FLASHFEED STUDY GUIDE

Spanish: Travel & Lodging

Study guide by FlashFeed

November 2026 edition · pack version 1.0.11

flashfeedlearningapp.com

Spanish: Travel & Lodging: study guide

Latin American Spanish for the road: getting around by bus, plane and taxi, asking the way, checking in and staying over, then the weather, the seasons and the lie of the land.

Edition	November 2026 (2026-11-21)
Pack version	1.0.11
Contents	3 lessons · 253 cards in the app · 75 self-test questions · 4 pictures
In the app	flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/spanish-travel-lodging

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: Travel & Transportation

Part 1: Getting Around · Part 2: Asking Directions · Part 3: At the Airport or Station · Fill the Blank: Travel & Places

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Use urban transport vocabulary (metro, bus, ticket, transfer) to get around a city.
- Identify stations and platforms (la estación, el andén).
- Give and follow directions (left, right, straight, cross, corner, block, far).
- Handle airport vocabulary (passport, suitcase, boarding pass, customs, flight).
- Complete travel sentences with the correct place or transport word.

Travel & Transportation

Travel is where Spanish stops being a classroom exercise and starts being a load-bearing skill. A missed transfer, a wrong platform, or a misread departure board has real consequences. This lesson covers the three settings you cannot avoid: moving around a city, getting unstuck when you are lost, and surviving the airport. Expect a lot of regional variation — the word for *ticket* alone changes when you cross the Atlantic.

Getting Around

Urban Spanish is full of small, fast vocabulary. **El metro** (*subway*) and **el autobús** (*bus*) are the workhorses; both depart from **una estación** (*station*), but **el andén** (*platform*) is the strip beside the track at train and metro stations. The word you need most is **el boleto** through most of Latin America (in Spain: **el billete**) — both mean the same paper or plastic rectangle, but in Mexico City *billete* mostly means *banknote*, so at the ticket window you ask for a *boleto*.

Connections are **trasbordos**. If a clerk tells you *"Tiene que hacer un trasbordo en la próxima estación,"* they are telling you to switch lines, not to switch trains in the broader sense. The verb **tomar** (*to take*) is universal: *tomar el metro*, *tomar el autobús*. In Argentina you will sometimes hear **colectivo** for bus, and in the Canary Islands, Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic **guagua** — a word that means *baby* in Andean countries such as Chile, Peru and Ecuador. In Mexico a bus is often **el camión** (*tomar un camión*), and **autobús** is used too; in Spain and much of South America a **camión** is a truck (in parts of Central America it can mean a bus too). Context, as always, does the disambiguating. For a round trip you ask for a **boleto de ida y vuelta** (*going and returning*); a one-way ticket is a **boleto de ida**, also called a **boleto sencillo**. For *car*, Colombia and much of Mexico say **el carro**, Argentina and Chile **el auto**, and Spain **el coche**; in everyday speech most of Latin America **maneja** (drives), while Spain **conduce**.

Asking Directions

Directions in Spanish are mercifully literal. **A la derecha** (*to the right*), **a la izquierda** (*to the left*), and **todo derecho** (*straight ahead*) cover most of what anyone will tell you. The verb you will hear shouted at intersections is **gira** or **dobla** — both mean *turn*. *"Gira a la derecha en la próxima esquina"* is *"Turn right at the next corner."*

La esquina is the corner — useful in any city, but especially in Latin America, where addresses are often given by cross-streets rather than numbers. **La cuadra** (*the block*) is the Latin American unit of distance: *"Está a tres cuadras"* means three blocks away. Spain prefers **manzana** for the same idea, which also happens to mean *apple* — a coincidence that has confused many tourists. **Cruzar** is *to cross*: *cruzar la calle*, *cruzar la plaza*. If something is **lejos** (*far*) or **cerca** (*near*), you have your answer about whether to walk. When in doubt, check **el mapa** (*the map*).

At the Airport or Station

Aeropuerto is a transparent compound: *aero* (air) plus *puerto* (port). You will see the word on every highway sign pointing to departures. Inside, the choreography is familiar. You hand over **el pasaporte** (*passport*), check **la maleta** (*suitcase*) at **documentación** — the check-in and baggage-drop counter — and receive a **pase de abordar** (*boarding pass*). In Mexico the verb **documentar** means *to check in luggage* (*documentar la maleta*); elsewhere, and in Spain, the usual verb is **facturar**, which away from the airport means *to invoice*.

After your **vuelo** (*flight*) lands, the last hurdle is **la aduana** (*customs*). Declare what needs declaring; the agents are not in a mood to negotiate. Once you are through, you need somewhere to sleep — which is the next lesson.

Key concepts

la estación

- A place in a city where public transport departs.
- Both the subway ('el metro') and the bus ('el autobús') leave from here.

el andén

- A specific spot within a transit station.
- At train and metro stations it is the strip beside the track.
- It's the platform you stand on to board.

la esquina

- A city spot often used to give directions, especially in parts of Latin America where addresses go by cross-streets.
- You're told to turn here: 'gira a la derecha en la próxima ___.'
- It's the street corner.

el aeropuerto

- A major travel hub you'll see signposted from every highway.
- Its name is a transparent compound: 'aero' (air) plus 'puerto' (port).
- It's the airport.

la aduana

- A checkpoint you reach at the very end of an international trip.
- It's the last hurdle after your flight lands, where you declare what needs declaring.
- It's customs.

Key facts



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Camión: Mexico's Bus, Spain's Truck

In Mexico a bus is often **el camión**: *tomar un camión* (*to take a bus*), *camión urbano* (*city bus*). *Autobús* is used too, for city buses and for buses between cities. In Spain and much of South America a *camión* is a truck (in Mexico it is a truck too: *camión de carga*), so check the local word before you ask for one.

