

## Mansion Ingles Podcast February 2014 - Aprende gramática y vocabulario inglés

Hello and welcome to another Mansion Ingles podcast. This is podcast number 70 recorded for February 2014. ¡Cómo esta volando el tiempo! How the time is flying! We're already in February. Time flies.

*En el nivel básico este mes practicamos un poco de gramática y los antónimos (opposites).*

*En el nivel intermedio estudiamos la diferencia entre 'in spite of', 'despite', 'although' and 'even though' porque a veces se confunden en inglés. There is a 'change the word' exercise in the cuaderno, so we can also revise the vocabulary in the that.*

And we practise verb tenses and some general vocabulary in the advanced section.

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 la gramática*

**Were your parents born here?** *No decimos 'was' por que parents (padres) es plural. Nota que no traducimos 'padres' como XfathersX. Your mother and your father are your parents. Repite: parents. My parents (mis padres) repite: my parents were born here. - nacian aquí. Where were your parents born? Esto es un poco difícil decir. Escucha - where were. Repite: where - where - were - were - where were - where were you born? ¿Dónde naciste? Repite: Where were you born? I was born in London. Where were you born? Where were your parents born?*

*Escucha: **What is she doing?** - She's making dinner. What is she doing? ¿Qué está haciendo? Es el tiempo verbal presente continuo - present continuous. Muchas veces, cuando hablamos, hacemos una contracción con el What y el is. No decimos What is - decimos What's - What's she doing? Repite: What's - What's she doing? What's he doing? What's he doing at the*

moment' What's he doing now? *Nota que también podemos emplear el presente continuo para hablar del futuro:* What's she doing tomorrow? *Repite:* What's she doing tomorrow? What's he doing next week' What's he doing for Christmas?

*¿Cómo se dice en la segunda persona con You?* What are you doing? *También se puede contraer:* What're - What're you doing? *Repite:* What're - What're you doing? What're you doing at the weekend? What're you doing on Friday night? What're you doing for dinner tonight?

*Escucha:* A: Do you like shopping?

B: **Yes, I love it.**

*No olvides el pronombre it. En español, no hace falta. Si dice "Te gusta ir de compras?" - "Si, me gusta", en inglés hay que incluir el pronombre. Repite:* Yes, I love it - Yes, I like it - I like it very much. - me gusta mucho - *Repite:* very much - I like it very much. I like her - I like them - I like him - I hate them - I love it - I don't like it - I don't like it very much.

*Escucha:* A: How much coffee do you drink?

**quite a lot** - *bastante* - Quite a lot - *Repite:* Quite a lot. I drink quite a lot of coffee. I drink quite a lot of wine. I take quite a lot of sugar in my coffee. He drinks quite a lot of beer.

*Escucha:* **Can you** speak Spanish?

B: Yes, I can.

*Puedes/sabes hablar español? Si, puedo/si yo sé*

*Nota que en estas respuestas cortas, se repite el auxiliar. Vamos a practicar un poco las respuestas cortas.*

*Voy a decir algunas preguntas, y tú me contestas con una respuesta corta. Si no sabes la respuesta, no te preocupes.*

*Simplemente repite la respuesta cuando la digo yo.*

Are you ready? - *No has contestado? Es la primera pregunta!* -

Are you ready? *¿Estas listo?* - Yes, I am. *El verbo auxiliar es TO BE* - Are you - Yes, I am.

Do you understand? - Yes, I do.

Are you Spanish? Yes, I am.

Do you speak Spanish? - Yes, I do.

Do you speak Chinese? No, I don't.

Can you understand Chinese? - No, I can't

Were you born in the UK? - No, I wasn't

Are your parents English? - No, they're not

Are you English? - No, I'm not

Have you got a car? - Yes, I have/No, I haven't

Have you got any brothers or sisters? No, I haven't/Yes, I have

Are you bored with this exercise? - Yes, I am. Well, **I am!**

Moving on! to *los antónimos* - opposites

interesting – boring

left – right

north – south

early – late

easy – difficult

rich – poor

male – female

first – last

pretty – ugly

happy – sad

Ok good, now moving on to the **intermediate section**, and in this month's *cuaderno* we looked at **In spite of / despite** and **although / even though**

*Vamos a revisarlas*: in spite of and despite both mean *a pesar de*:

In spite of her behaviour, I still love her.

