *means 'I like', me gustaría 'I would like'*

Me gustaría saber ...

I would like to know ...

... a qué hora ...

... at what time ...

... él puede / podrá / podría ...

... he can / will be able to / could ...

... estar aquí

... be here

olvidar *means 'to forget'*

No olvidaré / no voy a olvidar ...

I will not forget ...

... decirle / darle

... to tell / to give you / him / her / them

... dárselo

... to give it to you / him / her / them

Voy a dárselo a usted

I'm going to give it to you

Tengo ganas de hacerlo ...

I feel like doing it ...

... pero no sé si puedo hacerlo ahora

... but I don't know if I can do it now

No vale la pena ...

It's not worth the trouble ...

... ir allí

... to go there / going there

Podemos ir allí si quiere / si quieres
¿Quiere / quieres venir conmigo?
Me gustaría ir con usted / contigo
¿Le gustaría / Te gustaría venir
conmigo?

*We can go there if you want
Do you want to come with me?
I'd like to go with you
Would you like to come
with me?*

Sí, claro que sí / ¿cómo no?
Me gustaría mucho
Con mucho gusto
Gracias por su gentileza
De acuerdo / Vale
Esto / Eso me gusta
Es una buena idea
Tiene razón
Tiene toda la razón
Tiene razón y estoy de acuerdo
con usted

*Yes, of course / why not?
I'd like to very much
With much pleasure
That's nice of you
Agreed, OK
This / That pleases me, I like it
It's a good idea
You are right
You are quite right
You are right and I agree
with you*

Me gusta quedarme aquí ...

... porque estoy cansado
Me gusta descansar

*I like to stay / staying here ...
... because I'm tired
I like to rest*

Voy a descansar ...

... un poco / un rato
... porque estoy muy cansado

*I'm going to rest ...
... for a little / for a while
... because I'm very tired*

¿Vale la pena ir a verlo esta noche?
No, no vale la pena

*Is it worth going to see it tonight?
No, it's not worth it*

¡Es increíble!

No lo creo
Es increíble lo que me dice
Es magnífico / extraordinario
Es excelente
Esto es muy interesante

*It's incredible!
I don't believe it
It's incredible what you're telling me
It's great / magnificent / extraordinary
It's excellent
This is very interesting*

Me interesa mucho verlo
Estoy muy interesado
Me interesa mucho ir a verlo
Ella es encantadora
Me gusta mucho ir allí con usted

*It interests me a lot to see it
I am very interested
I'm very interested to go and see it
She is very charming, lovely, nice
I like very much to go there with you*

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Lo siento

Siento decirle ...

... que no puedo ir a verlo
... con usted / contigo esta noche
Siento decirle ...
... que no podría ir a verlo

... porque estoy muy ocupado
... porque estaré, voy a estar
muy ocupado

Tengo que hacerlo

Tendría que hacerlo

Tiene que hacerlo
Tendría que hacerlo
Tendríamos que ir allí
Tendría que decirme
Debería hacerlo
Debería esperarme

Me gusta mucho / Me encanta viajar

de vacaciones means 'on holiday'

Creo que me voy de vacaciones ...
... primero a España
... y luego, más tarde a Italia
Me gustaría ...
... verle / ir a verle

Creo que voy a salir pronto ...

... porque no puedo esperar
¿Cuándo cree que va a salir?

Pienso salir pronto

¿Cuándo piensa salir?

Espero salir pronto

¿Cuánto tiempo piensa ...
... quedarse en Madrid?
Pienso quedarme una semana
en España

I'm sorry

I'm sorry to tell you ...

... that I can't go to see it

... with you tonight

... I'm sorry to tell you ...

*... that I wouldn't be able to go
and see it*

... because I'm very busy

*... I shall be / I'm going to be
very busy*

I have to do it

I would have to do it

He has to do it

He would have to do it

We would have to go there

You should tell me

I should do it

You should wait for me

I like very much to travel

I think I'm going on holiday ...

... first to Spain

... and then, later to Italy

I would like ...

... to see him / to go and see him

I think I'm going to leave soon ...

