

May 2013

Hello once again and welcome to another Mansion Ingles podcast. This is podcast number 61 recorded for May 2013.

Este mes, en el nivel básico practicamos el presente simple en un historia sobre un día en la vida de Alex. En el nivel intermedio, practicamos los adjetivos y los adverbios y hay vocabulario del tema crime and punishment. There are more animal idioms in the advanced section and we practise gerunds and infinitives. We have business vocabulary, a translation exercise and we've included new listening exercises at three different levels, all to help you improve your English and take it to the next level.

En los podcasts mensuales hablamos de los temas, vocabulario y ejercicios que salen en nuestro cuaderno mensual. Así podáis practicar la pronunciación y repasar el material del cuaderno. Si quieres recibir gratis el cuaderno cada mes, ver la transcripción de este podcast o leer los anteriores, vete a mansioningles.com y sigue los enlaces en la página principal.

Ok, let's start then with **el nivel básico**. Escucha el texto sobre un día en la vida de Alex: **A Day in the Life of Alex**

Alex **gets up** late every day, at about 8.30. He **has** a shower but he **doesn't have** breakfast because he **hasn't got** time. He **goes** to work by bike. He **gets** to work at 8.55. He **turns on** his computer and **starts** work. At 11 o'clock he **has** a coffee and a sandwich in the local bar. He **works** until 1.30 and then he **has** lunch. When Alex **finishes** work he **goes** to the gym. He **gets** home late and he **is usually** very tired. He **has** dinner about 8.30 and then he **watches** TV or **reads** a book. Alex **usually goes** to bed at about 11 or 11.30.

Ahora, escucha y repite algunas frases del texto:

He gets up late - *Repite:* He gets up late
 He has a shower - *Repite:* He has a shower
 He doesn't have breakfast - *Repite:* He doesn't have breakfast
 He hasn't got time - *Repite:* He hasn't got time
 He goes to work - *Repite:* He goes to work
 He turns on his computer - *Repite:* He turns on his computer
 He starts work - *Repite:* He starts work

He has coffee. He has coffee at 11 o'clock. - *Repite:* He has coffee - at 11 o'clock. - He has coffee at 11 o'clock
 He works until 1.30- *Repite:* He works until 1.30
 He has lunch - *Repite:* He has lunch
 He finishes work- *Repite:* He finishes work
 He goes to the gym - *Repite:* He goes to the gym
 He gets home late - *Repite:* He gets home late
 He has dinner - *Repite:* He has dinner
 He watches TV - *Repite:* He watches TV
 He reads a book - *Repite:* He reads a book
 He goes to bed - *Repite:* He goes to bed

Ahora escucha y repite las preguntas.

What time does he get up? - *Repite:* What time does he get up?
 Does he have breakfast? - *Repite:* Does he have breakfast?
 Does he have a shower? - *Repite:* Does he have a shower?
 How does he go to work? - *Repite:* How does he go to work?
 What time does he get to work? - *Repite:* What time does he get to work?
 What does he turn on? - *Repite:* What does he turn on?
 When does he have coffee? - *Repite:* When does he have coffee?
 When does he have lunch? - *Repite:* When does he have lunch?
 What does he do after work? Where does he go? - *Repite:* What does he do after work?
 What does he watch? - *Repite:* What does he watch?
 What does he read? - *Repite:* What does he read?
 What time does he go to bed? - *Repite:* What time does he go to bed?

Ok, moving on to the **intermediate section**, we practised some adjectives and adverbs. Listen and repeat the sentences to practise pronunciation.

That soup smells **good**.

Nervous - repeat: nervous - Did you feel **nervous**? Did you feel nervous before the interview? Were you nervous? Were you nervous before the interview?

She looked at me **angrily**. Anger is the noun, angry is the adjective and angrily is the adverb. Repeat: Why are you angry? You have so much anger inside you. He banged the table angrily.

Please leave the room **quietly**. If quietly is the adverb, what's the adjective? - quiet. He's a quiet boy. Please be quiet, your dad's asleep.

