FLASHFEED STUDY GUIDE

Spanish: People & Everyday Life

Study guide by FlashFeed

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Spanish: People & Everyday Life: study guide

Latin American Spanish for the people in your life: family and how people look and act, work, school and the daily routine, then feelings, opinions and getting along with others.

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Contents	3 lessons · 241 cards in the app · 75 self-test questions · 2 pictures
In the app	flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/spanish-people-life

How to use this guide

Take one lesson at a time: read the study guide, then go over any key facts. Where a lesson has a self-test, try it from memory before you check the answer key at the back. Follow the Go deeper links when you want more.

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LESSON 1 OF 3

Lesson 1: Family & People

Part 1: Family Members · Part 2: Describing People · Part 3: Relationships

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Name the in-law relationships (suegro/suegra, yerno, nuera, cuñado).
- Identify cousins, nieces/nephews, and in-law terms, including your sister's husband.
- Describe a person's physical appearance by height, build, and hair color.
- Describe personality using ser and recognize the false friend simpático.
- State marital status and social-bond relationships (married/single/divorced, boyfriend, friend, acquaintance).

Family & People

This lesson covers three layers: the extended family beyond *mother* and *father*, the words you need to describe a person physically and in temperament, and the social-status terms that come up the second anyone introduces anyone.

Family Members

You probably already have **padre**, **madre**, **hermano**, **hermana**. The next ring out is in-laws and cousins, and Spanish gives them all their own words rather than English's awkward "-in-law" tacked on.

El suegro is your *father-in-law*; **la suegra**, your *mother-in-law*. Their counterparts going the other direction are **el yerno** (*son-in-law*) and **la nuera** (*daughter-in-law*) — note that **nuera** isn't a feminine version of **yerno**, they're separate words. Your spouse's siblings are **cuñados**: **el cuñado** for *brother-in-law*, **la cuñada** for *sister-in-law*. If your sister got married, her husband is **tu cuñado**.

Cousins are **el primo / la prima**, nieces and nephews **el sobrino / la sobrina**. In casual speech people often just say **primo** for a cousin of any degree, and add **primo segundo** (*second cousin*) when they need to be precise.

Family shapes vary, and Spanish has terms for them, such as **familias monoparentales** (*single-parent families*) and **familias reconstituidas** (*blended families*).

Describing People

Description splits into **aspecto físico** (*physical appearance*) and **carácter** (*personality*). Both use **ser** for the permanent version, **estar** for the right-now version.

For height and build: **alto / bajo** (*tall / short*), **delgado** (*slender*), **gordo** (*heavy* — used neutrally but cautiously). Color words typically map **rubio** to *blonde* hair and **moreno** to *brown or dark skin* — the word can describe dark hair too. **Castaño** specifically means *chestnut-brown hair*.

Personality words tend to look like their English cognates because they share Latin roots: **optimista**, **serio**, **inteligente**, **simpático** (*friendly*, *likeable* — a false friend if you read it as *sympathetic*).

The **ser/estar** distinction matters here. *Mi abuela es optimista* — she's optimistic as a trait. *Mi abuela está cansada* — she's tired right now. A useful rule of thumb for describing people: **ser** for who someone is, **estar** for how they happen to be at the moment.

Relationships

These are the words for marital and romantic status. **Soltero / soltera** (*single*), **casado / casada** (*married*), **divorciado / divorciada** (*divorced*), **viudo / viuda** (*widowed*).

Novio and **novia** cover a wide range — anyone from a serious dating partner to the person you're about to marry. Context decides. **Tiene novio** means *she has a boyfriend*; on a wedding day, **el novio** is *the groom*. **Comprometido** means *engaged* in a romantic sense — also *committed* more generally, but with relationships it specifically means a ring is involved.

Lower-temperature bonds: **el amigo / la amiga** (*friend*), **el conocido / la conocida** (*acquaintance* — literally *the known person*). An **amigo** is a step closer than a **conocido**.

Key concepts

el suegro

- A Spanish in-law relation expressed in a single word rather than an '-in-law' phrase.
- You gain this relative through marriage — he is on your spouse's side.
- He is your spouse's father, your father-in-law.

la suegra

- A Spanish in-law word, the female counterpart within the same relationship as the father-in-law term.
- You acquire her when you marry into a family.
- She is your spouse's mother, your mother-in-law.

el yerno

- A one-word Spanish in-law term whose feminine equivalent is a completely different word, not a simple vowel swap.
- He entered the family by marrying one of its daughters.
- He's your son-in-law.

la nuera

- A Spanish in-law word notable for not being the feminine of the matching male term — it is its own separate word.
- She entered the family by marrying one of its sons.
- She's your daughter-in-law.

el cuñado

- A Spanish in-law word for someone in your own generation rather than your spouse's parents.
- When your sister marries, her husband becomes this to you.
- He's your brother-in-law.

Key facts

Nuera isn't yerno's feminine

Most Spanish in-law pairs just swap a vowel: **suegro / suegra**, **cuñado / cuñada**. The son- and daughter-in-law break the pattern — **el yerno** and **la nuera** are two unrelated words, so there is no shortcut here. You memorize both.

Everyone Is Just a Primo

El primo / la prima is a cousin and **el sobrino / la sobrina** a nephew or niece. In casual speech people often just say **primo** for a cousin of any degree, and use **primo segundo** when they need to be precise. Unlike the **cuñados** and **suegros**, these are blood relatives.

El cuñado

In Spanish, 'el cuñado' is the term for a brother-in-law — for example, your sister's husband.

La nuera

'La nuera' is the Spanish word for a daughter-in-law, distinct from 'la suegra' (mother-in-law) or 'la cuñada' (sister-in-law).

Aspecto Físico y Carácter

Describing people in Spanish generally splits into **aspecto físico** (physical appearance) and **carácter** (personality). A useful rule of thumb: **ser** for lasting traits (*ser alto*) and **estar** for how someone is right now (*estar cansado*).