... because I can't wait

When do you think you will leave?

I think I'll leave soon

When do you think you'll leave?

I hope to leave soon

How long do you think ...

... you'll stay in Madrid?

I think I'll stay a week in Spain

Tengo ganas de ... *I feel like ...*
 ... ir al cine esta noche *... going to the cinema tonight*
 ... para ver una película *... (in order) to see a film, a picture*
 una película interesante *an interesting picture*
 Ella no tiene ganas de ir allí *She doesn't feel like going there ...*
 ... esta noche, quizás mañana *... tonight, perhaps tomorrow*

Pienso salir / irme ... *I think I'll leave / go away ...*
 ... la semana que viene *... next week*
 ... el mes que viene *... next month*
 ... o en dos semanas *... or in two weeks*

Quiero tenerlo *I want to have it*
 Voy a comprarlo *I'm going to buy it*
No voy a comprarlo porque ... *I'm not going to buy it because ...*
 ... es demasiado caro *... it's too expensive*
 ... es muy caro *... it's very expensive*
No pienso comprarlo *I don't plan to buy it*

pensar 'to think' is used for planning
 esperar 'to hope' also means 'to expect'

No tengo la intención de comprarlo *I don't intend to buy it*

PRONUNCIATION OF LETTER 'C'

The letter 'c' followed by 'i' or 'e' is pronounced 'th' in Castilian Spanish but 's' in other parts of the Spanish-speaking world. But before 'a', 'o', 'u' it is always 'k'.
 You'll hear 'intentithón' in Castilian Spanish, but 'intensi^són' in many other parts of Spain and in Latin America. Another example: 'Barthelona' and 'Barselona'.

No tengo la intención de hacerlo *I don't intend to do it*

ENGLISH WORDS ENDING IN '-TION'

Lots of words ending in -tion in English end in -ción in Spanish.
 Other examples: condición, reservación, confirmación, etc.

Pienso ir allí con usted *I plan to go there with you*
 Espero ir allí con usted *I expect / I hope to go there with you*
 Voy a tomarlo *I'm going to take it*
 Va a estar listo pronto *It will be ready soon*

¿A qué hora ... *At what time ...*
 ... va a estar aquí? *... are you going to be here?*

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No tengo tiempo de hacerlo

No tiene tiempo de hacerlo
 No tenemos tiempo de hacerlo
 ¿Cuánto tiempo tiene?

No sé cuándo ...

... va a estar / estará listo

Creo que ...

... va a estar / estará listo pronto

I don't have time to do it
He doesn't have time to do it
We don't have time to do it
How much time do you have?
I don't know when ...
... it will be ready
I think ...
... it will be ready soon

abrir means 'to open'; abro is 'I open', 'I'm opening'
 cerrar means 'to close'; cierro is 'I close', 'I'm closing'

¿Debo abrir la ventana?

¿Abro la ventana?

Cierro la puerta

¿Cierro la puerta?

Should I open the window?
Shall I open the window?
I'm closing the door
Shall I close the door?

ASKING QUESTIONS

All you have to do to change a statement (I'm closing the door) into a question (Shall I close the door?) is to make it sound like a question, with the right inflexion in your voice. The order of the words doesn't change.

In written Spanish you put a question mark ¿ at the beginning as well as ? at the end of the question.

Le espero

¿Le espero?**¿Le acompaño?****¿Voy / vengo con usted?**

Le llamo más tarde / mañana

¿Le llamo más tarde?

Salimos

¿Salimos?

Vamos a hacerlo

¿Qué vamos a hacer?

Yo sé que no va a poder hacerlo

Tengo que ir a verlo

Voy a ir a verlo

Iba a verlo

Iba a hacerlo

I'm waiting for you
Shall I wait for you?
Shall I accompany you?
Shall I go / come with you?
I'll call you later / tomorrow
Shall I call you later?
We are leaving
Shall we leave?
We are going to do it
What shall we do?
I know he won't be able to do it
I have to go and see it
I am going to see it
He was going to see it
I was going to do it

No iba a hacerlo

No iba a decirle ...

