

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

Hello and welcome to another Mansion Ingles podcast. This is podcast number 72 recorded for April 2014.

*En el nivel básico este mes practicamos las preposiciones y hablamos más de los antónimos (opposites).*

*En el nivel intermedio tenemos una mezcla de gramática general y practicamos un poco más del slang británico - British slang words.*

There are some more mixed idioms in the advanced section and we look at some gerunds and infinitives.

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 La Gramática - Las preposiciones,**

*Escucha:* The café is **between** the supermarket and the bike shop. between = *entre* - Chicago is between New York and Los Angeles. - *Chicago está entre Nueva York y Los Ángeles. Repite:* between - It's between the shop and the bank - It's between the supermarket and the café.

*Escucha:* We didn't go out **on** Saturday night because we were tired. - *Cuando hablamos de los días de la semana, normalmente utilizamos la preposición on. Repite:* I work on Saturdays - She's coming on Tuesday - We went out on Sunday.

*Escucha:* He is arguing **with** his wife again! - with es *con* - *con su mujer* - with his wife. *Repite:* with his wife - He's going with his wife - He's arguing with his wife - to argue es *discutir*. *Repite:* He's arguing with his wife. Why are you arguing with me?

*Escucha:* My flat is **on** the corner of Frank Street and Wells Avenue.

*Escucha:* I'm going **to** Argentina **on** holiday next month.  
 I'm going to Argentina = *Voy a Argentina*. *Voy a Argentina de vacaciones* = I'm going **to** Argentina **on** holiday  
*Repite:* I'm going to Argentina - I'm going on holiday - I'm going **to** Argentina **on** holiday.

Ok, *vamos a seguir y hablar de los antónimos* - opposites

heavy – light

stupid – clever/smart

wet – dry

long – short

cloudy – sunny/clear

front - back

soft – hard

safe – dangerous

used – new

terrible – wonderful

Ok good, that's wonderful! Now moving on to the **intermediate section**, and in this month's *cuaderno* we looked at a selection of grammar sentences.

*Escucha:* We **usually get up** before 6am every morning. - get up = *levantarse* We usually/often/sometimes/always/never get up

*Escucha:* **Have you lived** here all your life? *toda tu vida*

*Escucha:* **I don't usually drink** brandy, but I'll have one tonight.

*Escucha:* Pepito **is trying** to get in shape to run in the city marathon next month.

*Escucha:* In the summer, **I often walk** to work.

*Escucha:* What **are you doing** this weekend?

*Escucha:* Maria **isn't working** tomorrow, so we're going shopping. She isn't working - *Ella no está trabajando* - *Repite:* She isn't working - He isn't working - It isn't working - *No está funcianando* - It isn't working

*Escucha:* Amparo cooks a lot of Spanish food, but **I prefer** - English cooking. I prefer = *prefiero* *Repite:* I prefer - I prefer tea - I prefer coffee - I prefer beer - I prefer red wine - I prefer English cooking - I prefer Spanish cooking - I prefer La Mansión del Inglés

In the vocabulary part of the intermediate level in our *cuaderno* this month we looked at some British English slang words. I'm going to say the slang word and I want you to tell me the more common word if you can remember.

For example, **grub** - food - I had some lovely grub yesterday, **nosh** - She served some tasty nosh at the party. Nosh can also be a verb - Let's nosh that cold pizza that's in the fridge. My problem is, I nosh too much chocolate.

**loo** - toilet - Loo is an informal colloquial word. so be careful in which situations you use it. For example, I wouldn't say 'Where's the loo?' in a business meeting or job interview. I'd say, 'Could you tell me where the men's room is?' Or, 'Is there a toilet I could use, please?'. Interestingly, I say toilet because I was born and raised in a working class area of London. However, upper class English speakers might use the word lavatory. 'Excuse me, where's the lavatory?'

**bangers** - sausages - a popular English dish is bangers and mash (*salchichas y puré de patata*) Ahh! the wonderful English cuisine! - That's sarcasm, by the way. firecrackers (us), bangers (uk)

**quid** - pound (money) - 50 pound is 50 quid, 20 pounds - 20 quid. How do you say dollar in slang? - **bucks**.

**hassle** - problem - no hassle! - *¡No hay problema!*

It's not worth the hassle - *No vale la pena*

**watcha** - hello - "Watcha mate!"

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Moving on! and in the **advanced section** this month, we had some mixed idioms. Let's see if you remember them if I say the beginning. For example,  
 as strong as an..... ox (*buey*)  
 as blind as a..... bat (*murciélago*)  
 as thick as..... two short planks (*tabla, tablón*) - wooden board  
 as cool as..... a cucumber.  
 as hard as..... nails (*¡clavos, no uñas!*)  
 as mad as..... a hatter (*sombrerero*)  
 as ugly as..... sin (*pecado*)  
 as sober as..... a judge.  
 as drunk as..... a lord - And before you ask, I have no idea why Lords are often drunk and judges are sober. But I think 'sober as a judge' is meant more in the way of seriousness than not drunk. Judges do tend to be very serious.

Do you remember the context sentences from the *cuaderno*? I'll read them to you. Try to complete them with an appropriate idiom.

Of course Pepito's son failed the exam, he's..... as thick as two short planks.

