

August 2011

Hello everyone! Hello again. It's good to be back with you again, and thank you for downloading this Mansión Inglés podcast, recorded for August 2011.

*En el nivel básico este mes, hemos practicado el vocabulario del hogar. ¿Te acuerdas como se dice salón en inglés? – living room. Repite: living room. ¿Cómo se dice? en inglés es **How do you say?** Es muy útil esta expresión. Repítela **How do you say?** How do you say baño in English? – bathroom. Bueno en el sud de inglaterra se dice bathroom, en el norte se dice bathroom. No tiene importancia. Pero si es importante poner el énfasis en la primera sílaba y no en el segundo. Se dice **ba**throom y no X**ba**throomX. Repite bathroom, bathroom. How do you say cocina? . kitchen Repite: kitchen. How do you say dormitorio in English? Bedroom. El énfasis está en la primera sílaba. Repite, bedroom. How do you say habitación de invitados? – spare room or guest room. Repite: spare room , guest room. And aseo, a very important word – una palabra muy importante. How do you say aseo in English? Toilet. Repite: toilet.*

Ahora voy a decir las palabras en español y tu tienes que decir la traducción en inglés antes que lo digo yo. ¿Listos? Ready?

salon - living-room

baño - bathroom

aseo - toilet

dormitorio - bedroom

habitación de invitados - spare room

cocina - kitchen

*Luego hemos practicado las preguntas con **is there** (singular) y **are there** (plural). Escucha y repite:*

Is there a computer in your house? computer = ordenador. Repite:

Is there a computer in your house?

Are there any pictures on the wall? pictures son cuadros y wall = pared - Repeat: Are there any pictures on the wall?

How many bedrooms are there? Repeat: How many bedrooms are there?

Are there any good restaurants? Repeat: Are there any good restaurants?

Is there air-conditioning? air-conditioning significa aire acondicionado Repeat: Is there air-conditioning?

Is there a television? Repeat: Is there a television? Is there a TV?

How many chairs are there? Chairs = *sillas* - Repeat: How many chairs are there?
Are there any plants? Plants of course are *plantas* Repeat: Are there any plants?
Is there a microwave? Microwave in Spanish is *microondas* Repeat: Is there a microwave?
Is there a window? What's **window** in Spanish? Yes, it's *una ventana*. You know that! *¡Sabías esto!* Repeat: Is there a window?
Is there a mirror? A mirror *es un espejo* Repeat: Is there a mirror?
Is there central heating? central heating = *califacción central*
Repeat: Is there central heating?

Very good! - *¡Muy bien!*

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In the intermediate section we continued practising the wonderfully exciting gerunds and infinitives. This month we looked at some expressions in English that are followed by gerunds. For example, expressions like **There's no point in...** – **There's no point in taking** the car. – There's no point - *no tiene sentido* repeat: There's no point in taking the car. You may remember that after prepositions (in, at, on, about, for etc) we put a gerund. Well, **in** is a preposition, sogerund – Repeat: There's no point in taking the car.

I can't help... – **I can't help thinking** I made a mistake. – I can't help thinking... - *No puedo evitar pensar...* – I couldn't help laughing. – *no podía evitar reirme*. Repeat: I can't help thinking I made a mistake. I couldn't help laughing when he told me.

I can't stand... – **I can't stand waiting** for people. Can't stand means *no soporta* or *no aguanta* it means to dislike strongly. Repeat: I can't stand queueing. – I can't stand driving in big cities.

Next was the expression to **have a problem or have (some) problems or to have no problem...** For example, I'm afraid **I'm having problems understanding** your accent. Repeat: I'm having problems learning English. She had a problem using the software program. We had no problems finding the hotel.

It's no use... – **It's no use asking** me to give you a lift. It's no use means it's pointless, *es inútil*, - *no sirve de nada* – it's a waste of time. Repeat: It's no use - It's no use flying, the pilots are on strike. It's no use shouting at him - It's no use crying over spilt milk

- "De nada sirve llorar sobre la leche derramada" - "A lo hecho, pecho" / "Lo hecho, hecho está" - It's no use crying over spilt milk

It's a waste of time/money... – It's a waste of time – *es una pérdida de tiempo*. It's a waste of money – *Es tirar el dinero* – Repeat: **It's a waste of money buying** mobile phone applications. It's a waste of time learning phrasal verbs.

Remember, you can learn more about gerunds and infinitives in our grammar section, and in our intermediate course, both free at mansioningles.com.

In the advanced section this month we revised some verb tenses. I'm going to read the example sentences from the newsletter and I'd like you to tell me which verb tenses you hear. Ready? So, identify the verb tenses.

First were three sentences with the verb **to have**

1. We **were having** a fantastic time until the police came and broke up the party. ('We were having' - past continuous or past progressive)
2. Please don't come round between 3 and 4 in the afternoon. We'**ll be having** a siesta then. 'We'll be having (future continuous – we will be having, we'll be having)
3. Don't you think it's time we bought a new bed? We'**ve had** this one for nearly 15 years. (present perfect simple – we have had – we've had - We'**ve had** this one for nearly 15 years.)