... que iba a hacerlo para usted

Iba a comprarlo

No iba a encontrarlo

Él iba a estar aquí esta mañana

No iba a esperar

No iba a esperarle

Sé, lo sé, no lo sé

No sé dónde está

No puedo encontrarlo

¿Puede decirme dónde está?

¿Podría decirme?

Tengo que saberlo

He wasn't going to do it

I wasn't going to tell you ...

... that I was going to do it for you

I was going to buy it

I wasn't going to find it

*He was going to be here
this afternoon*

I wasn't going to wait

I wasn't going to wait for you

I know, I know it, I don't know it

I don't know where it is

I can't find it

Can you tell me where it is?

*Could you / would you be able
to tell me?*

I have to know (it)

saber means 'to know'

sé means 'I know'; sabe, 'he/she knows'; 'you know'; sabes 'you know' (informal); saben 'you know', 'they know'

¿Qué sabe?

¿Por qué no lo sabes?

What do you know?

*Why don't you know (it)?
(to a friend)*

Nadie sabe dónde está

Nadie puede encontrarlo

Nobody knows where it is

Nobody can find it

sabía means 'I knew', 'he/she knew', 'you knew'; sabías is 'you knew' (informal); sabían 'you knew', 'they knew'

Lo sabía

No lo sabía

No sabía que usted iba a estar aquí

No iba a decirle ...

... que iba a comprarlo para usted

I knew (it)

I didn't know (it)

*I didn't know you were going
to be here*

I wasn't going to tell you ...

... that I was going to buy it for you

llegar means 'to arrive'

No sabía que ...

... iba a llegar hoy

Yo sabía que todo iba a estar listo

I didn't know ...

... you were going to arrive today

*I knew everything was going
to be ready*

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Sé que nunca ...

... voy a poder / podré hacerlo así

I know that I never ...

... will be able to do it that way

Recording 2

¿Qué hay?

What is there?

¿Qué hay? can also mean 'What's up?', 'What's the matter?', 'What's going on?'

¿Qué hay para comer?

What is there to eat?

¿Qué hay para beber?

What is there to drink?

ofrecer means 'to offer'

¿Puedo ofrecerle algo ...

Can I offer you something ...

... para beber?

... to drink?

Sí, pero primero tengo que ...

Yes, but first I have to ...

... hacer una llamada telefónica

... make a phone call

... llamar por teléfono

... telephone

Y después, voy a salir

And afterwards I'm going to leave

PRONUNCIATION OF THE LETTER 'Z'

The letter 'z' is always 'th' in Castilian and 's' elsewhere

la primera vez

the first time

la segunda vez

the second time

la tercera vez

the third time

la próxima vez

the next time

dos veces

two times, twice

muchas veces

many times

Voy a hacerlo muchas veces

I'm going to do it many times

No tengo ganas de hacerlo

I don't feel like doing it

No tengo ganas de ir allí solo

I don't feel like going there alone

Voy a hacerlo

I'm going to do it

Iba a hacerlo

I was going to do it

No sabía que iba a estar aquí

I didn't know you were going to be here

If you need clarifiers, put them in!
Add yo, tú, él / ella, usted where necessary

Yo no sabía que **usted** iba
a estar aquí

*I didn't know you were going
to be here*

Él no sabía que **ella** iba a
estar aquí

*He didn't know she was going
to be here*

No sabía que iba a salir ...

*I didn't know you were going
to leave ...*

... esta tarde

... this afternoon

Vamos a empezar ...

We are going to start ...

... pronto / en seguida

... soon / right away

... inmediatamente

... immediately

Voy a esperar

I'm going to wait

Iba a esperar

He was going to wait

No iba a esperar

He wasn't going to wait

No sabía ...

I didn't know ...

... que iba a estar aquí ...

... that you were going to be here ...

... hoy / esta mañana

... today / this morning

No sabía ...

I didn't know

... que iban a estar aquí

... that you were (all) going to be here

Generalmente ...

Generally / usually ...