I went out with a couple of mates from work yesterday and we went to three bars and a night club. We were drinking for about 6 hours and when I got home I was..... as drunk as a lord.

She lost her glasses and walked into a tree. She's..... as blind as a bat without her glasses.

He lifted up a table above his head and threw it across the room.  
He's ..... as strong as an ox.

I don't think a boxer from the west will be able to beat someone  
who does Thai boxing. Thai boxers are ..... as hard as nails.

Also in the advanced section this month, we practised some  
gerunds and infinitives

Have you ever **stopped to think** how lucky we are to have clean  
running water and electricity. We shouldn't take these things for  
granted you know. When stop is followed by an infinitive, it  
means I stopped doing one thing in order to do another. For  
example, I stopped working to make a cup of tea. or I stopped  
walking to have a look in the shop window. If you remember,  
when stop is followed by a gerund, it means you stop doing the  
activity. I've stopped smoking, for example. Or Stop picking your  
nose, it's disgusting!

I used to **dread giving** presentations in front of an audience,  
but now I quite enjoy it. Dread is synonymous with fear to dread  
= *temer* - the verb dread is usually followed by a gerund. I dread  
driving in Italy. It's so dangerous. Or I'm dreading finding out  
my exam results.

**Try turning** the computer off and then on again if the screen's  
frozen. Sometimes that works. Try, like stop, changes it's  
meaning slightly depending on whether you use a gerund or an  
infinitive. In the example, Try turning the computer off, you are  
experimenting to see if something works. Another example, If  
your car doesn't start, try pushing it, or if the remote control  
isn't working, try changing the batteries. However, if you use an  
infinitive, "I **tried to lift** the table, but it was too heavy", *en este  
caso estás haciendo un esfuerzo*. - Another example, He tried to  
push the car, but the handbrake was on. *El freno de mano  
estaba puesto*. I hate it when that happens! So remember,  
try+gerundio=*experimentando* (I tried turning it off and on  
again) and try+infinitivo=*esfuerzo* (We tried to win the game,  
but the other team played too well)

I **meant to send** you a copy of the contract by email, but it  
totally slipped my mind. - the verb 'mean' (*con el significado  
tener la intención*) is followed by an infinitive. - I mean to study  
Spanish everyday, but I never do, or - I'm sorry. I never meant  
to hurt you. - *Lo siento, nunca tuve la intención de lastimarte*.

I've never **regretted** not **going** to university. I learned so much  
about life, and about people, just travelling around the world.

Regret is another verb that can take a gerund or an infinitive with a change in meaning. Yes, I know it's complicated, but stay with me! - Regret with the infinitive expresses an unrealized event eg., I regret to tell you = I'm about to tell you. I haven't told you yet.

The gerund expresses an event that has been realized eg., I **regret telling** you. = I told you before.

When regret is followed by the infinitive, it often has quite a formal, official meaning. For example: "We regret to inform you that the train has been delayed", or "I regret to tell you that you have not been offered the promotion."

If you **go on behaving** like that towards your workmates, you won't have any friends left in the office. To go on doing something means to continue doing something. If you go on drinking beer everyday, you'll put on a lot of weight. - I asked her to stop, but she **kept on shouting** at me.

In the **Business English** section this month we looked at some more business English vocabulary. For example, I **have been meaning** to talk to you about the marketing survey you're working on. - As we saw in the advanced section, "to be meaning to do something" *significa tener la intención hacer algo*. - Repeat: I've been meaning to - I've been meaning to ask you - I've been meaning to ask you about the survey. - I've been meaning to buy a new suit - I've been meaning to try that new restaurant.

The bank is trying to sell 20% of its high-street **branches**. - trees have branches, or *ramas* in Spanish, and in a similar way, companies and organizations have branches, which I think in Spanish is *sucursal*. - There's a new branch opening up in the high street. - We're waiting for a branch of Ikea to open up in Valencia.

We **signed off** on the design last week. Now that it's been approved, the next stage is to put it into production. - If you sign off on something you finish it. You can sign off on a project, for example. We're signing off on the project today.

If they had contacted us earlier, we could have **set up** a meeting.

"to set up" in this context means to arrange or organize - Let's set up a meeting for next week. When have they set up the meeting for?

We're currently **negotiating** the renewal of the contract. - negotiate is similar in Spanish - *negociar*. What's the noun of negotiate? - negotiation - The negotiations were difficult.

I **hadn't realised** the sales figures were so low. - realise means *darse cuenta* - We didn't realise the price would be so high. Do you realise what this means for our business?

Well, I haven't realised how long I've been talking for so I hope I haven't bored you too much, and I hope your English is now a little bit better than it was before you started listening to this podcast.

Please remember to leave a review for us on iTunes (notice I said remember to leave (*futuro*) and not remember leaving (*pasado*)!

Thank you so much for listening to this podcast, and for being part of the community of *La Mansión del Inglés*. We will of course be back next month as usual with another podcast based on our monthly newsletter, our *cuaderno de inglés mensual*.

Remember, If you want to contact us you can find us on Facebook. Just search Facebook for ***La Mansión del Inglés*** where you can also ask questions, make comments and do exercises and practise your listening. Or you can send me an email to: [mansionteachers@yahoo.es](mailto: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.

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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*.*