

October 2012

Hello again. Welcome, and thank you for downloading this *Mansión Inglés* podcast. This is podcast number 54 recorded for October 2012.

Este mes, en el nivel básico, hemos hablado de la rutina diaria y también como hacer las preguntas. In the intermediate section gerunds and infinitives and opposites and more idioms and words with multiple meanings in the advanced section. There's business vocabulary as usual this month, and many more ideas and resources to help you improve your English and take it to the next level.

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So let's get started *con el **nivel básico** y algunas expresiones de la rutina diaria. Voy a decir las expresiones en español y tu dices la traducción en inglés antes que lo digo yo. Ready? - ¿Listo?*

*¿Cómo se dice "comer" en inglés? - **to have lunch** - Repite: **to have lunch***

*ir de compras - **to go shopping** Repite: to go shopping - We go shopping on Saturdays.*

*ir en coche al trabajo - **to go to work by car** Repite: to go to work by car - I go to work by car every day.*

*ir a clase - **to go to class** Repite: to go to class - What time do you go to class?*

*ir a casa - **to go home** Repite: to go home - I go home after work.*

*llegar a casa - **to get home** Repite: to get home - I get home at 7.30*

*hacer la cena - **to make dinner** Repite: to make dinner - My girlfriend usually makes dinner.*

*cenar - **to have dinner** Repite: to have dinner - We have dinner at home.*

*ir a la cama/acostarse - **to go to bed** Repite: to go to bed - I go to bed at about 12 o'clock.*

También hemos practicado las preguntas. Escucha y repite algunas preguntas conmigo. Fijarte en la entonación.

What time do you get up?

What time do you have dinner?

What do you do after lunch?

Who do you have lunch with?

What time do you go to bed?

What time do you get home after work?

Very good! - ¡Muy bien!

In the **intermediate section** this month, we looked at some gerunds and infinitives. I'm going to say some pairs of sentences with different grammar and I want you to say which is correct.

Por ejemplo, ¿Qué es correcto? - I used to be good at playing the piano or I used to be good at play the piano? *El correcto es:* I used to be good at playing the piano. - Gerund - Repeat: I used to be good at playing the piano.

I have difficulty to make myself understood. or I have difficulty making myself understood? - I have difficulty **making** myself understood. Repeat: I have difficulty making myself understood.

She's only interested in taking drugs or She's only interested to take drugs? - She's only interested in taking drugs. Repeat: She's only interested in **taking** drugs.

I don't know what do with her. or I don't know what to do with her? - I don't know what **to do** with her. Repeat: I don't know what to do with her.

We had a fantastic time to travel around Spain. or We had a fantastic time travelling around Spain - We had a fantastic time **travelling** around Spain. Repeat: We had a fantastic time travelling around Spain.

I'm too tired for going out tonight. or I'm too tired to go out tonight? - I'm too tired **to go** out tonight. Repeat: I'm too tired to go out tonight.

He's unlikely to pass the exam. or He's unlikely pass the exam? - He's unlikely **to pass** the exam. Repeat: He's unlikely to pass the exam.

She was arrested for not to pay her taxes. or She was arrested for not paying her taxes? - She was arrested for **not paying** her taxes. Repeat: She was arrested for not paying her taxes.

She's quite likely for to lose her temper. or She's quite likely to lose her temper. - She's quite likely **to lose** her temper. Repeat: She's quite likely to lose her temper.

Moving on to vocabulary and opposites. Try to say the opposites of the following words before I do, then repeat them to practise pronunciation. Ready?

success - failure

valuable - worthless

fresh - stale

victory - defeat

profit - loss

calm - rough

brave - coward

well-paid - badly-paid

Good. Now repeat the following example sentences.

It wasn't a **SUCCESS**. It was a total **FAILURE**.

I thought it was **VALUABLE** but it was **WORTHLESS**.

The bread isn't **FRESH**, it's **STALE**.

We expected an easy **VICTORY** but we suffered a terrible **DEFEAT**.

We didn't make a **PROFIT**, we made a **LOSS**.

The sea was **CALM** in the morning, but **ROUGH** in the afternoon.

He thinks he's really **BRAVE** but he's a **COWARD**.

He's not **WELL-PAID**, he's very **BADLY-PAID**.

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There were more idioms this month in the **advanced section**. Let's see if you can remember the idioms if I say the Spanish equivalent.

For example,

Como quien oye llover. Think of water and duck. We say "It's like water off a duck's back." - "It's like water off a duck's back."

Tanto monta, monta tanto, (Isabel como Fernando). - "It's as broad as it is long." which means it's as wide as it is long the length is the same as the width. - "It's as broad as it is long."

Lo que se pierde en una casa se gana en otra. - swings and roundabouts - a roundabout in a park is *tiovivo* I think. and a swing I think is *columpio*. "It's (a question of) swings and roundabouts." - "It's (a question of) swings and roundabouts."

En tierra de ciegos, el tuerto es rey. This is another direct translation - "In the land of the blind, the one-eyed is king."

