

## November 2012

Hello, hello, hello! A big "thank you" to all of you for downloading this *Mansión Inglés* podcast. This is podcast number 55 recorded for November 2012.

*Este mes, en el nivel básico, hemos practicado las colocaciones de los verbos y había un listening para practicar los sonidos vocales.*

In the intermediate section there was a translation exercise and an exercise to practise any, some, either, neither etc. which can be confusing. More idioms and a gap fill text in the advanced section. There's business vocabulary as usual, and many more ideas and resources to help you improve your English and take it to the next level.

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Ok so, let's begin then as usual with **el nivel básico**. *Escucha y repite las siguientes colocaciones:*

**Get** dressed - I get dressed after my shower. - *Repite:* shower - after my shower - I get dressed - I get dressed after my shower.

**Take** the dog for a walk - I take the dog for a walk every day. - *Repite:* every day - walk - for a - for a walk - the dog for a walk - I take - I take the dog for a walk - I take the dog for a walk every day.

**Have** a shower - I have a shower after breakfast. ¡OJO! - *Se dice* "have a shower" *no se dice* X"Chave a shower"X. *Repite:* have - have a shower - breakfast - after breakfast - have a - have a shower - I have a shower after breakfast.

**Do** your homework - Do your homework every day. - Please help me with my homework! *Repite:* homework - ¡OJO! - *homework*. *No se dice* X"chomework"X - my homework - with my homework - please help me - please help me with my homework!

**Go** shopping - I go shopping with my wife. *Repite:* my wife - with my wife - shopping with my wife - go shopping with my wife - I go shopping with my wife - husband - I go shopping with my husband - Children - I go shopping with my children - We go shopping together - *hacemos la compra juntos*. *Repite:* We go - We go shopping - We go shopping together.

*¡Muy bien!* - Very good!

*En el segundo ejercicio del nivel básico, hemos practicado un 'listening' con los vocales y los sonidos débiles en inglés.*

Por ejemplo la diferencia entre **angry** - enfadado/a y **hungry** - hambriento. Repite: /æ/ angry I'm angry - /ʌ/ hungry - I'm hungry

Where were you born? - Where were you born? *es un poco difícil también.*  
Escucha: Were - Where were - Repite: Were - Where were - Where were you - Where were you born? - *La intonación sube y baja* - Escucha: Where were you born? - Repite: Where were you born? - I was born in London. Where were you born?

What time is it? - It's a quarter to twelve. - Repite: /ɔ/ - It's a - quarter - It's a quarter - to - It's a quarter to - It's a quarter to twelve. - It's a quarter to twelve. - It's a quarter to one. - It's a quarter to two. - It's a quarter to three. - It's a quarter to eleven.

Escucha: It costs seventeen pounds - It costs seventy pounds - *los números 13 hasta 19 llevan el acento en la segunda sílaba: 13, 14, 15, 16 etc. y los números 20, 30, 40, 50 etc. tiene el acento en la primera sílaba.*

Repite: 13 - 30. 14 - 40, 15 - 50, 16 - 60, 17 - 70, 18 - 80, 19 - 90  
Repite: It costs seventeen pounds - It costs seventy pounds

She gets home at seven - to get home *significa llegar a casa. Es más común en el inglés hablado decir 'get home' que 'arrive home'.* Repite: seven - at seven - home at seven - gets home at seven. *No olvides la 's' de la tercera persona* - She gets home. Repite: She gets home - she gets home at seven - She gets home at seven.

Escucha: The first of December - Repite: first - The first of December - second - The second of December - third - The third of December - forth - The forth of December - fifth - The fifth of December - sixth - The sixth of December - seventh - The seventh of December - eighth - The eighth of December - ninth - The ninth of December - tenth - The tenth of December.

El último ejemplo de este ejercicio fue la diferencia entre el sonido /ʌ/ como en la palabra *uncle* - tío, y el sonido /æ/ como en la palabra *ankle* - tobillo. Repite: /æ/ - ankle - My ankle hurts - *me duele el tobillo* Repite: My ankle hurts - I hurt my ankle. Repite: /ʌ/ - uncle - I love my uncle - *Yo amo a mi tío* - My uncle is wonderful.

Good!

In the **intermediate section** this month, we translated some sentences from Spanish into English. I'm going to say the Spanish sentences with my terrible pronunciation, so please don't laugh! I want you to try to say the English sentence before I do. You can also pause this podcast if you need more time to think. Are you ready? Here's the first sentence for you to translate:

*En verano me gusta acostarme tarde.* - I like going to bed late in summer.  
- I like going to bed late in summer.

2. *No nos gusta jugar a las cartas.* - We don't like playing cards. - We don't like playing cards.
3. *Odian ir de compras.* - They hate going shopping. - They hate going shopping.
4. *¿Os gusta ver películas en versión original?* - Do you like watching films in original version? - Do you like watching films in original version?
5. *Le encanta (a ella) desayunar en la cama.* She loves having breakfast in bed. - She loves having breakfast in bed.
6. *Odia (el) trabajar con el ordenador.* - He hates working with the computer. - He hates working with the computer.
7. *No sé nadar muy bien pero me gusta.* - I can't swim very well but I like it. - I can't swim very well but I like it.
8. *¿Que le gusta hacer a tu hermana?* - What does your sister like doing? - What does your sister like doing?
9. *Odio oír a los políticos!* - I hate listening to politicians! - I hate listening to politicians!
10. *Les encanta navegar por internet.* - They love surfing the net. - They love surfing the net.
11. *Odio probar mi ropa.* - I hate trying on clothes. - I hate trying on clothes.
12. *¿Les gusta viajar en avión?* - Do they like travelling by plane? Do they like travelling by plane?