> **Boleto vs. Billete**
>
> The same paper rectangle changes names across the Atlantic: **el boleto** at a Mexico City ticket window, **el billete** at one in Madrid. In Mexico *billete* mostly means *banknote*, so a ticket there is a *boleto*.

> **Switch Lines, Not Switch Plans**
>
> A **trasbordo** is a change of lines mid-journey: *tiene que hacer un trasbordo en la próxima estación* means get off and pick up a different line here. The verb for boarding is universal — **tomar**, as in *tomar el metro* and *tomar el autobús*.

> **Autobús**
>
> In Spanish, autobús means bus — one of the core transportation words, distinct from el metro (subway), el andén (platform), and el boleto (ticket).

> **Tomar**
>
> The verb tomar (to take) works for boarding any kind of transportation in Spanish — tomar el metro or tomar el autobús both mean to take the subway or the bus.

> **An Apple in Spain**
>
> **La cuadra** is how Latin America measures walking distance — *está a tres cuadras* is three blocks away. Spain prefers **manzana** for the same square of city, a word that also happens to mean *apple*. Directions involving fruit have confused a great many tourists.

Gira or Dobla

Gira and **dobla** are the imperatives shouted at intersections, and both mean *turn*: *al final de la calle, gira a la derecha*. The landmark is usually **la esquina** — the corner — which does extra work in parts of Latin America, where addresses are often given by cross-streets rather than house numbers.

Lejos or Cerca

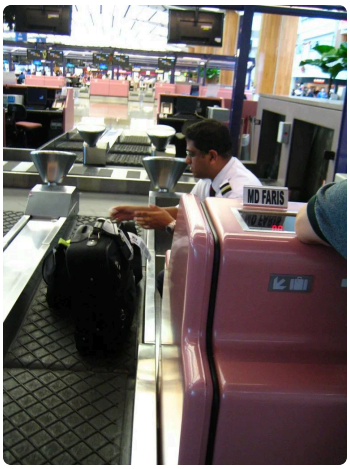
Spanish directions are mercifully literal: **a la derecha** (*right*), **a la izquierda** (*left*), **todo derecho** (*straight ahead*). The one follow-up worth asking is whether it is **lejos** or **cerca** — far, or near — because *todo derecho* covers both a two-minute walk and a forty-minute one.

A La Derecha

In Spanish directions, a la derecha means to the right. Its counterpart a la izquierda means to the left, while todo derecho is straight ahead and la esquina is the corner.

Aeropuerto: Air + Port

The word **Aeropuerto** is logically constructed from *aero* (air) and *puerto* (port). You will see this on every highway sign directing you to the departures gate.



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Documentar la Maleta: Bag Check-In

Airport choreography in Mexico, in order: hand over **el pasaporte**, **documentar la maleta** at **documentación** — the check-in and bag-drop counter — and walk away with **el pase de abordar**. Elsewhere, including Spain, the usual verb is **facturar** (*facturar la maleta*), which away from the airport means *to invoice*.

El Pasaporte

In Spanish, el pasaporte (the passport) is the essential document for entering a foreign country — the primary travel document at international borders.

El Pase de Abordar

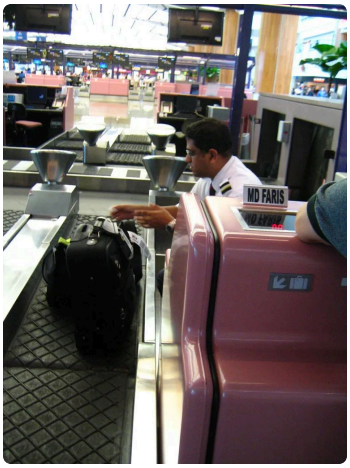
To board a plane at an airport in much of Latin America, you need el pase de abordar, the boarding pass (Spain usually says la tarjeta de embarque, and you will see that too) — different from el pasaporte, which proves your identity.

Ida y Vuelta

Ida y vuelta — literally *going and returning* — is how you ask for a round trip: *compré un boleto de ida y vuelta*. The opposite is a **boleto de ida**, also called a **boleto sencillo**. Two phrases, and every ticket window runs on them.

Carro, Auto, Coche

El carro is the car in Mexico and Colombia — *necesito un carro para manejar por México* — and **el auto** in Argentina and Chile, while Spain says **el coche**. The verb splits too: most of Latin America **maneja**, Spain **conduce**.



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Documentación

At a Mexican airport, documentación is the check-in and baggage-drop counter where you hand over la maleta (suitcase) to be checked, separate from la aduana (customs) or el andén (platform).

El Metro

El metro is the standard word for the subway, an underground (subterráneo) rail system — distinct from boleto (ticket) or mapa (map).

Matched pairs

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

El boleto → The ticket

andén → platform (train/metro)

Trasbordo → Transfer (between lines)

estación → station

El metro → The subway / underground

autobús → bus

A la derecha → To the right

A la izquierda → To the left

Todo derecho → Straight ahead

Cruzar → To cross

La esquina → The corner

La cuadra → The block (distance)

El pasaporte → The passport

La maleta → The suitcase / luggage

Pase de abordar → Boarding pass

La aduana → Customs

El vuelo → The flight

El andén → The platform

La estación → The station

El autobús → The bus

Self-test

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

1. What must you buy to travel on the train?

A Un andén
B Una maleta
C Un trasbordo
D Un boleto

2. In Spanish, what does 'el metro' refer to?

A The bus
B The platform
C The subway / underground
D The transfer between lines

3. Which Spanish word means 'bus'?

A Autobús
B Boleto
C Estación
D Metro

4. A clerk tells you to 'hacer un trasbordo en la próxima estación.' What are you being told to do?

A Buy a ticket
B Switch lines
C Get off at the last stop
D Wait for the next train