In spite of and despite mean the same thing and are interchangeable. For example, it is correct to say either of the following:

She sang well despite having a cold.

She sang well in spite of having a cold.

Some people prefer despite because it is shorter.

Despite the fact that you can choose which word to use, mixing them into *Xin despite ofX* is wrong.

Although and even though mean *aunque o a pesar de*:

Even though it was raining, I decided to walk to the pub.

Although it was raining, I decided to walk to the pub.

*Fui a pie al pub a pesar de que llovía.*

*Nota que la gramática no es la misma: No se puede decir:*  
 XDespite/In spite of it was raining, I decided to walk to the pub.X

*Pero si puedo decir:*  
 Despite the fact that it was raining, I decided to walk to the pub.  
 or Despite the rain, I decided to walk to the pub.

Listen and repeat the following examples:

**Although** the weather was terrible, he felt really good.

**Despite** the bad weather, he felt really good.

**Even though** it was raining, he felt really good.

**Even though** it was cold, he felt really good.

**In spite of** the heavy rain, he felt really good.

**Although** he had a cold, he felt really good.

**Despite** the fact that he was ill, he felt really good.

**Although** his cold was very bad, he felt really good.

**Despite** his terrible cold, he felt really good.

**Even though** his wife had left him, he felt really good.

In the vocabulary section for intermediate this month, we had an exercise called - **Change the Word**. You had to change one letter each time to find the word that was described. I'll repeat the definitions now to see if you can remember, or guess, the words. And, don't forget, each word has one letter different from the previous word. For example, the first word was the opposite of white. That's quite easy, it's black. The second word is similar to black with one different letter and it's the British English expression for an *edificio de viviendas*... a \_\_\_\_\_ of flats. Or in American English, an apartment..... BLOCK: One letter different - black to block. OK? Now, the next word is a think that tells the time. Change the letter B to a C and you have a CLOCK. So, how can you change clock to describe the thing you do with a computer mouse? CLICK - to click icons with a mouse.

A \_\_\_\_\_ salesman acts smoothly and efficiently (*hábil, suave, profesional*). También una mancha de aceite o petróleo) The word is

SLICK - a slick salesman or an oil slick. Now change SLICK to mean not tight (*suelto, flojo*) - SLACK.

Change SLACK to give you a small rough house (*chabola, choza, casucha*) - that's a SHACK for example a fishing shack or an old shack in the forest.

How can you change SHACK to mean a large fish with sharp teeth (*tiburón*). - SHARK

What's the opposite of blunt? (*afilado*) - SHARP - a sharp knife. The knives in our house are not usually sharp, they're blunt.

Change one letter of SHARP and you get the English word for compartir - SHARE. Share is a verb (You'll have to share the chocolate cake because there isn't enough. It can also be a noun, as in stocks and shares = *acciones* - a share in a company.

Change one letter of SHARE and you get a verb which means to look fixedly at something or someone. *Mirar fijamente* - to STARE - What are you staring at? Stop staring at me!

What do you call the extra tyre (*neumático*) in the boot of the car. *la rueda de repuesto*. Well, change a letter of STARE and you get SPARE. The spare tyre. Most new cars don't seem to have spare tyres anymore. My Mazda doesn't have a spare tyre, just a can of special glue in case I get a puncture - *un pinchazo, un agujero en neumático* is called a puncture.

Leave enough \_\_\_\_\_ to write your name - hueco, sitio and empty area, if you change SPARE you get SPACE.

What do you call saffron, curry powder, basil, cinnamon, paprika etc? They are all spices. So SPICE. Saffron is a spice that is added to paella.

The next word is not so common. How can you change SPICE by one word to give you a pointed piece of metal (*barrote, pincho, punta*). The answer is SPIKE. A hedgehog (*erizo*) has spikes and a porcupine (*puercoespín*) also has spikes. Punk rockers have spiky hair. Spiky is the adjective.

The next word should be easy for you because we've already studied it in this podcast. "We decided to go to the beach in \_\_\_\_\_ of the weather" - In SPITE of.

Change SPITE by one letter and you get the name for the most important bone in your back (*columna vertebral*). It's the SPINE.

