

April 2013

Hello once again and welcome to another Mansion Ingles podcast. This is podcast number 60 recorded for April 2013.

Este mes, en el nivel básico practicamos el pasado simple y los contarios. En el nivel intermedio enfocamos en la diferencia entre los verbos SAY y TELL and also we look at some confusing words. In the advanced section, there are some animal idioms and more collective nouns that we started studying last month. There's business vocabulary as usual, and a translation exercise 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**. El primer ejercicio trataba del tiempo verbal pasado simple. Escucha y repite algunas frases del dialogo.

Escucha: Did you have a good holiday? *Repite:* good holiday - have a - have good holiday - Did you have? Did you have a good holiday?

Escucha: Where did you go? *Repite:* go - did you - did you go - Where did you go?

Escucha: We went to London. *Repite:* London - to London - We went to London.

Escucha: We found a wonderful hotel. *Repite:* - hotel - a wonderful hotel - We found - We found a wonderful hotel.

Did you fly? - *Repite:* fly - did you - did you fly?

No, we didn't fly *Repite:* We didn't fly - No, we didn't fly.

Escucha: The flights were too expensive. **fly** es el verbo (volar) y **flight** es el nombre (vuelo). *Repite:* flights - the flights - too expensive (demasiado caro) *Repite:* too expensive - The flights were too expensive.

Escucha: We drove there. *El verbo drive (conducir) es irregular - drive - drove - driven. Repite: drive - drove - driven.* We drove - We drove there.

Escucha: It took about 24 hours. *El verbo take también es irregular. Repite: take - took - taken.* It took - 24 hours - about 24 hours - It took about 24 hours.

Escucha: We stopped every five or six hours. *Repite: hours - five or six hours - We stopped - We stopped every five or six hours.*

We had a great time. *Repite: We had - we had a - We had a great time. - We had a great time.*

Escucha: I improved my English a lot. A lot *significa mucho. Repite: a lot - My English - my English a lot - I improved - I improved my English a lot.*

We spent too much money. too much *es demasiado - too much money - demasiado dinero. to spend (gastar) es otro verbo irregular. Escucha: Spend - spent - spent.* Repite: spend - spent - spent. We spent - too much money - We spend too much money.

What did you do? *Repite: do - did you - did you do - What did you do? - What about you? What did you do?*

Escucha: We didn't go anywhere - *Repite: anywhere - didn't go - didn't go anywhere - We didn't go anywhere.*

We stayed in Barcelona. *Repite: We stayed - We stayed in Barcelona - we stayed in Barcelona.*

Very good! *¿Muy bien!*

A continuación hemos revisado algunas contrarios. Contrarios en inglés son opposites.

Voy a decir una lista de palabras y tú tienes que decir los contrarios antes que los digo yo. Después, repite los contrarios para practicar la pronunciación. ¿Listo? ok.

good – bad
 black – white
 big – small / little
 old – new / young
 off – on
 cold – hot

true – false
 expensive – cheap
 wrong – right
 married – single

Very good! *¿Muy bien!*

Ok, moving on to the **intermediate section**, we practised the difference between **say** and **tell**.

After **tell**, we usually say **who** is spoken to and we do not put **to** before the object. - *No ponemos el **to** antes del objeto.*

*Por ejemplo, decimos **Tell me** your name. No se dice **X**Tell to me your name**X**.*

After **say**, we don't have to say **who** is spoken to. If we do, we put **to** before the object. *Con **say** si se puede poner el **to** antes del objeto.*

*Por ejemplo, podemos decir What did your boss **say to you**? - Pero no se dice, **X**What did your boss say you.**X***

Tell means to inform or instruct. For example: **Tell me** how to do it.

It's common to use tell in the following expressions: **tell** a lie / **tell** the truth, **tell** a story, **tell** me his name, *y decimos **say** something, **say** something in Chinese, for example. **Say** something in French. **Say** 'yes'.*

*Repite: **tell** a lie / **tell** the truth, **tell** a story, **say** something in Chinese, **tell** me his name, **say** 'yes'.*

Listen and repeat the following sentences.

Why didn't you **say** goodbye?

OK, **Tell** me what you need.

Who **said** that?

Tell her to shut her mouth.

Say something in French.

Pepito **told** his girlfriend a lie.

Don't **tell** lies.

Tell the truth.

Tell me that you love me.

Sorry, did you **say** something?

You don't **tell** me anything.

Have you **told** your boss?

Sorry, what did you **say**?

Please **say** 'yes'.

The second exercise in the intermediate section was about confusing words, and we looked at the words **prevent, protect, divert, avoid** and **guard**. Listen and repeat some examples.

Avoid means *evitar* and when it's followed by a verb the verb is a gerund (*un gerundio*). Listen: I **avoided speaking** to her. Repeat: I avoided speaking to her. He always avoids going to meetings.

The verb **protect** (*proteger*) is usually followed by an object. Repeat: It protects me. I try to protect her. The case protects my phone.