Next were three sentences with the verb **to sell**.

1. My wife earns a pretty good living. She **sells** medical supplies to private hospitals and clinics. (present simple – my wife sells)
2. I really regret not buying that second hand electric guitar on eBay. It'**ll have been sold** by now. (future perfect simple passive – it will have been sold – it'll have been sold by now)
3. If no one offers to buy our flat, it'**ll be sold** by auction at the end of the year. (future simple passive – it will be sold – it'll be sold)

Next was the verb **to take**

1. "I'm really busy today. I don't think I'll be able to get a refund on that coat I bought."
- "Don't worry darling, give me the receipt and I'**ll take** it back for you."
(future simple with will – I will take it back for you – I'll take it back.)

2. My daughter's so selfish lately. Yesterday she came in from work, **took** something to eat, changed her clothes and went out again without even speaking to me. (Past simple – My daughter took something to eat.)
3. I saw a terrible accident the other day. A young boy fell off his motorbike and **was taken** to hospital in an ambulance. ('was taken' is past simple passive – He was taken to hospital)

Moving on to the verb **to walk**:

1. We didn't use the tent the first night on the Camino de Santiago. We were so tired that we checked in to a hotel for the night. **We'd been walking** for 12 hours. (past perfect continuous – we had been walking – we'd been walking - **We'd been walking** for 12 hours.)
2. My granddad's **walking** now. He had the hip replacement last month and came out of hospital last weekend. (present continuous – he is walking now – My granddad's **walking** now.)
3. "How did you get from the hotel to the exhibition?"
 - a. "I **walked**. It only took about 15 minutes." (past simple – I walked)

Finally, the verb **to see**:

1. If everything goes to plan, **I'll have seen** all the countries I want to by the time I'm 55. (future perfect – I will have seen – **I'll have seen** all the countries I want to by the time I'm 55.)
2. I'm sorry, I can't make it for lunch tomorrow. **I'm seeing/I'll be seeing/I'm going to see** my therapist at 1 o'clock. (Hmmm, three possibilities here to talk about future plans or arrangements. I'm seeing – present continuous used here to talk about future plans, I'll be seeing – future continuous – I will be seeing, and the going to future I'm going to see.)
3. Charlie got the sack last week. He **was seen** taking money out of the cash register. (Past simple passive – He was seen)

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In the vocabulary section at advanced level, there were some phrasal nouns to practise. For example, **standby**. You can be on standby if you're waiting for a place to become available at the airport. British Airways have no tickets available on any flight to New York tomorrow, but they've put us on standby in case there's a cancellation. You also have standby modes on many domestic electrical appliances. Standby kind of puts your device to sleep. It's working, but not running on full power.

You check in at the airport and a hotel when you arrive. **Check-in** is a verb and a noun. "Excuse me, where's the check-in?"

The next word, **downfall**, sort of translates as *caída* or *perdición* or *ruína*. We speak about the downfall of a dictator or a king, for example. Alcohol was his downfall. Drugs were her downfall. That's what brought her down.

Takeover was the next word. *Toma de poder*. You can have a military takeover. A company can takeover another company. A strong collocation is a takeover bid – B-I-D - Samsung has made a **takeover** bid for Nokia.

A **comeback** is a return a revival – *una vuelta, retorno* – The fashions of the 1960's are making a comeback.

If a concert is a **sell-out** there are no more tickets left. They've sold out. It was a sell-out tour.

Lastly, a **check-up** is *revisión* in Spanish. You should go to the dentists every six months so that he can check your teeth, or give you a check up (actually, I only go once a year). You can go to the doctor's for a check-up too, but not for your car. *Revisión del coche* in English is a service, so you take your car for a service or you have your car serviced or get your car serviced.

And finally, in the Business English section this month we practised some business collocations with the word **price**. I'll read the definition and you try to remember the collocations containing the word price. Ready?

When prices go down, decrease, fall, drop, it's called a price....**cut**.

When prices go up or rise we say it is a price....**increase**.
When the government try to limit price increases, we say that they put price..... **controls**.
When companies fight with each other to get more of the market, and prices fall as a result, we say that there is a price.....**war**.
Una etiqueta del precio in English is a price....**tag**.
And finally, when there is a good period for sellers and prices rise quickly we say there is a price....**boom**.

Well, that's it for this month. Thanks to all of you for listening. If you want to contact us you can find us on Facebook. Just search Facebook for **La Mansión del Inglés** and join our growing community. Or send an email to mansionteachers@yahoo.es. And you can also follow us on Twitter. Our Twitter name is MansionTwit.

You can sign up for our *cuaderno mensual* and see all the previous newsletters and podcasts by clicking on the link on the Mansión Inglés home page.

Until next month then, take care and keep practising English! Bye!

*The music in this month's podcast was by **Revolution Void**, the album was *The Politics of Desire* and the track was *Outer Orbit*.*