Simpático Is Not Sympathetic

Personality words mostly land where a Latin-root guess puts them: **optimista**, **serio**, **inteligente**. Then **simpático** breaks the streak — it means *friendly* or *likeable*, not *sympathetic*. It praises someone's charm, not their compassion.

Castaño

'Castaño' specifically means chestnut-brown hair in Spanish, distinct from 'rubio' (blonde) and 'moreno' (brown-skinned or dark-haired).

Delgado

'Delgado' means thin or slender when describing someone's build in Spanish, distinct from words for height like 'alto' and 'bajo.'

> **Four Marital Statuses, One Vowel Swap**
> **Soltero** (*single*), **casado** (*married*), **divorciado** (*divorced*), **viudo** (*widowed*) — each swaps its **-o** for an **-a** when the person is a woman, so English's two separate nouns *widower* and *widow* are simply **viudo** and **viuda**.

> **Conocido and Amigo**
> **El conocido** is literally *the known person* — an acquaintance, someone whose name you happen to have. **El amigo / la amiga** is a friend, a step closer than a **conocido**.

> **El conocido**
> 'El conocido' — literally 'the known person' — refers to an acquaintance in Spanish, a step below 'amigo' (friend) or 'novio' (boyfriend).

> **Amigo**
> 'Amigo' describes a friendship bond in Spanish, unlike 'soltero,' 'casado,' and 'divorciado,' which all describe marital status.

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

Suegro / Suegra → Father-in-law / Mother-in-law

Cuñado / Cuñada → Brother-in-law / Sister-in-law

La nuera → The daughter-in-law

El yerno → The son-in-law

El primo / La prima → The cousin

El sobrino / La sobrina → The nephew / The niece

Optimista → Optimistic

Serio → Serious

Delgado → Thin / Slender

Bajo → Short (height)

Rubio / Rubia → Blonde

Moreno / Morena → Brown-skinned (or dark-haired)

Casado / Casada → Married

Soltero / Soltera → Single

Divorciado / Divorciada → Divorced

Novio / Novia → Boyfriend / Girlfriend

Amigo / Amiga → Friend

El conocido → The acquaintance

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. Which term means 'father-in-law'?

A. El cuñado
B. El suegro
C. El yerno
D. El sobrino

2. 'La nuera' refers to which family member?

A. The sister-in-law
B. The mother-in-law
C. The niece
D. The daughter-in-law

3. Your spouse's brother is your ___.

A. primo
B. yerno
C. cuñado
D. suegro

4. Which of these does NOT describe an in-law relationship?

A. El primo
B. La nuera
C. El suegro
D. El yerno

5. What is notable about the word 'nuera' among the in-law terms?

A. It is simply the feminine of 'yerno'
B. It means both son- and daughter-in-law
C. It is a separate word, not the feminine form of 'yerno'
D. It is only used for cousins

6. What is the term for your sister's husband?

A. El yerno
B. El sobrino
C. El suegro
D. El cuñado

7. 'El primo' means:

A. The son-in-law
B. The cousin
C. The brother-in-law
D. The nephew

8. Which pair correctly matches 'el sobrino / la sobrina'?

A. The nephew / The niece
B. The cousin / The cousin
C. The son / The daughter
D. The grandson / The granddaughter

9. How does everyday Spanish usually refer to a second cousin?

A. A unique single word, unrelated to 'primo'
B. Always 'primo segundo', never simply 'primo'
C. Just 'primo', adding 'segundo' only when precision is needed
D. Even casually, 'primo' is reserved for first cousins; a second cousin can't be called 'primo'

10. Which term is NOT a blood relative?

A. La sobrina
B. El primo
C. El sobrino
D. La cuñada

11. Which word means 'short' (in height)?

A. Bajo
B. Alto
C. Gordo
D. Delgado

12. 'Delgado' describes a person's:

A. Tall height
B. Slender build
C. Blonde hair
D. Friendly nature

13. 'Moreno' typically describes someone who is:

A. Slender
B. Tall
C. Blonde
D. Brown-skinned

14. Which word specifically means 'chestnut-brown hair'?

A. Bajo
B. Moreno
C. Castaño
D. Rubio

15. Which of these does NOT describe physical appearance?

A. Optimista
B. Delgado
C. Rubio
D. Alto

16. 'Simpático' is a common false friend when describing someone's personality. What does it actually mean?

A. Sympathetic / compassionate
B. Friendly / likeable
C. Simple / uncomplicated
D. Sensitive / emotional

17. Which verb fits a permanent personality trait: 'Mi abuela ___ optimista'?

A. está
B. hay
C. es
D. tiene

18. 'Mi abuela ___ cansada' (she's tired right now) uses which verb?

A. está
B. son
C. ser
D. es

19. 'Serio' means:

A Optimistic
B Intelligent
C Friendly
D Serious

20. Which of these words is NOT a personality (carácter) trait?

A Optimista
B Delgado
C Simpático
D Serio

21. Which word names a romantic partner rather than a marital status?

A Soltero/a
B Suegro/a
C Novio/a
D Casado/a

22. Which word means 'married'?

A Viudo
B Soltero
C Divorciado
D Casado

23. 'El conocido' refers to:

A An acquaintance
B A spouse
C A boyfriend
D A close friend

24. Which term means 'widowed'?

A Casado
B Viudo
C Novio
D Soltero

25. Which word describes a friendship bond rather than a marital status?

A Casado
B Soltero
C Divorciado
D Amigo

Go deeper

WATCH In-Laws Get Their Own Words 0:31 · YouTube
Spanish gives in-laws their own words. Your father-in-law is el suegro. Your mother-in-law is la suegra.

WATCH Simpático Means Friendly 0:32 · YouTube
To describe someone, Spanish splits looks from personality: aspecto físico and carácter.