Good! Ok, moving on then to the next exercise we practised confusing words like any, some, either and neither.

So, listen and repeat the following sentences.

Would you like some cake?

I'll have some cheese.

Is there any beer?

I like some classical music, but not all.

I'll listen to any hip hop music. I love it.

We have Irish whisky and Scotch Whisky. Which would you prefer?

I've got some money. Not much though.

How much wine is there?

All of you helped me.

None of you complained.

I don't know anyone who speaks German.

There's someone at the door.

No there isn't! There's no one there!

Very good! - ¡Muy bien!

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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, *De lo perdido saca lo que puedas*. - in English it's **Make the best of it**. - Make the best of a bad situation. - Make the best of it. You can also say, "Make the most of it" - Repeat: make the most of it.

The next idiom is: *Poderoso caballero es don Dinero*. - Money talks bullsh\*t walks - It's common to hear only the first part. Money talks.

Next was *De Guatemala a Guatepeor* - In English we say "Out of the frying pan, into the fire" - To go from a bad situation to a worse one. I know that our friends in Guatemala don't like this expression, but I don't know any other translation. So if you can help me and tell me another way to say 'Out of the frying pan and into the fire', please send me an email at [mansionteachers@yahoo.com](mailto:mansionteachers@yahoo.com) or send me a message on our Facebook page 'La Mansion del Ingles'

The next idiom was: *En los nidos de antaño, no hay pajaros hogaño*. - Time doesn't stand still. - Time stands still for no man.

*Desgraciado en el juego, afortunado en amores* - is a direct translation to English. It's 'Unlucky in cards, lucky in love'. Unfortunately, I have always been both unlucky at cards and in love!

The last one is *A perro flaco, todo son pulgas*. - Misery loves company. This is something that you say which means that people who are feeling sad usually want the people they are with to also feel sad, for example: "On a bad day, she isn't satisfied till the entire family is in tears. Misery loves company."

Also in the advanced section this month there was a gap-fill text. I'm going to read the text twice. The first time, just listen. The second time I'll stop in different places. When I stop, try to say the next word before I do. Even if you can't remember, you can guess what the next word might be.

### **Children and Convenience Foods**

Nowadays, parents often feel guilty if they don't give their children healthy food for every single meal. Packaged food is frequently known as 'junk food' but in many instances that simply isn't so. Of course children should eat well, but meals should also be relaxed, enthusiastic and compatible with family life today.

And it's essential to remember that most parents of young children are by definition, extremely busy people. Convenience foods are here to stay and they can be a valuable aid to the pursuit of happiness.

Parents must seek out the best and aim for a balance between real food and practicality. With all these convenience foods, you can balance out the meal by adding something fresh and home-made. When your children beg for ice-cream give them frozen yoghurt with fresh fruit. Indeed, a home where the fruit bowl needs refilling regularly is a home where people eat well. The crucial point is balance. What is at stake is your child's gastronomic happiness.

Ok I'll read the test again. Remember, when I stop try to say the next word before I do. Even if you can't remember, you can guess what the next word might be.

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Very good! Well done!

Moving on to **Business English**, let's practise some business vocabulary.

Be careful of the difference between **convenient** and **comfortable**. A chair is comfortable, a bed is comfortable. You can be in a comfortable, or an uncomfortable, situation. Shoes and clothes are comfortable or uncomfortable. However, if something is convenient for you it suits you. For example. Let's meet tomorrow. Is 3 o'clock convenient? Is 3 o'clock a good time for you? I can't meet you before 3 o'clock, because I have to work. It's not convenient for me to meet you before 3. I would not use 'comfortable' in this context.

If you pay money **upfront**, you pay before, at the beginning. When you pay someone to paint your flat, for example, the painter has to buy the paint before he or she starts. So when you agree a price, you might pay some money upfront so that the painter can buy the materials.

Remember that you **apply for** a job and you **apply to** a company or a person. I'm applying to Microsoft for the position of software developer. I'm applying for a job at Microsoft.

**To switch** means to make a change. We have recently switched from the telephone company to cable for our internet connection. I've switched to a different brand of tomato sauce because it's cheaper.

If something **sees the light of day**, it means to be made available or to be known about. For example. The company agreed the ad was an embarrassment and promised it would never again see the light of day.

Don't confuse **remind** with **remember**. Remind is *hacerle acordar a alguien* and remember is *acordarse*. Remind usually has a direct object. Remind **me** to buy fruit. Repeat: Remind me to buy fruit. Remind **us** to send a birthday card. Repeat: Remind us to send a birthday card. Did you

remind **her** about the doctor's appointment? Repeat: Did you remind her about the doctor's appointment.

Hmmm, that **reminds me**, I need to get back to working on the 4th eBook in our series for teachers on Teaching Conversation, but don't worry, we'll be back with you next month with another podcast from our monthly newsletter, our *cuaderno de inglés mensual*. Remember you can listen to all our previous podcasts at [mansioningles.com](http://mansioningles.com) and on iTunes.

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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*.*