ENGLISH WORDS ENDING IN '-LY'
The ending -ly in English is usually -mente in Spanish.
'specially' is especialmente

... no lo hago así

... I don't do it that way

SPECIAL = ESPECIAL

Words beginning sp-, st- or sc- in English usually start esp-, est- or esc- in Spanish: 'Spain' is España; 'student' estudiante; 'school' escuela.

ENGLISH WORDS ENDING '-TY'
Words ending in -ty usually end in -dad in Spanish:
especialidad; libertad; oportunidad; cualidad

Generalmente no me gusta hacerlo

Generally I don't like doing it

Generalmente no voy allí

Generally I don't go there

A menudo

Often

Frecuentemente

Frequently

Casi nunca voy allí

I almost never go there

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*acabar means 'to finish'**acabo de + infinitive (to have just ...) is an easy way of expressing the past tense!***Acabo de ...**

Acabo de verlo

Acaba de salir

Acabo de llegar ...**... hace dos días**

Acaba de llamarme ...

... hace diez minutos

Ella acaba de salir / de irse

Acabo de decirle

Acabo de comprarlo

Acabo de hablar con él

Acaba de decirme

*I have just ...**I have just seen it**He has just left**I have just arrived ...**... two days ago**He has just called me ...**... ten minutes ago**She has just gone out / left**I have just told you**I have just bought it**I have just spoken to him**He has just told me**volver means 'to come back', 'return'***Voy a volver / Volveré ...**

... en seguida / pronto

Va a volver / Volverá ...

... muy pronto / más tarde

Acaba de salir hace diez minutos ...

... y va a volver / volverá más tarde

*I'll come back ...**... right away / soon**She will come back ...**... very soon / later**She has just left ten minutes ago ...**... and she'll come back later*

No tengo ganas de salir ahora ...

... porque estoy muy

cansado / cansada

*I don't feel like going out now ...**... because I'm very tired**preferir means 'to prefer'; prefiero 'I would rather ...'***Prefiero ...****... quedarme aquí**

Acabo de comprar un libro ...

... que encuentro muy interesante

Lo encuentro muy interesante

Creo que es muy interesante

*I would rather / I would prefer to ...**... stay here**I have just bought a book ...**... that I find very interesting**I find it very interesting**I think it is very interesting***Hace diez minutos que le espero***I have been waiting ten minutes
for you*

To say how long you have been waiting, doing something, working etc. use hace (literally 'it makes') + que + the present tense.

¿Cuánto tiempo hace que ...

How long ...

... está aquí en Madrid?

... have you been here in Madrid?

Quisiera / Me gustaría / Quiero

I would like ...

... hablar con él

... to talk to him

... verlo

... to see it

No está allí

He isn't in / isn't there

¿A qué hora va a estar / estará aquí?

What time will he be here?

¿Sabe a qué hora ...

Do you know what time ...

... va a llegar / llegará / llega?

... he will arrive?

... va a volver / volverá / vuelve?

... he will come back / return?

Puede / Podría decirme ...

Can / Could you tell me ...

... a qué hora estará / va a estar aquí?

... what time he will be here?

irse means 'to leave', 'to go away'

dejar means 'to leave (behind)' and also 'to let' (someone do something)

dejar la llave

to leave the key

dejar un mensaje

to leave a message

¿Puede dejarme trabajar?

Can you let me work?

Me gustaría dejar un mensaje

I'd like to leave a message

¿Puedo dejar un mensaje?

Can I leave a message?

¿Puedo dejarle un mensaje?

Can I leave you a message?

¿Puede / Podría decirme ...

Can / Could you tell me ...?

¿Puede / Podría decirle ...

Can / Could you tell him ...

... que le llamaré más tarde?

... that I'll call him later?

... que le llamaré mañana?

... that I'll call him tomorrow?