5. Which universal verb fills the blank in '___ el metro' and '___ el autobús' (to board either)?

A Cruzar
B Girar
C Tomar
D Documentar

6. What does 'el andén' mean?

A The station
B The platform
C The transfer
D The ticket

7. What does 'la estación' mean?

A The station
B The corner
C The platform
D Customs

8. Which vehicles depart from 'el andén' (platform)?

A Airplanes
B Taxis
C Buses only
D Trains and metros

9. Both the metro and the bus depart from which place?

A Una aduana
B Una estación
C Una esquina
D Un andén

10. Which of these words does NOT name a place or location?

A Aeropuerto
B Estación
C Andén
D Boleto

11. How do you say something is 'far'?

A Está recto
B Está cerca
C Está lejos
D Está allí

12. How do you say 'to the right'?

A A la derecha
B La esquina
C A la izquierda
D Todo derecho

13. What does 'a la izquierda' mean?

A Straight ahead
B To the left
C To the right
D The corner

14. If someone tells you to go 'todo derecho', which way should you go?

A Straight ahead
B To the right
C Backward
D To the left

15. In Latin America, 'Está a tres cuadras' means it is three ___ away.

A Stations
B Streets
C Corners
D Blocks

16. Which item do you need to enter another country?

A La maleta
B El boleto
C El pasaporte
D El andén

17. What does 'la maleta' mean?

A The suitcase
B The flight
C The boarding pass
D The passport

18. Which document do you receive to be allowed to board the plane?

A La aduana
B El pasaporte
C El pase de abordar
D La maleta

19. At an international airport, what is 'la aduana'?

A Check-in
B Customs
C Baggage claim
D The departure gate

20. In a Mexican airport, what does the verb 'documentar' mean?

A To pass through customs
B To board the flight
C To invoice a client
D To check in luggage

21. At an airport, where do you hand over your suitcase (la maleta) to be checked?

A La documentación
B La aduana
C El andén
D La esquina

22. Complete: 'Mi vuelo sale del ___ a las ocho.'

A andén
B esquina
C aeropuerto
D aduana

23. Complete: 'Para ir al centro, tomo el ___.'

A vuelo
B metro
C mapa
D boleto

24. Complete: 'Compré un ___ de ida y vuelta.'

A carro
B pasaporte
C andén
D boleto

25. Complete: 'Perdón, ¿dónde está la ___ de tren?'

A aduana
B estación
C cuadra
D maleta

Go deeper

WATCH Boleto, Not Billete 0:30 · YouTube
In most of Latin America, a ticket is el boleto. In Mexico City, billete mostly means a banknote.

WATCH Tres Cuadras 0:28 · YouTube
Directions in Spanish are mercifully literal. A la derecha is to the right. A la izquierda is to the left. Todo derecho is straight ahead.

WATCH Documentar la Maleta 0:30 · YouTube
Aeropuerto is a clear compound. Aero means air. Puerto means port.

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/spanish-travel-lodging/lesson-1-travel-and-transportation

STUDY Spanish: Travel & Lodging in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/spanish-travel-lodging

LESSON 2 OF 3

Lesson 2: Lodging & Accommodation

Part 1: At the Hotel · Part 2: Inside the Room · Part 3: Booking and Paying · Fill the Blank: Hotel & Lodging

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Check in at a hotel using reception, reservation, key, guest, and staff vocabulary.
- Identify the hotel-desk words recepción, reservación and botones, and use habitación and recepción in sentences about arriving at a hotel.
- Name in-room items and climate controls and use funcionar for a broken appliance.
- Identify room items and facilities (la almohada, la toalla, el elevador).
- Handle payment vocabulary and request an official itemized invoice at checkout.

Lodging & Accommodation

A hotel is one of the few places where a non-native speaker is expected to handle a multi-step transaction in the local language: reserve, check in, request, complain, pay, check out. This lesson walks the arc. The vocabulary is narrow but high-leverage — if you know a small core of words well, you can resolve most lodging problems without switching to English. Watch the register carefully; reception staff lean formal, and **usted** is the safer default.

At the Hotel

The front desk is **la recepción**, and the person behind it is **el recepcionista**. **El botones** (*bellhop*) handles bags — the word looks plural but is singular and masculine, an oddity worth memorizing. You are **el huésped** (*the guest*), a word that can also mean *host* (the person who lodges someone in their home); context decides, and at a hotel it means the guest.

The standard opener is *"¿Tiene una habitación libre?"* — literally *"Do you have a free room?"* If you booked ahead, *"Tengo una reservación a nombre de…"* (*"I have a reservation under the name…"*; also **una reserva**) does the job. **La llave** (*key*) is what you walk away with, though most places will hand you a card. The duration of your visit is **la estancia** (*the stay*); you will also hear **la estadía**. Confirming *"¿Cuántas noches?"* up front prevents the awkward checkout-morning conversation about an extra night nobody agreed to.

Inside the Room

Hotel listings advertise **instalaciones** (*facilities*) — **conexión Wi-Fi**, **alberca** (*pool*; also **piscina**), **elevador** (*elevator*, used in Mexico and parts of Central America and the Caribbean; called **ascensor** in Spain and many other countries), and **el comedor** (*the dining room*, where breakfast is served). Inside the room itself, the basics are **la cama** (*bed*) and **la almohada** (*pillow*); in **el baño** (*the bathroom*), you will find **la regadera** (*shower*, also **la ducha**) and **la toalla** (*towel*). Watch out in Spain, where a *regadera* is a watering can and an *alberca* is an irrigation tank; Argentina and Uruguay call a pool **la pileta**.

Temperature is a classic thing to raise with the desk: **aire acondicionado** (*air conditioning*) and **la calefacción** (*heating*) are the words you need to get the front desk to fix something.

A useful formula: *"En la habitación hace mucho calor, ¿funciona el aire acondicionado?"* — *"It is very hot in the room, is the AC working?"* The verb **funcionar** (*to work*, in the mechanical sense) is the right one for broken appliances. Prefer **funcionar** over **trabajar** for appliances: trabajar is the everyday verb for *to work* in the employment sense (a dictionary does allow it for machines, but it is not the natural choice). A TV *funciona* or it does not.