He plays the trumpet very **well**. Repeat: He plays well, he's a good musician. She sings well, she's a very good singer. I swim well, I'm a good swimmer. What's the opposite of well? - badly - repeat: badly. He speaks English very badly.

Don't get on that motorbike, it doesn't look **safe**. Repeat: safe. - It's not safe. Is it safe? Is that bike safe? And the opposite of safe is.....dangerous (you knew that!) It's a dangerous game. If safe is the adjective, what's the adverb? safely. Repeat: **safely** - Did you arrive safely?

Don't forget to drive **carefully!** carefully is the adverb. Repeat: carefully - The adjective is careful. He's a very careful driver. He drives carefully. Do it carefully - Do it with care.

The paella tastes **nice**. Nice has many uses and I think it's used more in British English than American English. It can mean *amable* - He's a nice man. It can mean *agredable* - The weather's nice today. It's a nice day. It can also mean attractive, *bien, bonito*. That's a nice house. Your flat's really nice. It can mean *fino* Her lunches are always very nice, with silver cutlery and silk serviettes. Another meaning is *excelente* - That was a nice shot on goal.

The second exercise in the intermediate section was about the vocabulary of crime and punishment.

to rob a bank - repeat: to rob a bank - a **bank robbery**. There was a bank robbery this morning. The bank robbers **stole** half a million euros. A person who steals something is a **thief** - THIEF. the noun is **theft** - THEFT. Why didn't you report the theft of your car, sir?

What's the adjective of crime? - **criminal** - repeat: criminal. He has no criminal record. A person who breaks the law is also a criminal. We can also say that he, or she, **commits a crime**. The verb to commit can be used with murder, suicide, adultery etc. Repeat: He **committed murder**. How many murders has he committed? Is it illegal to **commit suicide**? Is suicide a crime? If you have sex with a person who is not your wife or husband you commit adultery. Repeat: to **commit adultery**.

To **smuggle** means to import illegally. In Spanish, *contrabandear, pasar de contrabando*. Repeat: to smuggle - He was caught smuggling drugs. He tried to smuggle diamonds across the border. The **border** is *la frontera*. Across the border.

Innocent is an adjective. He's innocent - repeat: He's innocent - He was found innocent - She's innocent of the crime. What's the

opposite of innocent? **Guilty** - Repeat: guilty - He was found guilty. Do you know the noun of innocent? **Innocence** - Repeat: innocence. There was no doubt of her innocence. **doubt** is *duda* - repeat: doubt - There was no doubt of her innocence

I want to tell you a secret - *¡un secreto que no mucha gente sabe!*
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In the **advanced section**, we had some more animal **idioms**. Listen and repeat some example sentences. The first was to teach an old dog new tricks. People usually don't change very much, not really, especially when they get older. Like my dad, for example. He won't ever change, he's very set in his ways. It's difficult to teach him new things or new habits. So, I could say, **You can't teach an old dog new tricks**. He is the way he is. Repeat: You can't teach an old dog new tricks.

I don't like bull fighting personally, but I do like this expression; **to take the bull by the horns**. It means to forcefully attack a difficult situation or problem. It's difficult to take a bull by its horns, I suppose. I've never tried it. Never will! But to confront a difficult situation with strength and determination is to take the bull by the horns. Repeat: to take the bull by the horns.

A dark horse is a person who does not tell other people about their ideas or skills and who surprises people by doing something that they don't expect. For example, "I didn't know your sister had written a novel. She's a bit of a dark horse, isn't she?"

A dark horse can also be a person who wins a race or competition although no one expected them to. For example, she has never won an international competition before, but she could be a dark horse this year.

Chicken feed is a small amount of anything, especially money. Of course I can afford \$800. That's just chicken feed. Well, it may be chicken feed to you, but that's a month's rent to me! You could also say **it's peanuts** for a small amount of money. They pay me peanuts at my company.

To worm your way out of something means to manipulate yourself out of a job or responsibility. Don't try to worm yourself out of this situation. It's all your fault! You can't worm out of this. You promised you'd come with me. Don't **worm your way out of it** with some pathetic excuse about having to work.