WATCH Novio: Boyfriend or Groom? 0:31 · YouTube
Soltero is single. Casado is married. Divorciado is divorced, and viudo is widowed.

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/spanish-people-life/lesson-1-family-and-people

STUDY Spanish: People & Everyday Life in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/spanish-people-life

LESSON 2 OF 3

Lesson 2: Work, Study & Daily Routine

Part 1: Daily Routine · Part 2: Jobs and Professions · Part 3: Office or Classroom

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Narrate a daily routine using reflexive verbs (wake up, get up, shower, dress, brush teeth, go to bed).
- Explain the structure of a conjugated reflexive verb.
- Name professions with their gender inflection.
- Identify professions in context and confirm their meanings.
- Name office and classroom words in Spanish, including la computadora.

Work, Study & Daily Routine

This lesson is the first real step into intermediate territory, because it forces a new grammatical construction: the **reflexive verb**. Reflexives are how Spanish narrates the parts of your day where the action loops back on the doer — waking up, getting dressed, brushing your teeth. From there the lesson moves outward into the working world: what you do, where you do it, and what you call the computer on your desk.

Daily Routine

A reflexive verb has a *-se* tag on the infinitive: **despertarse** (*to wake up*), **levantarse** (*to get up*), **bañarse** (*to shower*), **vestirse** (*to get dressed*), **acostarse** (*to go to bed*), **cepillarse** los dientes (*to brush one's teeth*). In Mexico, **bañarse** is the everyday verb for showering (it can also mean to take a bath); **ducharse** also means to shower and is just as correct. In Spain the shower is *la ducha* and the verb is *ducharse*, while *bañarse* implies a soak in a tub.

The conjugation follows a clear shape: **(subject pronoun) + reflexive pronoun + conjugated verb**, and the subject pronoun is usually dropped (*Me baño*). *Yo me baño. Tú te despiertas. Ella se acuesta.* The reflexive pronoun goes immediately before a conjugated verb (with an affirmative command it attaches after: *levántate*, *date cuenta*), and it changes with the person — *me, te, se, nos, se*. The cloze drill in this lesson — *Yo me ___ de la cama a las siete cada mañana* — wants **levanto**: the pronoun *me* is already there, and the verb must be the *yo* form that goes with it, with *de la cama* (out of bed) pointing to *levantarse*.

A useful intuition: if the action is something you do to yourself, Spanish marks it. *Levantar* means to lift something; *levantarse* means to lift *yourself* up out of bed.

Jobs and Professions

Job titles inflect for gender in modern Spanish: **ingeniero / ingeniera** (*engineer*), **maestro / maestra** (*teacher*), **abogado / abogada** (*lawyer*), **mesero / mesera** (*server*). **Médico** still leans masculine as a default but **médica** is standard for a female doctor. **Estudiante** is invariant — same word, either gender.

You can also describe a job by its workplace: **el maestro** works *en una escuela* (*in a school*), **el médico** *en un hospital*, **el mesero** *en un restaurante*, and **el abogado** *en un tribunal* (*in a court*). *Trabajo en un tribunal y defiendo a mis clientes* (*I work in a court and I defend my clients*) gives the lawyer away in one line, and *Sirvo comida y bebidas a los clientes* (*I serve food and drinks to customers*) gives away the mesero.

One word worth memorizing: **el desempleo**, which is what Latin America generally says for *unemployment*. In Spain, **estar en el paro** means *to be unemployed*. **El paro** is unemployment. In Spain you will often hear *la tasa de paro* — the unemployment rate — in the news.

Office or Classroom

The settings vocabulary is straightforward: **la oficina** (*the office*), **el aula** (*the classroom*), **la reunión** (*the meeting*), **el horario** (*the schedule*), **la tarea** (*the task* or *homework*, depending on context).

The interesting word is **la computadora**. In most of Latin America, the computer is a *computadora* (Chile and Colombia prefer *el computador*). In Spain, it's **el ordenador** — from French *ordinateur*. Both are correct; pick one and stick with it for the country you're aiming at. Calling a computer *la computadora* in Madrid won't confuse anyone, but it marks you instantly as Latin-American-trained.

The cloze *Ayer me __ cuenta de que tenía una reunión* drills another reflexive: **darse cuenta de** (*to realize*). It's idiomatic and high-frequency — *me di cuenta*, *me doy cuenta*, *date cuenta*. The literal *to give oneself account of* doesn't parse in English, but the construction is everywhere in spoken Spanish.

Key concepts

el ingeniero

- A profession whose title changes ending for gender: -o for a man, -a for a woman.
- This person designs and builds things like bridges, machines, or software.
- The Spanish word for an engineer.

el maestro

- A profession that inflects for gender, taking an -o or an -a ending.
- This person teaches children in a school classroom.
- The Spanish word for a schoolteacher.

el abogado

- A gendered profession title ending in -o or -a.
- This person represents clients and argues cases in matters of law.
- The Spanish word for a lawyer.

el mesero

- A gender-inflected job title from the professions vocabulary.
- This person takes your order and brings your food in a restaurant.
- The Spanish word for a waiter or server.

el médico

- A profession that still leans masculine as a default, though the -a form is now standard for a woman.
- This person examines patients, diagnoses illness, and writes the prescription (receta) you take to the pharmacy.
- The Spanish word for a doctor or physician.

Key facts

> **Bañarse: Mexico's Shower Verb**
>
> **Bañarse** is the everyday Mexican verb for taking a shower: *Me baño.* **Ducharse** means the same and is just as correct in Mexico. In Spain the shower verb is *ducharse*, and *bañarse* suggests a soak in a tub. Many other countries in the Americas use *bañarse* for a shower too.

> **Conjugating Reflexives**
>
> Reflexive verbs end in **-se** in the infinitive (*bañarse*). When conjugated, the structure is: **(SUBJECT PRONOUN) + REFLEXIVE PRONOUN + VERB**. The subject pronoun is optional and usually dropped. Example: *(Yo) me baño*.