... que le llamaré la semana que

... that I'll call him next week?

viene?

la próxima vez

next time

THREE WORDS FOR 'TIME'

vez has the sense of one of a number of occasions

tiempo is the general word for a period or passing of time

hora is the point of time marked on a clock

una vez, dos veces

once, twice

tres, cuatro, cinco veces

three, four, five times

seis, siete, ocho veces

six, seven, eight times

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nueve, diez veces
once, doce, trece veces
catorce, quince veces
la primera vez

*nine, ten times
eleven, twelve, thirteen times
fourteen, fifteen times
the first time
It's the last time*

Es la última vez

expresar means 'to express', expresarse 'to express oneself'

No sé cómo expresarlo
exactamente ...

*I don't know how to express it
exactly ...*

*exacto (exact) becomes exactamente (exactly).
The 'o' changes to 'a' before adding '-mente'
Another example: seguro becomes seguramente*

No sé cómo decirlo exactamente ...

I don't know how to say it exactly ...

... en español

... in Spanish

¿Cómo lo dice en español?

How do you say it in Spanish?

¿Cómo se dice en español?

How does one say it in Spanish?

SPECIAL USE OF 'SE'
*Se is frequently used to mean 'one' or 'you', or to say something
'is done'*

Se habla español aquí

*One speaks Spanish here
Spanish is spoken here*

escribir means 'to write'

le escribo

I write to you

Me escribe a menudo

He writes to me often

... frecuentemente

... frequently

¿Cómo se escribe?

How do you write it / spell it?

¿Puede escribirlo?

Can you write it down?

Escríballo, por favor

Write it down, please

Se puede ...

One can / It is possible / allowed ...

¿Se puede entrar aquí?

Can one come in?

¿Se puede hacerlo?

Can one do it?

¿Se puede pasar?

Can one pass / come in?

¿Dónde se puede encontrarlo?

Where can one find it?

¿Está seguro de esto?

Are you sure about this?

absolutamente / totalmente

absolutely / totally

Sí, estoy absolutamente seguro

Yes, I'm absolutely sure

Note that you say seguro if you are a man, segura if you are a woman

Lo sé porque ...	<i>I know because ...</i>
... acabo de leerlo ...	<i>... I've just read it ...</i>
... en el periódico	<i>... in the newspaper</i>
... en el periódico de hoy	<i>... in today's newspaper</i>
¿Puede / Podría decirme dónde ...	<i>Can / Could you tell me where ...</i>
... puedo encontrar un buen restaurante?	<i>... I can find a good restaurant?</i>
no muy lejos de aquí	<i>not very far from here</i>
Está muy lejos	<i>It's very far, a long way</i>
¿Está lejos de aquí?	<i>Is it far from here?</i>
No, no está lejos de aquí	<i>No, it's not far from here</i>
Está cerca de aquí	<i>It's near here</i>
Puede ir a pie	<i>You can walk</i>
¿Puedo ir a pie?	<i>Can I walk?</i>
Se puede ir a pie	<i>One can walk</i>
Necesito un coche	<i>I need a car</i>

In Spain a car is un coche, but in Mexico it's un carro

... para ir al restaurante	<i>... to go to the restaurant</i>
----------------------------	------------------------------------

'To rent a car' in Spain is alquilar un coche but in Mexico it's rentar un carro

Quisiera alquilar un coche	<i>I'd like to hire a car</i>
¿Dónde puedo alquilar un coche?	<i>Where can I hire a car?</i>
¿Cuánto es por día?	<i>How much is it per day?</i>
¿Cuánto cuesta ...	<i>How much does it cost ...</i>
... por semana?	<i>... per week?</i>
... por mes?	<i>... per month?</i>

*¿dónde? asks where someone or something is; ¿a dónde? asks where someone is going
¿Dónde está? but ¿A dónde va?*

¿Puede / Podría decirme ...	<i>Can you / Could you tell me ...</i>
... a dónde ir ...	<i>... where to go ...</i>
... para encontrar lo que quiero?	<i>... to find what I want?</i>
... para encontrar lo que busco?	<i>... to find what I'm looking for?</i>
Me gustaría / Quisiera saber ...	<i>I would like to know ...</i>
... lo que tengo que hacer ...	<i>... what I have to do ...</i>

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... para obtener lo que quiero
... para obtener lo que busco

... to get what I want
... to get what I'm looking for

hay que *means 'one has to'*

Quiero saber ...