Divert in Spanish is *desviar* Repeat: divert the traffic. We were diverted. The noun is **diversion**. Repeat: diversion - The was a diversion.

Prevent is *impedir* and it's usually followed by an object and the preposition **from**. To prevent something from happening or to prevent someone from doing something. Repeat: They prevented me from doing it. She prevented him from going. Don't prevent me from trying.

The last word was **guard** which can be a verb or a noun. To guard someone or something and a guard (*guardia*). A security guard es *un guardia de seguridad*. Repeat: security guard. Police are guarding the terrorists. You can say that someone is **under** guard. They are under guard at a high security prison.

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In the **advanced section**, we had some animal **idioms**. Listen and repeat some example sentences.

It's about 30 kilometres, as the **crow** flies.

Stop making such a **pig** of yourself.

Don't let the **cat** out of the bag. It's a secret.

Be brave! Come on! ¡Animo! You must do it! Don't **chicken out**.

He's as blind as a **bat**. He can't see a thing.

Be careful! You're like a **bull** in a china shop.

She's got a **bee** in her bonnet about something.

Something's not right. I can I smelt a **rat**.

Ok, moving on to **collective nouns**. What do you call a collection of fighter jets? It's a squadron. A **squadron of fighter planes** or jets. If there's a big crowd of people and all you can see are faces you can call it a sea S-E-A of faces. Do you say that in Spanish, ¿*un mar de caras*? - **a sea of faces**.

Wolves, *lobos*, many wolves together are a **pack of wolves**.

When soldiers, police etc. fire automatic weapons you can say there was a **hail of bullets**. Bullets son *balas*. The bank robbers came out in a hail of bullets.

Many papers together can be called a **bundle of papers**. There's usually a bundle of papers on my desk (I'm not very tidy). You can also have a bundle of clothes, and there's usually a bundle of clothes in the corner of my room too! I must get organised.

Seagulls are *gaviotas*, the collective term is a **flock of seagulls**. Of course, we can also have a flock of sheep. Notice I said 'sheep' for the plural and not **XsheepsX**. It's an exception.

But we don't say a flock of goats (*cabras*), we say a herd of goats. H-E-R-D. A herd of goats.

Finally, if you hear many rumours (*rumores*), you call it a **spate** of rumours. S-P-A-T-E - A spate of rumours. There's a spate of rumours going round the office about our new boss.

Listen and repeat these collective nouns after me.

a **squadron** of fighter jets
 a **sea** of faces
 a **pack** of wolves
 a **hail** of bullets
 a **bundle** of papers
 a **flock** of seagulls
 a **herd** of goats
 a **spate** of rumours

In the **Business English** section we looked at some more business English vocabulary, and the first was the phrasal verb **to set up**. To set up a business means to start a business. Repeat: to set up a business. To set up a company. We set up our business last year.

The next phrasal verb was **to look through**. I looked through the documents. You can also look through a book (*hojear un libro*). I looked through the guide book, but I couldn't find the hotel. Would you mind looking through these instructions?

Next we had the phrasal verb **to walk someone through something**, which means to guide someone or to explain

something in detail. - To walk someone through something, Repeat: Can you walk me through it? Can you walk me through your sales strategy? Let me walk you through the legal side of the agreement.

One by one means one at a time, *uno por uno*. I looked through the papers one by one until I found the one I was looking for.

If you are a **temp**, you are a temporary worker. Temp can also be used as a verb. I'm temping for the company until something better comes up. I've been temping for six months.

If you give **feedback**, you give your opinion about something. I was given positive feedback on my presentation. Please complete these feedback forms before you leave the meeting. Let me have your feedback by email.

The word **compliment** (*cumplido*) collocates with the verb **to pay**, so you pay someone a compliment. Repeat: to pay a compliment. She paid me a lovely compliment - She paid me a lovely compliment on my work. I get embarrassed when people pay me compliments.

If you are **snowed under**, you are very busy. Repeat: I'm snowed under - I'm snowed under at work - I'm totally snowed under this week.

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?

It was a wonderful/marvellous experience. - *Fue una experiencia maravillosa*. - Repeat: It was a wonderful experience. - It was a marvellous experience.

This is the end. - *Éste es el final*. - Repeat: This is the end.

Things are never clear. - *Las cosas nunca están claras*. - Repeat: Things are never clear.

What did you do? - *¿Qué hiciste?* - Repeat: What did you do?

"Suck the prawn's head." (or "the head of the prawn") - *Chupa la cabeza de la gamba*. - Repeat: "Suck the prawn's head.", or "Suck the head of the prawn")

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

Llevan tres meses casados. - They've been married for three months. Repeat: They've been married for three months.

Antes había más gente aquí. - There used to be more people here. Repeat: There used to be more people here.

Estos resultados son un poco mejores. - These results are a little better. Repeat: These results are a little better.

Las corbatas no son necesarias. - Ties aren't necessary. / Ties are unnecessary. Repeat: Ties aren't necessary. Ties are unnecessary.

¿Hubo tormentas? - Were there any storms? Repeat: Were there any storms?

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*.*