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Me, Te, Se

The reflexive pronoun sits immediately before the conjugated verb and shifts with who is doing it — **me, te, se, nos, se**. *Yo me baño. Tú te despiertas. Ella se acuesta.* Drop the pronoun and the action points outward instead: *baño a mi hijo* means you are bathing **someone else**.

> **Bañarse**
>
> 'Bañarse' means to shower, one of a family of reflexive daily-routine verbs that also includes 'vestirse' (to get dressed), 'levantarse' (to get up), and 'cepillarse' (to brush).

> **Cepillarse los Dientes**
>
> To say you brush your teeth in Spanish, use the reflexive phrase 'cepillarse los dientes.' The related routine verbs cover showering, getting dressed, and waking up.

The One That Won't Swap

Most of these professions trade **-o** for **-a**: *ingeniero* → *ingeniera*, *maestro* → *maestra*, *abogado* → *abogada*, *mesero* → *mesera*. **Médico** still leans masculine as the default label, but **médica** is standard for a woman. **Estudiante** is the holdout among them — one form, either gender, no ending to change.

El Desempleo: Latin America's Word for Unemployment

Latin America generally says **el desempleo** for unemployment. Spain uses *desempleo* too, but everyday Spanish and the news lean on **el paro**: *estar en el paro* means to be out of work — literally *to be in the stoppage*. **La tasa de paro** (*the unemployment rate*) is a staple of Spain's economic news.

Médica

The standard Spanish word for a female doctor is 'médica.' 'Médico' leans masculine, 'medicina' means medicine, and 'enfermera' means nurse.

Abogado or Abogada

'Abogado' (or 'abogada' for a woman) means lawyer, distinct from 'maestro' (teacher), 'mesero' (server), and 'ingeniero' (engineer) — other common profession words.

Darse Cuenta: The Verb for Realizing

Darse cuenta de means *to realize* — literally *to give oneself account of*, which parses in no English at all. It is everywhere in speech: *me di cuenta* (*I realized*), *me doy cuenta*, *date cuenta*. Keep the **de**: *me di cuenta de que tenía una reunión*.

El Horario

'El horario' means the schedule. In the same office vocabulary set, 'la tarea' is the task or homework, 'la oficina' is the office, and 'el aula' is the classroom.

El Aula

In Spanish office and school vocabulary, 'el aula' specifically means the classroom — distinct from 'la oficina' (office) and 'la reunión' (meeting).

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

Despertarse → To wake up

Levantarse → To get up

Bañarse → To shower

Vestirse → To get dressed

Acostarse → To go to bed / lie down

Cepillarse (los dientes) → To brush (teeth)

Ingeniero / Ingeniera → Engineer

Maestro / Maestra → Teacher

Abogado / Abogada → Lawyer

Médico → Doctor

Mesero / Mesera → Waiter / Server

Estudiante → Student

La reunión → The meeting

La oficina → The office

El aula → The classroom

El horario → The schedule / timetable

La computadora → The computer

La tarea → The task / homework

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. What does the reflexive verb 'despertarse' mean?

A To wake up
B To go to bed
C To get up
D To shower

2. Which reflexive verb means 'to shower'?

A Cepillarse
B Bañarse
C Levantarse
D Vestirse

3. 'Levantar' means 'to lift something'. What does the reflexive 'levantarse' mean?

A To lift someone else up
B To lift weights at the gym
C To wake up from a dream
D To get up out of bed

4. To say you brush your teeth, which verb do you use?

A Despertarse
B Bañarse
C Cepillarse
D Vestirse

5. Which pair correctly matches the reflexive verb to its meaning?

A Bañarse — to get dressed
B Vestirse — to wake up
C Acostarse — to go to bed
D Levantarse — to shower

6. Reflexive verbs end in **-se** in the infinitive (*bañarse*). When conjugated, the structure is: **(___) + REFLEXIVE PRONOUN + VERB**. The first part is optional and usually dropped, as in *Me baño*.

A SUBJECT PRONOUN
B AUXILIARY VERB
C DEFINITE ARTICLE
D DIRECT OBJECT

7. In the sentence 'Yo me baño', which word is the reflexive pronoun?

A yo
B me
C lo
D baño

8. Complete: 'Yo ___ levanto a las siete cada mañana.'

A se
B nos
C te
D me

9. Complete: 'Ella ___ acuesta tarde todos los días.'

A nos
B se
C te
D me

10. Complete: 'Tú ___ despiertas temprano.'

A se
B me
C te
D nos

11. How do you say 'engineer' referring to a woman?

A Ingeniera
B Maestra
C Ingeniero
D Abogada

12. Which profession means 'lawyer'?

A Ingeniero / Ingeniera
B Mesero / Mesera
C Maestro / Maestra
D Abogado / Abogada

13. Which job title is invariant — the same word for either gender?

A Mesero
B Estudiante
C Abogado
D Maestro

14. What is the feminine form of 'maestro' (teacher)?

A Maese
B Maestría
C Maestra
D Maestro

15. What is the standard word for a female doctor?

A Médico
B Maestra
C Enfermera
D Médica

16. Where does a 'maestro' usually work?

A. En una escuela
B. En una oficina
C. En un hospital
D. En un restaurante

17. Where does a 'mesero' typically work?

A. En un hospital
B. En una oficina
C. En un restaurante
D. En una escuela

18. Where does a 'médico' usually work?

A. En un restaurante
B. En un hospital
C. En un aula
D. En una escuela

19. 'Trabajo en un tribunal y defiendo a mis clientes.' Which profession is this?

A. Abogado
B. Ingeniero
C. Mesero
D. Médico

20. 'Sirvo comida y bebidas a los clientes.' Which profession is this?