I want to know ...

... lo que hay que hacer ...

... what one has to do ...

... para obtenerlo

... in order to obtain it

Me gustaría saber ...

I would like to know ...

... a dónde hay que ir ...

... where one has to go ...

... para obtenerlo / encontrarlo

... to have it / to find it

... para comprarlo

... to buy it

¿Puede darme una explicación?

Can you give me an explanation?

explicar means 'to explain'; una explicación is 'an explanation'

This is an exception to the rule that most English words ending in 'ation' are identical in Spanish, with the ending '-ación'.

However, remember that most do obey this rule: información, preparación, reservación, etc. It's also worth noting that the verbs associated with these nouns are all -ar verbs: informar, preparar, reservar

¿Puede explicarme dónde está?

Can you tell me where it is?

Gracias

Thank you

Le agradezco mucho

I thank you very much

Realmente le agradezco mucho

I really do thank you very much

Estoy enojado / enojada

I'm angry, annoyed

Estoy muy enojado / enojada

I'm very angry, annoyed

In Spain you'll often hear: Estoy enfadado / enfadada, which also means 'I'm annoyed, angry'

Estoy furioso / furiosa

I'm furious

Me preocupa

I'm worried (literally, it preoccupies me)

Me preocupa mucho

I'm very worried

Me preocupa ver esto

I'm worried about seeing this

No me preocupa

I'm not worried

Estoy aburrido / aburrida

I'm bored

Estoy muy aburrido

I'm very bored

¿Está aburrido?

Are you bored?

No me gusta estar aburrido

I don't like being bored

Creo que ... / Me parece que ...

I think ...

... todo está bien

... everything is all right

Voy a verlo una vez

I'm going to see it once

Voy a ir a verlo

I'm going to go and see it

No lo veo a menudo

I don't see it often

Por lo menos ...

At least ...

menos means 'less'; más o menos means 'more or less'

... lo veré / voy a verlo una vez

... I'll see it once

temprano means 'early'

¿Puede / puedes / pueden venir ...

Can you come ...

... un poco más temprano?

... a little earlier?

lleno means 'full'; llenar is 'to fill up'

Está muy lleno

It's very full

¿Puede llenarlo?

Can you fill it up?

limpio is 'clean'; sucio is 'dirty'

No está muy limpio

It's not very clean

Está sucio

It's dirty

Es perfecto

It's perfect

Perfectamente

Perfectly

calor is 'heat'; frío is 'cold'
For hot weather you say hace calor (literally 'it makes heat')
But a hot person says tengo calor (literally 'I have heat')

No me gusta el calor

I don't like the heat

Hace calor / frío hoy

It's hot / cold (weather)

Tengo calor / frío

I'm hot / cold

¿Tiene frío?

Are you cold?

No puedo soportar el calor

I can't stand the heat

hambre is 'hunger'; sed is 'thirst'

Tengo hambre

I'm hungry

Tengo que comer algo ...

I have to eat something ...

... porque tengo hambre

... because I'm hungry

Tengo sed

I'm thirsty

Tengo que beber algo ...

I have to drink something ...

... porque tengo sed

... because I'm thirsty

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Pienso / Creo que puedo hacerlo ...

*I think I can do it ...***... yo mismo***... myself**mismo means 'self' and also 'same'; la misma cosa is 'the same thing'; lo mismo is 'the same'***Quiero lo mismo***I want the same*

Voy a tomar lo mismo

I'm going to take / have the same

No es lo mismo

It's not the same

Estoy (muy) sorprendido

*I'm (very) surprised***Me sorprende***It surprises me*

No me sorprende

It doesn't surprise me

Esto / Eso no me sorprende

*This / That doesn't surprise me**traer means 'to bring'; dar 'to give'; mostrar 'to show'*

¿Puede traerme algo?

Can / Will you bring me something?

¿Puede darme algo?

Can you give me something?

¿Puede mostrarme algo?