Booking and Paying

The financial vocabulary is small and worth drilling. **El precio** (*price*), **incluido** (*included*) — as in *"¿El desayuno está incluido?"* — and the two payment methods, **tarjeta de crédito** (*credit card*) and **en efectivo** (*in cash*). The verb is **pagar** (*to pay*), and the noun **el pago** is *the payment*.

When you check out, ask for **la factura** if you need an official, itemized invoice for expenses or tax purposes; **la cuenta** is the casual bill you would ask for in a restaurant. Watch for **pago por adelantado** — *payment in advance*, common at smaller pensiones. **Por adelantado** always means *ahead of time*, never *afterwards*. Settle the bill, surrender the key, and you are free to head into town — which usually means shopping.

Key concepts

la llave

- After checking in at reception, this is the small item the front desk hands you, though most hotels now give a card instead.
- You use it to open the door to your room.
- The Spanish word for the metal room key you carry during your stay.

la almohada

- A soft furnishing that comes standard on every hotel bed.
- You rest your head on it while you sleep.
- The Spanish word for a bed pillow.

la toalla

- A room basic you reach for right after using the shower.
- You use this cloth to dry yourself off.
- The Spanish word for a bath towel.

el elevador

- A building facility often advertised in a hotel's listings, alongside Wi-Fi and a pool.
- You step into it to travel between floors without taking the stairs.
- The word for the lift in Mexico and parts of Central America and the Caribbean; Spain and many other countries say 'ascensor'.

la factura

- At checkout you ask for this if you need paperwork for expenses or tax purposes.
- It is the official, itemized document of what you owe, not the casual bill (la cuenta) you'd ask for in a restaurant.
- The Spanish word for a formal, itemized invoice.

Key facts

> **Reservación: Mexico's Booking**
>
> In Mexico a booking is **la reservación**; at the front desk you say *Tengo una reservación a nombre de…* (*I have a reservation under the name…*). Many Latin American countries use the word too, but Spain says **la reserva**, which you will also hear in parts of Latin America.

> **The Check-In Script at La Recepción**
>
> At **la recepción** you are **el huésped** (*the guest*) and the person across the desk is **el recepcionista**. Without a booking, open with *¿tiene una habitación libre?*; with a **reservación**, *tengo una reservación a nombre de…*. Either way you leave the desk holding **la llave**.

> **Unless You're in Argentina**
>
> **La estancia** is the length of your stay at a Mexican hotel, and **la estadía** means the same. But in Argentina, Uruguay and elsewhere in the Southern Cone, *una estancia* is a sprawling cattle ranch, which makes **estadía** the safer word there. Either way, confirm *¿cuántas noches?* at the desk.

> **El Huésped**
>
> In Spanish hotel vocabulary, el huésped means the guest — distinct from staff terms like el botones (bellhop), el recepcionista (desk clerk), and el mesero (waiter).

> **La Llave**
>
> At hotel check-in, you receive la llave, the key (often a card), to get into your room — not to be confused with la factura (invoice) or la reservación (reservation).

> **Regadera: Mexico's Shower**
>
> In Mexico the shower is **la regadera**: *darse un baño de regadera* (*to take a shower*). Spain says **la ducha**, which Mexicans understand too. Watch out: in Spain a *regadera* is a watering can for plants (Mexicans use the word that way too).

> **Hotel Facilities: Instalaciones**
>
> When booking, check the **instalaciones** (*facilities*). This includes **conexión Wi-Fi**, **alberca** (*pool*), and **elevador** (*elevator*).



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Alberca: Mexico's Swimming Pool

In Mexico the pool is **la alberca**: *El hotel tiene dos albercas* (*the hotel has two pools*). Spain says **la piscina**, which Mexicans know too, and Argentina and Uruguay say **la pileta**. Watch out: in Spain an *alberca* is a tank of water for irrigation.

A Broken TV Doesn't Funcionar

Spanish has two verbs for *to work*. **Funcionar** is the natural one for appliances: *en la habitación hace mucho calor, ¿funciona el aire acondicionado?* **Trabajar** is the everyday employment verb. Say that a television **funciona**, or it does not.

La Calefacción

If your hotel room is too cold, ask the desk about la calefacción, the heating — the opposite fix from el aire acondicionado, which cools a room that's too hot.

Aire Acondicionado

Aire acondicionado is Spanish for air conditioning, used when a room feels too warm — the reverse of la calefacción, which heats a cold room.

La Factura, Not La Cuenta

La cuenta is the casual bill you would ask for in a restaurant. **La factura** is the official, itemized invoice with the tax details — the one your employer will want back. At hotel checkout, the wrong word gets you the wrong piece of paper.

Incluido: The Question That Saves You a Surprise

Incluido means *included* — *¿el desayuno está incluido?* is the question that saves you a surprise at checkout. Keep its neighbors straight: **el precio** is the price, and **el pago** is the payment itself.

Por Adelantado: Before, Never After

Smaller **pensiones** often post **pago por adelantado** — payment in advance. **Por adelantado** never means afterwards, so read it as *pay now*. Then pick your method: **tarjeta de crédito**, or **en efectivo** — banknotes and coins. The verb throughout is **pagar**.

En Efectivo

To say you want to pay with cash in Spanish, use en efectivo — the phrase covers both banknotes and coins.

El Precio

El precio means the price in Spanish — a different word from el pago (the payment) and la factura (the invoice), even though all three relate to money.

> **Doble Might Have Two Beds**
> **Habitación doble** books a room for two — but *doble* describes the occupancy, not the mattress. Specify **cama matrimonial** for one big bed or **dos camas** for twins, or you find out at 11 p.m. which one the hotel assumed.