A. Ingeniero
B. Médico
C. Abogado
D. Mesero

21. Which word means 'the computer'?

A. La oficina
B. El televisor
C. La pantalla
D. La computadora

22. What does 'la computadora' mean?

A. The meeting
B. The computer
C. The schedule
D. The classroom

23. In most of Latin America, what is the usual word for 'the computer'?

A. La computadora
B. El horario
C. El televisor
D. La pantalla

24. Which word means 'the classroom'?

A. La oficina
B. El horario
C. El aula
D. La reunión

25. Which pair correctly matches the word with its meaning?

A. El horario — the schedule
B. La tarea — the meeting
C. La oficina — the classroom
D. El aula — the office

Go deeper

WATCH Verbs You Do to Yourself 0:28 · YouTube
Spanish marks actions you do to yourself. The verb ends in se: levantarse, to get up.

WATCH Ingeniero or Ingeniera 0:29 · YouTube
Job titles change for gender. Ingeniero, ingeniera. Maestro, maestra. Abogado, abogada.

WATCH La Computadora and El Aula 0:31 · YouTube
La oficina is the office. El aula is the classroom. La reunión is the meeting.

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/spanish-people-life/lesson-2-work-study-and-daily-routine

STUDY Spanish: People & Everyday Life in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/spanish-people-life

LESSON 3 OF 3

Lesson 3: Emotions, Opinions & Social

Part 1: Feelings and Moods · Part 2: Expressing Opinions · Part 3: Social Phrases

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Describe feelings and moods (happy, sad, angry, worried) and give opposites.
- Use reflexive verbs for emotional change (calmarse, divertirse) and explain the reflexive pattern.
- Express opinions with creer, pensar, and opinar and state agreement or disagreement.
- Use fixed social phrases (congratulations, welcome, good luck, excuse me, invite).

Emotions, Opinions & Social

Intermediate Spanish is mostly social Spanish. Beginner work covers what you do; this lesson covers what you feel, what you think, and how you handle the rituals of polite interaction. It also introduces a grammatical quirk worth absorbing early: Spanish often treats emotional changes as things that happen *to* you, using a reflexive construction.

Feelings and Moods

The basic adjectives are straightforward: **feliz** (*happy*), **triste** (*sad*), **preocupado** (*worried*). For *angry*, Latin America prefers **enojado** and Spain prefers **enfadado** — both are understood everywhere, but the regional default tells listeners where you learned.

The interesting verbs are reflexive. You don't simply *become* angry in Spanish; you **enojarse** — literally *anger yourself*. The same pattern runs through **preocuparse** (*to worry*), **calmarse** (*to calm down*), and **divertirse** (*to have fun*). The reflexive frames the emotion as a shift in state rather than a stable trait — a change you undergo. *Me preocupo por mi madre. Cálmate. Nos divertimos mucho anoche.*

There's also a grammatical pairing worth noting: with **estar** plus an adjective, the same word can describe a state. *Estoy triste. Está enojada.* The reflexive verb is for the *transition*; **estar** is for the resulting state.

Expressing Opinions

Three verbs handle the work of *thinking* in Spanish. **Creer** (*to believe*) is the everyday default — *creo que* is how most opinions start in casual speech. **Pensar** (*to think*) is closer to the deliberate, considered version. **Opinar** (*to hold an opinion*) sounds a little more formal when you state your own view (*opino que…*), as in a debate or an article, though *¿qué opinas?* is an ordinary everyday question.

To frame a position: **en mi opinión**, **estar de acuerdo** (*to agree*), **en desacuerdo** (*in disagreement*). The phrase **tener razón** is the Spanish idiom for *being right* — literally *to have reason*. *Tienes razón* means *you're right*, not *you have a reason*. It's one of the high-frequency phrases that doesn't translate cleanly.

Social Phrases

Spanish social ritual is denser than English social ritual, and a handful of fixed phrases carry a lot of weight.

¡Felicidades! covers *congratulations* across most contexts — passing an exam, getting engaged, a birthday. **Bienvenido / Bienvenida** is *welcome*, inflected for the listener's gender. **Buena suerte** is *good luck*, used the same way English uses it.

Con permiso is the phrase for slipping through a crowd, leaving a table, or passing in front of someone — literally *with permission*. It's not formal; it's universal. English has nothing this useful — *excuse me* serves multiple functions, but *con permiso* specifically signals movement.

Invitar carries a wrinkle: when a Spanish speaker says *te invito*, they often mean *I'm paying* — not just *I'm including you*. Context decides, but assume the financial reading in restaurants.

La ayuda (*the help*, *the aid*) comes up in the same exchanges — *pedir ayuda* (to ask for help) and *¿Necesitas ayuda?* (do you need help?) are common offers alongside an invitation.

One small custom: when saying goodbye, it's common to send greetings to absent family. **Saluda a tus padres de mi parte** — *say hi to your parents for me*.

Key concepts

enojarse

- A reflexive verb that frames a feeling as a change you undergo — literally doing the emotion to yourself rather than simply being it.
- The state it produces is hot and negative; with 'estar' plus an adjective you'd describe that resulting mood.
- It means to become angry, and it is the form Latin America prefers.

preocuparse

- A reflexive verb from the same family, treating the emotion as a shift in state rather than a fixed trait.
- This one centers on anxiety and unease about someone or something, not anger or joy.
- It's the verb meaning 'to worry,' the natural choice for fretting about your mother's wellbeing.

calmarse

- A reflexive verb for an emotional transition — but unlike its angry and anxious cousins, this shift heads somewhere pleasant.
- It moves you toward a settled, peaceful, composed state; it's the antidote to agitation.
- It's what you tell a worked-up person to do — a one-word command meaning 'settle down.'

divertirse

- One of two pleasant transitions in this reflexive group — but this one is about pleasure, not composure.
- It's about enjoyment and a good time, not distress; think of a night out with friends.
- It means 'to have fun,' as in a group that thoroughly enjoyed itself last night.