No tiene raíces en ningún sitio. - This idiom has the words 'hat' and 'home' in it. It's... "Home is where he hangs his hat." He hangs up his hat and that's enough for him to call the place home - He's a drifter. *Va dando tumbos por la vida* . He's a drifter. Wherever he hangs his hat, that's his home.

Our last idiom this month is "*Llueve sobre mojado*" o "*Al que no quiere caldo, se le dan dos tazas.*" - In English we say "It never rains, but it pours." Do you know the expression "it's pouring"? - It's pouring (with rain), *Está lloviendo a cántaros* - It never rains, but it pours - I've had so much bad luck this week. I lost my wallet, someone scratched my car and I got a parking fine..... It never rains, but it pours.

Now listen and repeat the idioms after me:

"It's like water off a duck's back."

"It's as broad as it is long."

"It's (a question of) swings and roundabouts."

"In the land of the blind, the one-eyed is king."

"Home is where he hangs his hat."

"It never rains, but it pours."

Also in the advanced section we looked at some words with multiple meanings like the word odd - O-D-D. **Odd** means *extraño, raro*. the odd thing is that... *Lo raro o lo curioso es que*.... It also means *impar* when we talk about numbers. Odd numbers and even number. We also have the

expression "The odd man out" - *el bicho raro, la excepción*. Odd can also mean something that is left over - I have a few **odd** bits of wood in the garage. If you've got the **odd** moment to spare, come round for a chat. It cost me 30 pounds odd - *Me costó 30 y tantas libras* or *30 y pico libras*.

Stock was the next word. One meaning of stock is *reserva* - We're out of stock - *Están agotadas*. - We don't have your size in stock. - If you have stock in a company *tienes algunas acciones*. Stocks and shares - *acciones*. Stock is also *caldo* - Chicken stock. One thing I've learned during my time living in Spain is that you need a good fish or chicken stock to make a good paella.

Hail as a noun means *granizo* - hailstones - frozen rain. A strong collocation with hail is a hail of bullets. As the armed robbers left the bank, they were cut down in a hail of bullets. As a verb, hail can mean *llamar* - you hail a cab. In New York, in New York city, it's not easy to hail a cab in the rush hour.

Figure can mean *cifra* - What's the unemployment figure for Spain these days? Is it still in double figures?

And figure for a person is *figura*. She's got a great figure. I know she's nearly 40, but she's got the figure of an eighteen-year-old.

In American English, it's quite common to hear figure as a verb meaning to make sense. "It just doesn't figure" - *No me lo explico*. How do you figure that? In British English I would say reckon. What do you reckon? What do you figure?

Our last word was **plot**. A plot of land is *terreno* or *solar*. I'm thinking of buying a small plot and building a house on it.

Plot is also *complot, conjura*: they foiled the assassination plot - *frustraron el intento de asesinato*.

And of course we talk about the plot of a film or a book (*el argumento*). I loved the new George Clooney film, but the plot was a bit complicated. How do you say "*Las cosas se complican*" using the word plot? - The plot thickens - Repeat: The plot thickens.

In the **Business English** section this month, we looked at some more business English vocabulary. **To develop** means *desarrollar* in Spanish. That's a word that's really difficult for me to say and to remember - *desarrollar* - double rr and double ll - *desarrollar* or *elaborar* - to develop. You can develop ideas, you can develop a method, develop a character, a plot or story in a film or a book. You can develop skills and abilities and develop land - *urbanizar* - In technology, it's very common to hear about software **development**, application development for mobile phones and tablets - mobile devices. We're developing a new application for La Mansión del Inglés.

To **sign up** means *inscribirse*. You can also say enroll or register for a course. I'm signing up for a computer course.

Sign up is a phrasal verb, and so is **go about**. To go about means *emprender* - How do I go about voting? - *¿Qué tengo que hacer para votar?* How do I go about signing up? Go about can also mean *correr* or *circular*. For example, "there's a lot of flu going about", or "Have you heard that horrible rumour going about that Jimmy's having an affair?"

If you work full-time, you work standard hours. How do you say *jornada partial* in English? - **part-time** . I'm working part-time. It's a part-time job.

Doubt in Spanish is *duda*, *pero muchas veces para decir tengo duda, mis alumnos dicen* I have a doubt, but it sounds better in English to say "I'm not sure." For example, "I'm not sure how to pronounce this word" sounds better than "I have a doubt how to pronounce this word."

But doubt is used in many expressions, for example. Without a doubt or no doubt - *Sin duda*. Repeat: Doubt - No doubt I'll see you tomorrow. I'll be there at 6, without a doubt. This is, without a doubt, the best brownie I've ever tasted. - I very much doubt it - *Lo dudo mucho*. Repeat: I very much doubt it. - If in doubt, don't go - *Si estás en duda, no vayas*. - If in doubt, don't go

And finally, to **get back** means to return or go back to something or someone. Repeat: I have to get back to my work now. - I'll get back to later - Can I get back to you in the morning?

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Until next month then, take care, keep practising and taking your English to the next level! Bye for now!

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