> **Elevador, Ascensor, Floor Zero**
> **El elevador** is the lift in Mexico and parts of Central America and the Caribbean (in Spain and many other countries: **el ascensor**). Watch the button panel: the ground floor is often **planta baja (PB)**, so *el primer piso* is already one flight up. And in Spain **un piso** is not only a storey; it is also an apartment.

> **La Factura**
> When you need an official, itemized invoice for expenses at a hotel, ask for la factura — different from la cuenta, the casual bill you'd request at a restaurant.

> **La Recepción**
> *En la recepción me dieron la llave del hotel* means "At the front desk they gave me the hotel key." **La recepción** is where you check in and collect **la llave**, often a card.

Matched pairs

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

La recepción → The reception desk

La reservación → The reservation

El botones → The bellhop

La llave → The key

El huésped → The guest

La estancia → The stay (duration)

La cama → The bed

La almohada → The pillow

La regadera → The shower

La toalla → The towel

Aire acondicionado → Air conditioning

La calefacción → The heating

El precio → The price

Incluido → Included

Pagar → To pay

Tarjeta de crédito → Credit card

En efectivo → In cash

La factura → The invoice / official bill

Self-test

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

1. Who helps you with your bags at a hotel?

A El cocinero
B El botones
C El recepcionista
D El mesero

2. Which Spanish word means "the guest" at a hotel?

A El mesero
B El botones
C El recepcionista
D El huésped

3. You booked ahead. Which phrase tells the desk you have a reservation?

A Tengo una reservación a nombre de…
B ¿Cuántas noches?
C ¿Tiene una habitación libre?
D La cuenta, por favor.

4. In hotel talk, what does "la estancia" refer to?

A The bellhop
B The room key
C The duration of your stay
D The reception desk

5. At check-in, what do you receive to get into your room?

A La reservación
B La factura
C La llave
D El botones

6. "La recepción" translates to which of these?

A The bellhop
B The key
C The reservation
D The reception desk

7. What does "la reservación" mean?

A The reservation
B The bellhop
C The reception desk
D The stay

8. "El botones" refers to which hotel worker?

A The receptionist
B The bellhop
C The guest
D The waiter

9. Complete: "Reservé una ___ doble en el hotel."

A llave
B habitación
C recepción
D documentación

10. Complete: "En la ___ me dieron la llave del hotel."

A recepción
B regadera
C cama
D calefacción

11. The hotel air conditioning is broken. Which verb is the natural, everyday choice for saying an appliance 'isn't working'?

A No opera
B No trabaja
C No funciona
D No labora

12. "La cama" means which in-room item?

A The shower
B The towel
C The pillow
D The bed

13. Your room is freezing in winter. Which should you ask the desk to fix?

A La almohada
B La calefacción
C La alberca
D El aire acondicionado

14. Which of these is NOT an item found inside the room?

A La almohada
B La cama
C La alberca
D La toalla

15. "Aire acondicionado" translates to which climate control?

A Air conditioning
B Heating
C The pillow
D The shower

16. "La almohada" refers to which item?

A The shower
B The bed
C The towel
D The pillow

17. What do you use to dry off after a shower?

A La llave
B La almohada
C La cama
D La toalla

18. "El elevador" is what?

A The shower
B The elevator
C The staircase
D The pool

19. Complete: "Subo a mi piso en el ___."

A corredor
B baño
C elevador
D comedor

20. Which statement about these words is FALSE?

A "La almohada" means "the bed"
B "La toalla" means "the towel"
C "El elevador" means "the elevator"
D "La cama" means "the bed"

21. How do you say you want to pay with cash?

A A plazos
B En efectivo
C Con cheque
D Con tarjeta

22. At checkout you need an official, itemized invoice for your expenses. What do you ask the hotel for?

A El precio
B La cuenta
C El pago total
D La factura

23. "El precio" means which of these?

A The price
B The invoice
C The payment
D The credit card

24. You want to know whether breakfast comes with the room rate. Which word completes "¿El desayuno está ___?"

A efectivo
B reservado
C incluido
D adelantado

25. At a small pensión you see "pago por adelantado." What does this mean?

A Payment afterwards
B Payment in advance
C Payment by card only
D Payment in cash only

Go deeper

WATCH El Botones 0:31 · YouTube
At a hotel, the front desk is la recepción. El botones is the bellhop. The word looks plural, but it's one person.

WATCH Funcionar, Not Trabajar 0:31 · YouTube
Hot room? Say en la habitación hace mucho calor. Then ask: ¿funciona el aire acondicionado?

WATCH Por Adelantado 0:29 · YouTube
Ask: ¿El desayuno está incluido? Is breakfast included?

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LESSON 3 OF 3

Lesson 3: Weather, Seasons & Geography

Part 1: The Weather · Part 2: Landscape and Nature · Part 3: Cities and Countries

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Describe the weather using hacer and the dedicated verb llover.
- Name physical landscape features and distinguish river/sea and bosque/selva.
- Identify geographic features (el río, el mar, la montaña, el desierto) from their descriptions.
- Name political geography (city, town, country, capital, border, abroad).

Weather, Seasons & Geography

Weather and landscape are the small talk and the big picture of any travel conversation. This lesson covers how Spanish actually talks about the sky — which verbs do the work, which are irregular — then moves outward to physical geography and finally to political geography. By the end you can describe a thunderstorm, a mountain range, and the borders of a country without reaching for English.

The Weather

Spanish handles weather differently from English. Where English uses *to be* (it **is** sunny), Spanish mostly uses **hacer** (*to do/make*): **hace sol**, **hace viento**, **hace frío**, **hace calor**. The phrase **hace mucho frío** literally translates as *it makes a lot of cold*, which sounds odd until you've said it fifty times.

Rain and snow get their own dedicated verbs: **llover** (*to rain*) and **nevar** (*to snow*). Both are irregular and stem-changing — **llueve** (*it's raining*), **nieva** (*it's snowing*). You don't say *hace lluvia*; you say **llueve**.