Key facts

Emotions as Reflexive Changes

In Spanish, changing your emotional state often uses a reflexive verb. Instead of only describing yourself as angry, you can **enojarse** (get angry) or **preocuparse** (get worried). It implies a shift in your mental state.

Enojado and Enfadado

Both mean **angry**, and both are understood everywhere — but whichever one you reach for first tells listeners where you learned Spanish. Latin America defaults to **enojado**, Spain to **enfadado**. The reflexive verbs split the same way: *enojarse* and *enfadarse*. The resulting state takes **estar**: *está enojada*.

Feliz and Triste

In Spanish, 'feliz' (happy) and 'triste' (sad) are direct antonyms — one of the basic opposite-pairs used to describe moods.

Creer, Pensar, Opinar

Creer (*to believe*) is the everyday default — most casual opinions open with *creo que…*. **Pensar** (*to think*) also works (*pienso que…*) and often suggests more reasoning. **Opinar** (*to hold an opinion*) sounds a little more formal when you state your own view (*opino que…*), as in a debate or an article, though *¿qué opinas?* is an ordinary question.

Tener Razón Means Being Right

La razón is *the reason*, but **tener razón** does not mean *to have a reason* — it means *to be right*. *Tienes razón* is how you concede a point in Spanish. Note where the state lives: in **tener**, the same verb Spanish uses for *tener hambre* and *tener frío*, not in *ser* or *estar*.

En Mi Opinión

Frame a position with **en mi opinión** — *en mi mente* and *en mi cabeza* are word-for-word imports of *in my mind* and do not introduce an opinion in Spanish. Then **estar de acuerdo** (*to agree*) or **en desacuerdo** (*in disagreement*). To state the belief itself, the verb takes **que**: *creo que…*, *pienso que…*, *opino que…*.

Estar de Acuerdo

To express agreement in Spanish, use the phrase 'estar de acuerdo.' Its opposite, 'estar en desacuerdo,' expresses disagreement.

> **Creo Que**
> 'Creo que...' — literally 'I believe that...' — is the natural, everyday phrase Spanish speakers use to introduce a belief or opinion.



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The One That Changes

¡Felicidades! covers congratulations in nearly every context — an exam passed, an engagement, a birthday. **Buena suerte** is *good luck*, used just as English uses it. **Bienvenido** is the odd one out: it is an adjective, so it agrees with whoever arrives — *bienvenida* to a woman, *bienvenidos* to a group.

> **Saluda a Tus Padres**
> The farewell phrase 'Saluda a tus padres de mi parte' means 'say hi to your parents for me' — a common way to send greetings to someone's family when saying goodbye.

> **¡Felicidades!**
> When a friend shares good news, like passing an exam, the natural Spanish response is '¡Felicidades!' — used to congratulate someone on an achievement.

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

Feliz → Happy

Triste → Sad

Enojado → Angry

Preocupado → Worried

Calmarse → To calm down

Divertirse → To have fun

Creer → To believe

Pensar → To think

Opinar → To have an opinion

Estar de acuerdo → To agree

En desacuerdo → In disagreement

La razón → The reason

Invitar → To invite

¡Felicidades! → Congratulations!

Bienvenido → Welcome

Buena suerte → Good luck

Con permiso → With your permission / Excuse me

La ayuda → The help / aid

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. What is the opposite of 'triste'?

A Preocupado
B Enojado
C Cansado
D Feliz

2. What does 'preocupado' mean?

A Worried
B Tired
C Angry
D Happy

3. In Latin America, which word is the preferred default for 'angry'?

A Enfadado
B Preocupado
C Enojado
D Triste

4. What is the opposite of 'feliz'?

A Enojado
B Triste
C Preocupado
D Cansado

5. You are anxious about an upcoming exam. Which adjective fits: 'Estoy ___'?

A Enojado
B Feliz
C Triste
D Preocupado

6. In Spanish, changing your emotional state often uses a reflexive verb. Instead of only describing yourself as angry, you can ___ (get angry). It implies a shift in your mental state.

A enojarse
B divertirse
C preocuparse
D calmarse

7. What does the reflexive verb 'calmarse' mean?

A To have fun
B To worry
C To calm down
D To get angry

8. 'Enojarse' literally translates to which of these?

A To welcome
B To anger yourself
C To agree
D To have fun

9. The reflexive verb frames an emotion as what?

A. A permanent character trait
B. A shift or transition in state
C. A formal request
D. A physical location

10. The reflexive verb marks the transition; what marks the resulting emotional state?

A. A second reflexive verb
B. Ser + noun
C. Estar + adjective
D. Hacer + noun

11. How do you say 'I believe that...'?

A. Creo que...
B. En desacuerdo...
C. Estoy de acuerdo...
D. Tienes razón...

12. Which verb is the everyday default for starting opinions in casual speech?

A. Invitar
B. Pensar
C. Opinar
D. Creer

13. How is 'opinar' described?

A. More formal, used in debate or an article
B. The deliberate, thoughtful verb, used to weigh a decision
C. The most casual, everyday verb
D. A regional term, used only in Latin America

14. What does the idiom 'tener razón' mean?

A. To have a reason to leave
B. To be worried
C. To give thanks
D. To be right

15. Which phrase would you use to express agreement?

A. Buena suerte
B. En desacuerdo
C. Estar de acuerdo
D. Con permiso

16. 'Creer' means which of the following?

A. To agree
B. To believe
C. To know
D. To have an opinion

17. 'Pensar' means which of the following?

A. In disagreement
B. To have an opinion
C. To think
D. To believe

18. 'Opinar' means which of the following?

A. To have an opinion
B. To invite
C. To calm down
D. To agree

19. 'Estar de acuerdo' means which of the following?