*Can you show me something?***¿Puede mostrármelo?***Can you show it to me?**Note that the personal me (me) comes before the object lo (it) and that they are joined together at the end of the infinitive***¿Puede traérmelo?***Can you bring it to me?*

¿Cuándo puede traérmelo ... ?

When can you bring it to me ...?

... porque lo necesito y ...

... because I need it and ...

... tengo que tenerlo

*... I have to have it**vivir is 'to live'*

¿Dónde vive / vives / viven?

Where do you live?

¿Usted vive aquí?

*Do you live here?**saber is 'to know' in the sense of knowing a fact or some general knowledge
conocer is 'to know' in the sense of being acquainted with somebody or something*

Sabe dónde está

*He knows where it is***Conozco ...***I know ...***... la ciudad / el país***... the city / the country**PERSONAL 'A'**Conocer a ... is used for 'to know a person'. Whenever the object of a verb is a person, not a thing, you always insert 'a' between the verb and the person*

Voy a llamarle
Voy a **llamar a** mi amigo

I'm going to call / phone him
I'm going to call / phone my friend

querer means 'to want' and also 'to love'

Lo quiere
Él **quiere a** su amiga
Conozco la ciudad
Conozco a esta señora
No conozco Madrid
No conozco a nadie
¿Conoce esta ciudad?
¿**Conoce a** esta señora?
¿Sabe dónde está?

He wants it
He loves his girlfriend
I know the city
I know this lady
I don't know Madrid
I don't know anybody
Do you know this city?
Do you know this lady?
Do you know where it is?

Mi amigo viene aquí ...
... todos los días
Suele venir aquí
Suele hacerlo ...
... casi todos los días

My friend comes here ...
... every day
He usually comes here
He usually does it ...
... almost every day

quizás, quizá means 'perhaps, 'maybe'

Quizás no le gusta ...
Quizá no le gustaría ...
... quedarse aquí
... porque hay mucha gente

Perhaps you don't like ...
Perhaps you wouldn't like ...
... to stay here ...
... because there are many people

la gente is 'people'; tanto / tanta means 'so much', 'so many'

Hay tanta gente aquí
Por mi parte ...
... no voy a quedarme aquí ahora

There are so many people here
For my part ...
... I'm not going to stay here now

Hay mucho ruido

There's a lot of noise

*hay is 'there is', 'there are'; había 'there was', 'there were';
habrá 'there will be'*

Había mucha gente aquí ayer

*There were many people here
yesterday*

Habrá mucha gente
Había demasiado ruido
Habrá mucho ruido

There will be many people
There was too much noise
There will be a lot of noise

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Habrá **mucho más** ruido ...
Habrá **mucho menos** ruido ...
... aquí mañana

*There will be much more noise ...
There will be much less noise ...
... here tomorrow*

Espero tener ...
Espero que voy a tener ...
... la oportunidad / la ocasión ...
... de verlo

*I hope to have ...
I hope I'll have ...
... the opportunity ...
... of seeing it*

Espero tener la ocasión ...

*I hope to have the opportunity ...
... to see my friends
... to visit my friends*

... de ver **a** mis amigos
... de visitar **a** mis amigos

Note the use of the personal 'a' again

Voy a llamar **a** mi amigo ...
... para saber si puede venir ...
... con nosotros

*I'm going to phone my friend ...
... to find out if he can come ...
... with us*

*vemos means 'we see';
nos vemos 'we see each other', 'we meet'*

¿A qué hora nos vemos mañana?

What time shall we meet tomorrow?

A la misma hora
A las diez

*At the same time
At ten o'clock*

Vamos a vernos / nos veremos ...

We will meet ...

Nos vemos ...

We'll meet ...

... mañana a la misma hora

... tomorrow at the same time

Ahora puedo hacerme entender ...
... en español
Me parece que es suficiente
¡Buena suerte!

*Now I can make myself understood ...
... in Spanish
I think that's enough
Good luck!*

Le deseo buena suerte

I wish you good luck

Adiós, hasta luego

Goodbye, until soon / until later

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