The UK is so cloudy, grey and miserable, I wish the sun would\_\_\_\_\_. How can you change SPITE by one letter to get the verb *brillar*? To SHINE.

Change the word again and you get the noise made by a miserable dog (*gimotear, lloriquear*). WHINE. Our neighbour's dog is always whining during the day. It's really annoying. I'm trying to record this podcast for you and the dog next door starts whining.

Finally, change WHINE by one letter and you get the opposite of the word that we started with. What's the opposite of BLACK? WHITE.

Well done!

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*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.*

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*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 had some random vocabulary. In the exercise you had to choose the best word for each sentence. Let's revise the words and chat about them a little.

Physicists have been **conducting** a series of **experiments** to find the Higgs boson particle. - So an experiment is something that you can conduct. In this sense it really means to do, but it makes the collocation just a little more formal. to conduct an experiment.

This job won't **appeal** to you unless you enjoy travelling and spending long periods away from home.

The answer had to be appeal because it was the only word in the question followed by the infinitive with TO. You can't say 'lure to you', 'attract to you' or 'engage to you' in this context, but you can say appeal to you. It appeals to you. Do you know what appeals to me right now? A nice cold cocktail on the beach in Hawaii. Does that appeal to you?

If you intend to take the company to court, you should first of all **seek** legal advice. The choices were desire, seek, search and ask. Well, you need a preposition with search and ask. Do you know which one? FOR. To ask for advice and to search for advice. Desire is possible grammatically, but it doesn't make sense in this context. Seek is the answer, and to seek is a more formal way of saying to look for. It's popular to find SEEK in newspaper and online advertisements. "Man seeks attractive 25-year-old female for serious relationship." or "Elderly woman seeks man for companionship."

One thing I really love about my job is that I have plenty of **?/openings/options/occasions/opportunities** to travel. What do you think? Grammatically, they are all possible, but with slightly different meanings. Let's put them in context.

**Plenty of openings.** You should study computer software design. There are plenty of openings for software designers these days. **Plenty of openings.**

**Plenty of options** - If you want an Android-based mobile phone, there are plenty of options on the market. **Plenty of options.**

**Plenty of occasions** - You'll have plenty of occasions to go out with your mates and get drunk after the exams. What are you doing it now for? - **Plenty of occasions.**

And finally, the answer - **Plenty of opportunities.** - One thing I really love about my job is that I have **plenty of opportunities** to travel. - **plenty of opportunities**

Pepito's son is under a lot of pressure from other teenagers in his **peer group** to wear the same clothes. A peer group in sociology is a social group composed of/made up of individuals of approximately the same age. At dictionary.com it says: **Peer group** (noun) - a group of people, usually of similar age, background, and social status, with whom a person associates and who are likely to influence the person's beliefs and behavior. Peer pressure can be very strong and it's not uncommon for teenagers to wear the same clothes, listen to the same music, spend money on the same things and even take the same drugs as their peers. Peer pressure can be a dangerous thing.

Pepito is used to doing business in Spain. It's difficult for him to **?/alter/vary/adapt/affect** to working in the North American market.

As with the word appeal before, adapt is the only word here that is followed by the infinitive with TO. It's difficult for Pepito to adapt to working in the North American market. When I came to Spain, it was hard for me to adapt to eating later in the evening. It was difficult for me to adapt to the hot weather in the summer and it wasn't easy for me to adapt to kissing girls twice on the cheek when I said hello. I'm used to it now, though!

**Verb Tenses** - was the other area we studied a little in the advanced section. The first example was:

You'd expect Pepito to be looking tired because **he's been working** really hard for the last month and a half. - He's been working - I've been studying - We've been travelling. Present perfect continuous. Repeat: How long have you been working there? I've been living here for nearly three years.

Listen: We left the hotel after lunch and fortunately the rain **had stopped** by then. - The rain had stopped - Past perfect simple. The rain had stopped by the time we had left the hotel. It's a kind of pre-pasado - pre-past. In Spanish it's the pluscuamperfecto. It shows the difference in time between two things that happened in the past. Many of my students say "Can't we just use the past simple, twice?" Well you can in some situations, but if you want to show the difference in time in the past, you really do need the past perfect. Repeat: He'd already left when I arrived. She hadn't lived before she met me! We'd already seen the film twice before we saw it with you.