A To have an opinion
B To agree
C To be right
D In disagreement

20. Which verb-meaning pairing is NOT correct?

A Creer = to believe
B Estar de acuerdo = to agree
C Opinar = to have an opinion
D Pensar = to have fun

21. What should you say if a friend tells you they passed an exam?

A ¡Felicidades!
B ¡Bienvenido!
C ¡Permiso!
D ¡Suerte!

22. Which phrase specifically signals slipping through a crowd or passing in front of someone?

A ¡Bienvenido!
B Buena suerte
C ¡Felicidades!
D Con permiso

23. What does 'Bienvenida' mean?

A Excuse me
B Good luck
C Welcome
D Congratulations

24. When a Spanish speaker says 'te invito' in a restaurant, they usually mean what?

A Good luck
B I'm paying
C You're right
D I'm leaving now

25. What does 'Saluda a tus padres de mi parte' mean?

A Welcome your parents
B Congratulations to your parents
C Good luck to your parents
D Say hi to your parents for me

Go deeper

WATCH Feelings That Happen to You 0:28 · YouTube
Feliz is happy. Triste is sad. Preocupado is worried. For angry, Latin America prefers enojado.

WATCH Tienes Razón 0:29 · YouTube
Most opinions in casual Spanish start with creo que: I believe that.

WATCH Te Invito Means I'm Paying 0:32 · YouTube
Felicidades covers congratulations, from passing an exam to a birthday. Bienvenido means welcome. Buena suerte means good luck.

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/spanish-people-life/lesson-3-emotions-opinions-and-social

STUDY Spanish: People & Everyday Life in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/spanish-people-life

Answer key

Lesson 1: Lesson 1: Family & People

1. B El suegro

'El suegro' is the father-in-law; 'la suegra' is the mother-in-law. 'Yerno' is son-in-law and 'cuñado' is brother-in-law.

2. D The daughter-in-law

'La nuera' is the daughter-in-law. Mother-in-law is 'la suegra', sister-in-law 'la cuñada', and niece 'la sobrina'.

3. C cuñado

A spouse's sibling is a 'cuñado' (brother-in-law). 'Yerno' is son-in-law, 'suegro' father-in-law, and 'primo' cousin.

4. A El primo

'El primo' is a cousin (a blood relative), not an in-law. Suegro, nuera, and yerno are all in-law terms.

5. C It is a separate word, not the feminine form of 'yerno'

'Nuera' (daughter-in-law) and 'yerno' (son-in-law) are separate words, not masculine/feminine versions of each other.

6. D El cuñado

A 'cuñado' is a brother-in-law.

7. B The cousin

'El primo / la prima' is the cousin. Nephew is 'sobrino', son-in-law 'yerno', and brother-in-law 'cuñado'.

8. A The nephew / The niece

'El sobrino' is the nephew and 'la sobrina' the niece. Cousins are 'primo/prima', a different word.

9. C Just 'primo', adding 'segundo' only when precision is needed

In everyday speech people often just say 'primo' for a cousin of any degree, adding 'primo segundo' when they need to be precise.

10. D La cuñada

'La cuñada' (sister-in-law) is an in-law, not a blood relative. Primo, sobrina, and sobrino are all blood relatives.

11. A Bajo

'Bajo' means short; 'alto' means tall. 'Delgado' is slender and 'gordo' heavy.

12. B Slender build

'Delgado' means thin or slender (build). Height is 'alto/bajo', hair color 'rubio', and character 'simpático'.

13. D Brown-skinned

'Moreno' describes brown or dark skin, and can mean dark-haired too. Blonde is 'rubio', tall 'alto', and slender 'delgado'.

14. C Castaño

'Castaño' specifically means chestnut-brown hair. 'Rubio' is blonde, 'moreno' brown-skinned (or dark-haired), and 'bajo' short.

15. A Optimista

'Optimista' is a personality trait (carácter), not physical appearance. Alto, rubio, and delgado all describe aspecto físico.

16. B Friendly / likeable

'Simpático' means friendly or likeable, not 'sympathetic.' It shares a Latin root with the English word but drifted in meaning — a classic false friend.

17. C es

Use 'ser' (es) for a lasting trait: 'es optimista'. 'Estar' (está) marks temporary states like being tired.

18. A está

A right-now state uses 'estar': 'está cansada'. 'Ser' (es) is reserved for permanent traits.

19. D Serious

'Serio' means serious. Friendly is 'simpático', optimistic 'optimista', and intelligent 'inteligente'.

20. B Delgado

'Delgado' (slender) describes aspecto físico, not carácter. Optimista, serio, and simpático are all personality traits.

21. C Novio/a

'Novio/a' is a boyfriend or girlfriend, a romantic partner. 'Soltero/a' (single) and 'casado/a' (married) are marital statuses, and 'suegro/a' is a father- or mother-in-law.

22. D Casado

'Casado/casada' means married. 'Soltero' is single, 'viudo' widowed, and 'divorciado' divorced.

23. A An acquaintance

'El conocido' (literally 'the known person') is an acquaintance. A friend is 'amigo' and a boyfriend 'novio'.

24. B Viudo

'Viudo/viuda' means widowed. 'Soltero' is single, 'casado' married, and 'novio' boyfriend.

25. D Amigo

'Amigo' is a friend (a social bond). Soltero, casado, and divorciado are all marital statuses.

Lesson 2: Lesson 2: Work, Study & Daily Routine

1. A To wake up

'Despertarse' means to wake up. 'Levantarse' is to get up, 'bañarse' is to shower, 'acostarse' is to go to bed.

2. B Bañarse

'Bañarse' is to shower. 'Vestirse' is to get dressed, 'levantarse' to get up, 'cepillarse' to brush.

3. D To get up out of bed

Adding -se loops the action back on the doer: 'levantarse' means to lift yourself up, i.e. to get up.

4. C Cepillarse

'Cepillarse los dientes' is to brush one's teeth. The others mean shower, get dressed, and wake up.

