

Mansion Ingles Podcast January 2014 - Aprende gramática y vocabulario inglés

Hello and Happy New Year to you and your family. Welcome to another Mansion Ingles podcast. This is podcast number 69 recorded for January 2014.

En el nivel básico practicamos los superlativos y tenemos algunas definiciones de palabras.

En el nivel intermedio estudiamos el CAN, COULD y BE ABLE TO y tenemos algunas palabras que a veces se confunden en inglés.

We practise GIVE, DO and MAKE at advanced level, and also we help you with what to say in English in certain social situations.

There's also business English vocabulary, as usual, 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 podéis 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, ve a mansioningles.com y sigue los enlaces en la página principal.

*Ok, vamos a empezar con **el nivel básico** y los superlativos. Se usan los superlativos para indicar un extremo en un grupo de cosas. Por ejemplo: Maria is **the prettiest** girl in the class. Maria es la chica más guapa de la clase.*

Generalmente, formamos el superlativo añadiendo el sufijo -est al adjetivo. Big - biggest, small - smallest - nice - nicest.

Si una palabra termina con una consonante y luego "y", cambiamos la "y" a "-iest". Pretty - prettiest, easy - easiest

Si la palabra es de dos sílabas o más (una palabra larga), usamos la palabra most, en lugar de -est.

Expensive - the most expensive, difficult - the most difficult.

Superlativos Irregulares

Good - the best

Bad - the worst

Far - the farthest

Nota que también usamos el artículo THE con los superlativos.

Escucha y repite algunos ejemplos conmigo:

This is the **best** television programme.

She's the **most beautiful** girl in the world.

Who's the **tallest** person in your family?

What's the **most difficult** thing about learning English?

What's the **longest** river in your country?

Who's the **most generous** person you know?

Who's the **most popular** footballer in your country?

What's the **furthest** you have travelled by plane?

Very good! ¡Muy bien!

Seguimos con el vocabulario, a ver si recuerdas las palabras que hemos enseñando este mes en el cuaderno mensual. Voy a decir una descripción y tú tienes que decir la palabra antes de que la diga yo. Luego repítela conmigo para practicar la pronunciación.

You pay to park your car here. ¿Qué es? **carpark** (UK) / **parking lot** (US)

On a restaurant menu, you have ice-cream, fruit, chocolate cake etc
All of these are what? - **dessert**

Where can you buy medicine? What's the name of the place?
chemist, pharmacy (drugstore - US)

People usually put milk, eggs, fresh food and cold drinks in the.....
- **fridge**

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are the three what of the day? - **meals**

What do you use to take photos? - **camera / mobile phone**

Ok good, now moving on to the **intermediate section**, and in this month's *cuaderno* we looked at **Can, Could and Be able to**.

We speak about the use of **can** and **could** in episode 7 of our podcast *Aprender Ingles con Reza y Craig*. You can find this podcast on iTunes and at <http://mansioningles.libsyn.com/>. In this podcast, Reza explains when we use can and could for ability and requests and offers, and we give examples, but we don't speak about be able to.

Be able to is used to speak about ability also and we can use it to speak about ability in the present, in the past and in the future. For example, you can't say X "Will you can meet me tomorrow?" X But you can say, "Will you be able to meet me tomorrow?"

Listen to some examples of BE ABLE TO:

My wife and I both lost our jobs, so we haven't **been able to** have a holiday this year.

Would you like to **be able to** retire before you're 55, or do you think you'd get bored?

I've tried all the shops in the city, but I haven't **been able to** find a bicycle that I really like.

In spite of ordering far too much food, my mother-in-law **was able to** finish all of it and ask for a dessert!

We're fully booked this weekend, but we **will be able to** come round for dinner the weekend after.

Pepito loves **being able to** go on holiday whenever he feels like it.

Listen and repeat:

I haven't been able to do it

Will you be able to come?

I was able to finish all of it.

Yes, we'll be able to go tomorrow.

I love being able to understand English.