The vocabulary spreads out from there: **la lluvia** (*the rain*), **la nieve** (*the snow*), **el viento** (*the wind*), **la nube** (*the cloud*), **el sol** (*the sun*), and **la tormenta** (*the storm*). When plans collapse because of weather, the culprit is usually **la tormenta**.

Landscape and Nature

Once you leave the city, the vocabulary shifts to physical features. **La montaña** (*the mountain*), **el río** (*the river*), **el mar** (*the sea*), **el valle** (*the valley*), **el desierto** (*the desert*). A river is fresh water that flows toward the sea; a sea is a large body of salt water. Spain's coasts face the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.

The forest vocabulary has a useful split. **El bosque** is a general forest — pine, oak, the kind of woods you'd find in the American Northwest. **La selva** is specifically a *jungle* or *tropical rainforest* — what you'd find in the Amazon or southern Mexico. Calling the Amazon a *bosque* isn't wrong exactly, but it undersells it.

Cities and Countries

Political geography rounds out the lesson. **El país** is the country as a nation; **la ciudad** is the city; **el pueblo** is the town or village — and also, separately, *the people* in the sense of a populace. Context disambiguates. **La capital** is the capital city (Madrid for Spain, Buenos Aires for Argentina).

La frontera is the border, and **en el extranjero** means *abroad*. Spanish speakers talk about going *al extranjero* the way Americans say *overseas*.

One political wrinkle worth knowing: Spain is highly decentralised. It's divided into **17 Comunidades Autónomas** — *autonomous communities* — each with its own parliament, and several with their own co-official languages. Catalonia, the Basque Country, Galicia, and Andalusia operate visibly differently from one another. If you're traveling through Spain, you're crossing more than provincial lines.

Key concepts

el río

- A natural landscape feature you'd name once you leave the city.
- It carries fresh water and moves, unlike the salty, mostly-still sea.
- The Spanish word for a river.

el mar

- A vast natural feature found along the coast of many countries.
- Salt water that mostly stays put, in contrast to a flowing river.
- The Spanish word for the sea.

la montaña

- A physical landform that rises high above the surrounding land.
- You'd climb one to reach a peak, and a whole line of them forms a range.
- The Spanish word for a mountain.

el desierto

- A dry natural landscape, one of the physical features of geography.
- A vast arid region with very little rain, where dryness is what defines it.
- The Spanish word for a desert.

la selva

- A type of woodland that is deliberately distinguished from a general forest (el bosque).
- Specifically a jungle or tropical rainforest — what you'd find in the Amazon or southern Mexico.
- The Spanish word for a jungle or tropical rainforest.

Key facts

Weather Is Made, Not Felt

Where English says *it is sunny*, Spanish reaches for **hacer** (*to do / to make*): **hace sol**, **hace viento**, **hace frío**, **hace calor**. *"Hace mucho frío"* translates literally as *it makes a lot of cold* — which sounds absurd until you have said it fifty times.

Llueve, Never Hace Lluvia

Rain and snow refuse the **hacer** pattern; they have their own stem-changing verbs. **Llover** gives **llueve** (*it's raining*) and **nevar** gives **nieva** (*it's snowing*). *Hace lluvia* is simply not Spanish, even though *hace viento* and *hace frío* are perfectly fine.

Nevar

Just as llover means to rain, nevar is Spanish's own dedicated verb for snowing — you'd say nieva to mean it's snowing.

La Lluvia

La lluvia means the rain in Spanish. It's a different word from la tormenta (the storm) and la nieve (the snow).

El Río Flows, Mar Is Salt

The clean split in water vocabulary: **el río** carries fresh water and flows toward the sea, while **el mar** is a large body of salt water. Spain has coastline on both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.

La Selva

Spanish keeps 'la selva' for a tropical jungle or rainforest such as the Amazon, while 'el bosque' names an ordinary forest of pines or oaks. Calling the Amazon a bosque would undersell its scale.

El Río

In Spanish, a landscape feature carrying flowing fresh water is called 'el río' — the term for a river, distinct from terrain words describing dry or still land.

El Pueblo: Village and People

El país is the country as a nation, **la ciudad** is the city, and **el pueblo** is the town or village. But **el pueblo** also means *the people* in the sense of a populace — *el pueblo mexicano*. Same word, two very different scales; context sorts it out.

Cross la Frontera

La frontera is the border. Once you are past it you are **en el extranjero** (*abroad*), and Spanish speakers talk about going **al extranjero** the way Americans say *overseas*. The word does people too: **un extranjero** is a foreigner.

> **La Capital**
> When Spanish speakers refer to 'la capital' of Argentina, they mean Buenos Aires, the country's capital city. Spain's capital is Madrid.

> **El País**
> 'El país' is the Spanish word for a country as a nation — distinct from 'la ciudad' (city) and 'el pueblo' (town), the smaller-scale words for a place.