To put or to set the cat among the pigeons is to do or say something that causes trouble and makes a lot of people angry or worried. Tell them all they've got to work on Saturday. That should set the cat among the pigeons. That was a very controversial suggestion Pete made at the meeting. He's certainly **put the cat among the pigeons**.

An **early bird** is a person who gets up early or arrives early to something. I always get up in time to watch the sunrise. I'm an early bird. She's such an early bird that she's usually in the office before 7.

A **cash cow** is a steady dependable source of funds or income. We can't sell the hotel, it's become such a cash cow.

Listen and repeat the idioms after me:

You can't teach an old dog new tricks
 You must take the bull by the horns
 You're such a dark horse
 \$500 is chicken feed
 Don't try to worm your way out of it
 That has really put the cat among the pigeons.
 You're such an early bird.
 it's a real cash cow.

Ok, moving on to the grammar exercise which was about gerunds and infinitives. Listen and repeat:

I **tried to get** back to sleep.
 I **remember walking** you home.
 Don't **forget to lock** the door.
 We **regret to inform** you that there has been a delay.
 This will **mean paying** more money.
 I **dread to think** how much it's going to cost.
 Please **stop tapping** your pen.
Remember to send me an email.
 He **came running** up to me with a present.

In the **Business English** section we looked at some more business English vocabulary, and the first was the expression **to be swamped with work**. A swamp *es un pantano*. If you are swamped with something you have a lot of work. *estas agobiado, inundado de trabajo*. Repeat: swamped with work. I can't see you tonight, I'm swamped with work.

In your job, you have skills and knowledge that you are the most knowledgeable about. This is your **area of expertise**. It's the area in which you are proficient, skilled, and specialised in. What's your area of expertise? "I'm sorry, I can't help you. This isn't my area of expertise." or I can say, "It's outside my area of expertise."

¿Cómo se dice *investigación* in English? - research. And which verb collocates with research? Is it "make research" or "do research"? - It's do research. Repeat: **Do research**. We need to do some more research. Have you done the research?

A binder is *una carpeta* and a *archivador de anillas* is a ring binder. repeat: **ring binder**.

The phrasal verb to **speed up** means to get faster. Can you speed it up a bit? There are people waiting. Come on, speed up or we'll be late.

To **pursue** means *perseguir, seguir* for example, I've always wanted to pursue a career in advertising.

If something is **familiar** it's vaguely recognizable - *conocido*. His face looks familiar, I know him from somewhere. A stapler is a familiar tool to have in the office.

Finally, a company's **stock** or **inventory** is the supply of goods it has for sale. Do you have these shoes in stock? I'm sorry, we don't have them in stock, but I can order them for you.

We also gave you some more **sentences to translate** in this month's *cuaderno*. First, you had to translate from English to Spanish. So, I'll say the English sentences and you can say the Spanish translation. Then, repeat the English sentence after me to practise pronunciation. Ready?

Where have you been lately? - ¿*Dónde has estado últimamente?* - Where have you been lately?

She's tall, fat and ugly. - *Es alta, gorda y fea.* - She's tall, fat and ugly.

I'm getting better / I'm improving - *Estoy mejorando.* - I'm getting better / I'm improving.

What was the matter? - ¿*Qué te pasaba?* - What was the matter?

I broke a finger. - *Me rompí un dedo.* - I broke a finger.

Good, now I'll read some Spanish sentences and you translate to English. Then repeat the sentences after me to practise your pronunciation. OK?

1. *La temperatura es de 4 grados bajo zero.* - The temperature's 4 degrees below zero.
2. *¿Cómo está María?* - How's María?
3. *¿Cómo es María?* - What's Maria like?
4. *Es baja, morena y guapa.* - She's short, dark and beautiful / pretty. / She's a short, beautiful / pretty brunette.
5. *¿Cómo te encuentras?* - How do you feel? / How are you? / How are you doing? / How are you feeling?

Well, that's all we have time for on this podcast, but we'll be back with you next month as usual with another podcast based on our monthly newsletter, our *cuaderno de inglés mensual*. Remember, you can listen to all our previous podcasts at mansioningles.com and on iTunes.

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Until next month then, keep practising and taking your English to the next level! Take care and 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*.*