Moving on to some vocabulary and confusing words. The words we are going to practise this podcast are:

protested

complained

accused

sentenced

blamed

arrested

Pepito was **accused of** stealing candles from the church.

They **blamed** David ***for*** losing the football match.

The demonstrators **protested against** globalisation.

Pepito was **arrested for** fighting in the street.

Danny **complained about** the terrible service.

Siempre me ha gustado la idea de aprender inglés con videos. Por eso te recomendamos ABA English. Los videos de ABA English son muy profesionales y están muy bien hechos.

Además de las 144 clases gratuitas de gramática en vídeo, también tienes la posibilidad de probar la primera unidad de tu nivel (hay 6 niveles distintos) y realizar todas las secciones de esta unidad para probar su metodología única de aprendizaje.

Tú aprendes inglés viendo películas cortas con subtítulos, que ya es un método muy eficaz para aprender inglés, pero también actúas en estas películas! Es muy divertido! En la misma unidad realizas ejercicios de speaking y role play actuando en el diálogo del cortometraje que has visto!

Los cortometrajes, con situaciones de la vida real, son la base de cada unidad del curso de inglés. Llevan incorporada la tecnología de reconocimiento de voz propia.

Echa un vistazo a los videos de ABA English.com. Puedes empezar los cursos gratis sin coste y además con apoyo en español.

Al empezar, tienes que facilitar una dirección de email y contestar algunas preguntas básicas, pero no es necesario que realices ningún pago. Pienso que si una empresa ofrece un producto gratis para probarlo es porque es bueno y la empresa cree en sus productos.

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Moving on! and in the **advanced section** this month, we looked at some collocations with the verbs **give**, **do** and **make**.

I'll meet you in the café. I've just got to **make a quick phone call** before I leave the office.

Make a call - make a phone call - give s.o. a ring, give s.o a bell, give s.o. a tinkle. Phone me/call me/text me - I'll call you/I'll phone you.

Despite **doing her best**, I'm afraid Julia just doesn't have what it takes to be part of our team. She sat through the entire meeting without **making a single suggestion**.

Just do your best - Do what you can - make an effort.
to suggest something/to make a suggestion. Can I suggest that we do it this way?...Can I make a suggestion? Why don't we do it this way?

If you're not totally satisfied with our product, we'll **give you a full refund**.

To refund your money - to give you a refund. Could you give me a refund? Would you mind giving me a refund?

Peptito **made a wonderful speech** at his wedding last weekend.

After graduating, I spent a year **doing research** in Buenos Aires. to research = *investigar*, research = *investigación*)

If you'd be so kind as to **give me the details**, I'll make sure the message gets passed on to the director.

Give details and take details. - Would you mind giving me the details? - Just let me take the details.

Our boss has been **making quite a few changes** in the way the company is run.

I'm going to make a few changes around here! - To change s.t. - to make a change.

It wouldn't **do you any harm** to get out in the fresh air once in a while.

Do no harm (*daño*). It won't do you any harm to do some exercise. - It won't do you any harm to go for a walk.

I was convinced that you wouldn't want to see me again because the last time we met you **gave me the impression** that you didn't like me very much.

to give the impression - *Dar la impresión*
get the impression - "I got the impression that she didn't like me very much."

have the impression - "What impression do you have of him?"
 What do you think about him?
 make an impression - "In a job interview, it's important to make
 a good impression."

I don't think we should fire her yet. Let's **give her one last chance** to show us what she's capable of.

Give s.o. a chance - give me a chance. - give me just one more
 chance.

Also in the advanced section this month, we practised some things
 that you can say in certain situations in English. These expressions
 are not always taught in course books and in the classroom and
 sometimes even advanced students get caught out and tongue-tied
 (*sin saber que decir*) in some social situations in English, I know
 this happens to me in Spanish sometimes.

Listen to these examples:

A - Did you know that your son and my daughter travelled around
 India together when they were teenagers?

B - Fancy that! Repeat: Fancy that!

My daughter is a famous musician - Fancy that!
 She plays in the national orchestra - Really! Fancy that!
 She's travelled all over the world - Fancy that!
 She earns thousands of euros a month - Does she? Fancy that!