When I was a child we used to go on holiday to Scotland every year. I think we **went** to Edinburgh seven times. You can't use the 'used to' past in this example because we're speaking about the individual number of times we went to Edinburgh and not a habit of going there regularly. So, I can say, When I lived in Scotland I used to visit Edinburgh quite a lot." But I can't say X "I used to go seven times." X

The next example of present perfect simple is similar. Listen: **"I've driven** around this area hundreds of times. I know it like the back of my hand." It wouldn't be correct to say X **"I've been driving** around this area hundreds of times." X However, I can say "I've been driving for ages and I'm really tired." (Here the emphasis is on the activity of driving and not on the number of times).



Compare the following examples of present perfect simple and present perfect continuous:

I've been teaching for 18 years.  
I've taught in 3 different countries.

Valencia has been playing really badly lately.  
They've lost 8 games already this season.

We've been saving up money for a new car.  
We've saved nearly 3,000 euros so far.

Listen to the next example and compare the use of two other tenses. The past perfect continuous and the past continuous. "We **had been walking** in the sun for about five hours with no water, by which time we **were feeling** very dehydrated and quite ill." - We had been walking in the sun (it's continuous to show emphasis on the activity of walking) and it's past perfect because we need to show that the walking happened BEFORE we started to feel ill and dehydrated. Listen again: "We **had been walking** in the sun for about five hours with no water, by which time we **were feeling** very dehydrated and quite ill."

The next example is similar. Listen: Pepito **had been drinking** beer all day, so it wasn't surprising that he **threw up** in the car. Poor old Pepito, he's always in trouble losing his job or his girlfriend. Getting drunk. Sometimes people ask me if Pepito is real. Well, he's based on a Spanish friend of mine from Valencia who I used to see a lot when I first moved here. I changed his name of course, to save my friend some embarrassment. So, Pepito **had been drinking** beer all day, so it wasn't surprising that he **threw up** in the car. Here we have the same use of the past perfect continuous. He threw up, *vomitó, en el coche*, but all that drinking beer activity happened before he was sick. So we use the past perfect continuous to show the difference in time - a pre-past, before Pepito threw up!

And, the final example: "So much smoke **had been coming** from our balcony all afternoon that eventually we had to tell our neighbours that we **were having** a barbeque and that they were all invited." - We were having a barbeque - past continuous for a longer activity. We were having a barbeque before we told our neighbours, when we told our neighbours and we continued having a barbeque after we told our neighbours. But the smoke had been coming from our balcony continually all afternoon and before we invited our neighbours to join us.

All this verb tense stuff might sound a bit confusing without actually seeing the exercise and examples. So, if you're not sure about this verb tense grammar, have a look at the exercise in the February newsletter at "cuadernodeingles.com" .

In the **Business English** section this month we looked at some more business English vocabulary. For example,

I **would rather we** talked about this later. - This is quite a formal expression. Notice that the verb to talk is in the past simple. I **would rather we** talked about this later. - And of course, in spoken English, we often contract I would to I'd. Listen: I'd rather we talked about this later. - Repeat: I'd rather - I'd rather we talked. - I'd rather we talked about this later. - I'd rather you didn't do that - I'd rather you came into work a bit earlier. I'd rather you dealt with the problem.

Next example: We **brought her in** to help us with the new advertising campaign. - If you 'bring someone in', you give them the job of doing something, a project maybe, or a particular task in the company. For example, you want a new logo for your company, but there is nobody in the company with the design skills necessary to do the job. So, you bring someone in to do it. Repeat: We brought him in. We brought him in to design a new logo. We brought her in - We brought her in to help with marketing. We should bring in an expert to do this.

Listen: Maybe you should try a different **approach**. - Approach here means method, system or way of working. If you have a problem, you can often approach it in different ways. I think in Spanish you can say *abordar*. There are several different ways to approach this problem.

And finally, we had the collocation "positive impact" - Putting Sam in charge has had a **positive impact** on the growth of our new business. - This new approach should have a positive impact on sales.

Well, I hope this podcast has had a positive impact on your English. I have to go now, 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 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.*

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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*.*