Matched pairs

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

La lluvia → The rain

La nieve → The snow

El viento → The wind

La nube → The cloud

El sol → The sun

La tormenta → The storm

La montaña → The mountain

El río → The river

El mar → The sea

El bosque → The forest / woods

El valle → The valley

El desierto → The desert

La ciudad → The city

El pueblo → The town / village

El país → The country / nation

La capital → The capital city

La frontera → The border

En el extranjero → Abroad / In a foreign country

Self-test

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

1. Which verb means 'to rain'?

- A Tronar
- B Hacer sol
- C Llover
- D Nevar

2. How does Spanish say 'it's sunny'?

- A Es sol
- B Hace sol
- C Está sol
- D Hace lluvia

3. Which verb means 'to snow'?

- A Llover
- B Ventear
- C Nublar
- D Nevar

4. Which single word correctly says 'it's raining'?

- A Llueve
- B Hace lluvia
- C Llovía
- D Nieva

5. Which weather phrase is NOT correct Spanish?

- A Hace lluvia
- B Hace calor
- C Hace viento
- D Hace frío

6. What does 'la lluvia' mean?

- A The snow
- B The storm
- C The cloud
- D The rain

7. What does 'la tormenta' mean?

- A The cloud
- B The wind
- C The storm
- D The rain

8. What does 'el viento' mean?

- A The sky
- B The wind
- C The cloud
- D The sun

9. Which word means 'the cloud'?

- A La lluvia
- B La nube
- C La nieve
- D El sol

10. What does 'la nieve' mean?

A The wind
B The rain
C The storm
D The snow

11. Which feature contains flowing fresh water?

A El río
B El mar
C El desierto
D La montaña

12. What does 'la montaña' mean?

A The valley
B The rainforest
C The mountain
D The desert

13. Which word specifically means a jungle or tropical rainforest, like the Amazon?

A El desierto
B La selva
C El bosque
D El valle

14. Which feature is a large body of salt water, not fresh water?

A La montaña
B El río
C El valle
D El mar

15. What does 'el desierto' mean?

A The desert
B The forest
C The valley
D The sea

16. Which feature is a large body of salt water?

A El río
B La montaña
C El mar
D El desierto

17. A tall landform rising above the surrounding land is called ___.

A El desierto
B El valle
C La montaña
D El río

18. 'El desierto' best describes a region that is ___.

A Mostly covered by salt water
B Dry, with very little rain
C Wet, with rain almost every day
D Covered in dense tropical jungle

19. A low area of land between mountains is ___.

A El mar
B El desierto
C La selva
D El valle

20. 'El bosque' best describes ___.

- A An ordinary forest, such as pine or oak
- B A sandy desert
- C A tropical rainforest
- D A salt-water sea

21. What is 'la capital' of Argentina?

- A Buenos Aires
- B Córdoba
- C Mendoza
- D Rosario

22. What does 'la frontera' mean?

- A Abroad
- B The country
- C The capital
- D The border

23. What does 'en el extranjero' mean?

- A In the town
- B At the border
- C Outside the country
- D In the capital

24. Which word means the country as a nation?

- A El pueblo
- B El país
- C La ciudad
- D La capital

25. What does 'el pueblo' mean?

- A The country
- B The town
- C The capital
- D The city

Go deeper

WATCH It Makes Cold 0:32
In English, it is cold. In Spanish, it makes cold: hace frío.

WATCH Bosque or Selva 0:31
Spanish has two words for forest, and they are not the same.

WATCH Seventeen Communities 0:31
Spain is divided into 17 comunidades autónomas, autonomous communities. Each has its own parliament.

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Answer key

Lesson 1: Lesson 1: Travel & Transportation

1. D Un boleto

'Boleto' is the word for a travel ticket.

2. C The subway / underground

'El metro' is the subway or underground. 'El autobús' is the bus, 'el andén' the platform, and 'el trasbordo' a transfer.

3. A Autobús

'Autobús' means bus. 'Metro' is the subway, 'estación' the station, and 'boleto' the ticket.

4. B Switch lines

A 'trasbordo' is a transfer between lines: you change to another line at that station. It is not buying a ticket (a 'boleto'), waiting for the next train, or riding to the end of the line.

5. C Tomar

'Tomar' means to take (tomar el metro, tomar el autobús). 'Cruzar' is to cross, 'girar' to turn, and 'documentar' to check in luggage.

6. B The platform

'El andén' is the platform. 'La estación' is the station, 'el boleto' the ticket, and 'el trasbordo' the transfer.

7. A The station

'La estación' is the station. 'El andén' is the platform, 'la esquina' the corner, and 'la aduana' customs.

8. D Trains and metros

'El andén' is the platform beside the track at train and metro stations. Buses and metros both leave from a station, but the platform is the rail term.

9. B Una estación

Both depart from 'una estación' (station). The 'andén' (platform) is the strip beside the track at rail stations, 'aduana' is customs, and 'esquina' a corner.

10. D Boleto

'Boleto' is a ticket, not a place. 'Estación', 'andén', and 'aeropuerto' are all locations in a transit system.

11. C Está lejos

'Lejos' means far away; 'cerca' means nearby.

12. A A la derecha

'A la derecha' is to the right. 'A la izquierda' is to the left, 'todo derecho' straight ahead, and 'la esquina' the corner.

13. B To the left

'A la izquierda' is to the left. 'A la derecha' is right, 'todo derecho' straight ahead, and 'la esquina' the corner.

14. A Straight ahead

'Todo derecho' means straight ahead. Left is 'a la izquierda' and right is 'a la derecha'.

15. D Blocks

'La cuadra' is the block, the Latin American unit of distance. 'Esquina' is a corner; Spain uses 'manzana' for block.

16. C El pasaporte

A passport (pasaporte) is the primary travel document for international entry.

17. A The suitcase

'La maleta' is the suitcase. 'El pasaporte' is the passport, 'pase de abordar' the boarding pass, and 'el vuelo' the flight.

18. C El pase de abordar

The 'pase de abordar' (boarding pass) lets you board. The passport proves identity, the maleta is luggage, and la aduana is customs.

19. B Customs

'La aduana' is customs, where you declare goods after landing. Check-in/baggage-drop is 'documentación'.

20. D To check in luggage

In Mexico 'documentar' means to check in luggage, and you do it at 'documentación'. Elsewhere, and in Spain, the usual verb is 'facturar', which away from the airport means to invoice.

21. A La documentación

Documentación is the check-in and baggage-drop counter, where you check la maleta. La aduana is customs, el andén is the train platform, and la esquina is a street corner.

22. C aeropuerto

A flight ('vuelo') departs from the 'aeropuerto' (airport). 'Andén' is a platform, 'aduana' customs, and 'esquina' a corner.