Listen:

A - My boss wouldn't let me take any more days off this year. I've
 already had my holiday allowance and 16 sick days.

B - I'm not surprised. Repeat: I'm not surprised.
 Valencia football team lost again - I'm not surprised.
 Pepito can't find a job. - I'm not surprised.
 It's 2pm and Joanna is still in bed sleeping! - I'm not surprised.

Listen:

A - I think it's going to rain, isn't it?

B - Looks like it. Repeat: Looks like it.

I think this financial crisis will continue for another year or two at least. - Hmm, looks like it.

We need to go shopping in the morning to get some food. - Yeah, looks like it.

Pepito will probably fail his exams again. - Looks like it.

Listen:

A - I don't believe you've eaten that last slice of pizza. I was counting on that for my dinner!

B - How was I to know? Repeat: How was I to know?

Why did you change the channel on the TVT? I was watching that! - How was I to know?

You shouldn't have taken the car, I needed to use it. - How was I to know?

That chocolate cake was supposed to be for your brother's birthday. - How was I to know?

Listen:

A - There's a bus and train strike today, but I've asked my dad to pick us up after the concert.

B - Just as well. Repeat: Just as well.

It's raining outside, but don't worry I've brought an umbrella. - Just as well.

Our flight has been cancelled, but they're going to put us on the next available flight to Madrid.- Just as well, I've got work tomorrow!

The hotel's fully booked, but there's another hotel around the corner and they have a room for us. - Just as well.

Listen:

A - If you don't want to come to Paris with me, I'll just have to find someone who does!

B - Suit yourself! Repeat: Suit yourself!

If you're going to be in a bad mood all night, I'm going to the pub for a beer. - Suit yourself!

I can't put up with your Mother over Christmas. If she stays here, I'm moving out! - - Suit yourself!

I don't like this food you've cooked. I think I'll make myself a sandwich. - Suit yourself!

In the **Business English** section this month we looked at some more business English vocabulary. For example, the expression to **go bankrupt** (*quedar en bancarrota*). It's an expression we hear too often these days, unfortunately. Repeat: bankrupt - to go bankrupt. They went bankrupt. The company went bankrupt last year. Did they go bankrupt?

The verb **to boost** can mean *levantar*. for example to boost sales. Repeat: to boost sales. Boost can also be a noun - There has been a boost in sales. (*un empujón, aumento*) - A boost in sales.

I think we've studied the phrasal verb **to take on** before in the context of business. Do you remember the meaning of to take on in Spanish or can you think of another verb in English. To take on staff. - to employ (*contratar*). The company has taken on 15 new employees this month. - We need to take on another software designer. Has your company taken on any new staff recently?

Wonderful! Well done!

Well, we've reached the end of this podcast unfortunately, but we will of course be back next month 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 of course on iTunes. And don't forget to **check out** - check out=*mirar, echar un vistazo* - check out our new podcast called *Aprender inglés con Reza y Craig en los que hablo con mi amigo Reza sobre el vocabulario, la gramática y la pronunciación de inglés. Puedes encontrarlo también en iTunes.*

Si te gustan nuestros podcasts, puedes ayudarnos con una corta reseña en iTunes contribuyendo así a que más personas puedan conocernos y escucharnos. Gracias a todos los que ya han escrito algún comentario. Thank you to all of you who are writing reviews.

Thank you very much for listening to this podcast, and for being part of the community of *La Mansión del Inglés*.

Remember, If you want to contact us you can find us on Facebook. Just search Facebook for **La Mansión del Inglés** where you can ask questions, make comments and do exercises and practise your listening. Or you can send me an email to: mansionteachers@yahoo.es. You can also follow us on Twitter where we tweet useful links to improve your English, English slang vocabulary, quotations and much more. Our Twitter name is MansionTwit.

Puedes ver el cuaderno mensual de este mes, y todos los cuadernos anteriores en www.cuadernodeingles.com/

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*.*