5. C Acostarse — to go to bed

'Acostarse' means to go to bed. Vestirse is get dressed, levantarse is get up, bañarse is shower.

6. A SUBJECT PRONOUN

7. B me

'Me' is the reflexive pronoun. 'Yo' is the subject pronoun and 'baño' is the conjugated verb.

8. D me

The reflexive pronoun for 'yo' is 'me'. 'Te' goes with tú, 'se' with él/ella, 'nos' with nosotros.

9. B se

The reflexive pronoun for él/ella is 'se', e.g. 'Ella se acuesta'. 'Me' goes with yo, 'te' with tú, 'nos' with nosotros.

10. C te

The reflexive pronoun for 'tú' is 'te'. 'Me' goes with yo, 'se' with él/ella, 'nos' with nosotros.

11. A Ingeniera

Job titles inflect for gender: the female engineer is 'ingeniera'; 'ingeniero' is the male form.

12. D Abogado / Abogada

'Abogado/Abogada' is lawyer. Maestro is teacher, mesero is server, ingeniero is engineer.

13. B Estudiante

'Estudiante' does not change form for gender. The others have distinct masculine/feminine endings.

14. C Maestra

'Maestra' is the female teacher. 'Maestría' means a master's degree; 'maese' is archaic.

15. D Médica

'Médica' is standard for a female doctor. 'Médico' leans masculine, 'medicina' is medicine, 'enfermera' is nurse.

16. A En una escuela

A teacher (maestro) works in a school (escuela).

17. C En un restaurante

A mesero (server) works in a restaurant. A hospital suits a médico, a school a maestro.

18. B En un hospital

A médico (doctor) works in a hospital. A school/classroom suits a maestro, a restaurant a mesero.

19. A Abogado

Defending clients in a court (tribunal) describes an abogado (lawyer), not a doctor or engineer.

20. D Mesero

Serving food and drinks to customers describes a mesero (server), not a lawyer, engineer, or doctor.

21. D La computadora

'La computadora' is the computer (in Spain: 'el ordenador'). El televisor is the TV, la oficina the office, la pantalla the screen.

22. B The computer

'La computadora' is the computer (in Spain: 'el ordenador'). Schedule is horario, meeting is reunión, classroom is aula.

23. A La computadora

Most of Latin America uses 'la computadora' (Chile and Colombia prefer 'el computador'); Spain uses 'el ordenador'. Pantalla is screen, televisor is TV, horario is schedule.

24. C El aula

'El aula' is the classroom. La oficina is the office, la reunión the meeting, el horario the schedule.

25. A El horario — the schedule

'El horario' is the schedule. Tarea is task/homework, oficina is office, aula is classroom.

Lesson 3: Lesson 3: Emotions, Opinions & Social

1. D Feliz

'Feliz' (happy) is the direct antonym of 'triste' (sad).

2. A Worried

'Preocupado' means worried. 'Feliz' is happy and 'enojado' is angry.

3. C Enojado

Latin America prefers 'enojado'; Spain prefers 'enfadado'. Both are understood everywhere.

4. B Triste

'Triste' (sad) is the direct antonym of 'feliz' (happy). The others are moods but not its opposite.

5. D Preocupado

'Preocupado' (worried) describes anxiety. 'Feliz' is happy, 'enojado' is angry and 'triste' is sad.

6. A enojarse

'Enojarse' is the reflexive verb for getting angry; 'calmarse' is to calm down, 'divertirse' to have fun, 'preocuparse' to worry.

7. C To calm down

'Calmarse' means to calm down. 'Divertirse' is to have fun, 'preocuparse' is to worry, and 'enojarse' is to get angry.

8. B To anger yourself

Reflexive 'enojarse' literally means to anger yourself, framing the emotion as a change you undergo.

9. B A shift or transition in state

The reflexive frames the emotion as a shift in state, a change you undergo, rather than a stable trait.

10. C Estar + adjective

'Estar' plus an adjective (e.g. 'Estoy triste') describes the resulting state; the reflexive verb is for the transition.

11. A Creo que...

'Creo que...' is the most natural way to express a belief or opinion.

12. D Creer

'Creer' (to believe) is the casual default; 'creo que' starts most everyday opinions. 'Opinar' is more formal.

13. A More formal, used in debate or an article

'Opinar' (to hold an opinion) is the more formal verb, used in a debate or article. 'Creer' is the casual default.

14. D To be right

'Tener razón' idiomatically means to be right ('Tienes razón' = you're right), not literally to have a reason.

15. C Estar de acuerdo

'Estar de acuerdo' means to agree; 'en desacuerdo' is disagreement. The others are social phrases.

16. B To believe

'Creer' is to believe. 'Pensar' is to think and 'opinar' is to have an opinion.

17. C To think

'Pensar' is to think, the deliberate, considered version. 'Creer' is to believe.

18. A To have an opinion

'Opinar' is to have or give an opinion. 'Creer' is to believe and 'pensar' is to think.

19. B To agree

'Estar de acuerdo' means to agree; 'en desacuerdo' is in disagreement.

20. D Pensar = to have fun

'Pensar' means to think, not to have fun ('divertirse'). The other three pairings are correct.

21. A ¡Felicidades!

'Felicidades' is used to congratulate someone on an achievement.

22. D Con permiso

'Con permiso' (with permission) specifically signals movement past people. 'Felicidades' is congratulations.

23. C Welcome

'Bienvenido/Bienvenida' means welcome, inflected for the listener's gender. 'Buena suerte' is good luck.

24. B I'm paying

In restaurants 'te invito' usually carries the financial reading: I'm paying, not just I'm including you.

25. D Say hi to your parents for me

This farewell custom sends greetings to absent family: 'say hi to your parents for me'.

Sources

Lesson sources: SpanishDict: creer (translations include 'to believe' and 'to think')

- SpanishDict: creer (translations include 'to believe' and 'to think') — https://www.spanishdict.com/translate/creer

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