23. B metro

'Tomar el metro' is to take the subway, a quick way into the city centre. 'Boleto' is a ticket, 'mapa' a map, and 'vuelo' a flight.

24. D boleto

A round-trip ('de ida y vuelta') is a 'boleto' (ticket). 'Andén' is a platform, 'carro' a car, and 'pasaporte' a passport.

25. B estación

A train ('tren') departs from 'la estación' (station). 'Aduana' is customs, 'maleta' a suitcase, and 'cuadra' a block.

Lesson 2: Lesson 2: Lodging & Accommodation

1. B El botones

The 'botones' (bellhop) is responsible for luggage assistance.

2. D El huésped

"El huésped" is the guest. "El botones" is the bellhop, "el recepcionista" the desk clerk, and "el mesero" the waiter — all hotel staff, not the guest.

3. A Tengo una reservación a nombre de...

"Tengo una reservación a nombre de..." states a booking. "¿Tiene una habitación libre?" asks if a room is free — used when you have NOT booked.

4. C The duration of your stay

"La estancia" (also "la estadía") is the length of your stay. "La llave" is the key and "la recepción" is the front desk.

5. C La llave

"La llave" is the key (often a card). "La factura" is the invoice and "la reservación" is the reservation — neither opens the door.

6. D The reception desk

"La recepción" is the reception desk/lobby. "La reservación" is the reservation and "la llave" is the key.

7. A The reservation

"La reservación" is the reservation. "La recepción" is the reception desk and "la estancia" is the stay.

8. B The bellhop

"El botones" is the bellhop who handles bags — singular and masculine despite the plural look. "El recepcionista" is the desk clerk.

9. B habitación

"Habitación" (room) fits — you reserve a double room. "Recepción" is the desk and "llave" the key; neither is "doble" here.

10. A recepción

You get the key at the "recepción" (reception). "Cama" is bed and "regadera" shower — you don't receive a key there.

11. C No funciona

'Funcionar' is the natural verb for an appliance that works or is out of order: 'no funciona'. 'Trabajar' is the everyday verb for employment work, so a TV 'funciona' rather than 'trabaja'.

12. D The bed

"La cama" is the bed. "La almohada" is the pillow and "la toalla" the towel.

13. B La calefacción

"La calefacción" (heating) warms a cold room. "El aire acondicionado" is air conditioning — that would cool it, the opposite of what you need.

14. C La alberca

"La alberca" (pool) is a hotel facility (instalación), not an in-room item. The bed, pillow, and towel are all inside the room.

15. A Air conditioning

"Aire acondicionado" is air conditioning, used when a room is too hot. "La calefacción" is heating — the opposite control.

16. D The pillow

"La almohada" is the pillow. "La cama" is the bed and "la toalla" the towel — easy to confuse but distinct.

17. D La toalla

"La toalla" is the towel. "La almohada" is the pillow and "la cama" the bed — neither dries you off.

18. B The elevator

"El elevador" is the elevator, a hotel facility. "La alberca" is the pool and "la regadera" the shower.

19. C elevador

You go up to your floor in the "elevador" (elevator). "Comedor" is dining room and "baño" bathroom — neither takes you up a floor.

20. A "La almohada" means "the bed"

"La almohada" means the pillow, not the bed — so that statement is false. "La cama" is the bed. The other three pairings are correct.

21. B En efectivo

Banknotes and coins together are referred to as paying 'en efectivo' (in cash). 'Con tarjeta' is by card, 'con cheque' is by check, and 'a plazos' means in installments — different payment methods, not cash.

22. D La factura

La factura is the official, itemized invoice for tax or expenses. La cuenta is the casual bill you'd ask for in a restaurant; el precio is the price and el pago total the full payment.

23. A The price

"El precio" is the price. "El pago" is the payment and "la factura" the invoice — related but different.

24. C incluido

"Incluido" means included — it asks whether breakfast is part of the price. "Adelantado" means in advance and "efectivo" cash — neither fits.

25. B Payment in advance

"Por adelantado" always means ahead of time, so it's payment in advance — never afterwards. It says nothing about cash versus card.

Lesson 3: Lesson 3: Weather, Seasons & Geography

1. C Llover

The infinitive 'llover' means to rain — tronar is to thunder, nevar is to snow, and hacer sol is to be sunny.

2. B Hace sol

Spanish uses 'hacer' for most weather: 'hace sol' (literally 'it makes sun'), not 'ser' or 'estar'.

3. D Nevar

'Nevar' is the dedicated verb for snowing ('nieva' = it's snowing). 'Llover' means to rain.

4. A Llueve

You don't say 'hace lluvia'; the stem-changing verb gives 'llueve'. 'Nieva' means it's snowing.

5. A Hace lluvia

Rain uses its own verb ('llueve'), so 'hace lluvia' is wrong. 'Hace viento/frío/calor' are all correct.

6. D The rain

'La lluvia' is the rain. The storm is 'la tormenta' and the snow is 'la nieve'.

7. C The storm

'La tormenta' is the storm, the usual culprit when plans collapse. 'La lluvia' is the rain.

8. B The wind

'El viento' is the wind. The sun is 'el sol' and the cloud is 'la nube'.

9. B La nube

'La nube' is the cloud. 'La nieve' is snow and 'la lluvia' is rain.

10. D The snow

'La nieve' is the snow (verb 'nevar'). 'La lluvia' is rain and 'la tormenta' is storm.

11. A El río

A 'río' is a freshwater river.

12. C The mountain

'La montaña' is the mountain. The valley is 'el valle' and the desert is 'el desierto'.

13. B La selva

'La selva' is a jungle/rainforest. 'El bosque' is a general forest (pine, oak), which undersells the Amazon.

14. D El mar

'El mar' is salt water; 'el río' is fresh water that flows toward the sea.

15. A The desert

'El desierto' is the desert. 'El valle' is the valley and 'el mar' is the sea.

16. C El mar

'El mar' is the sea (salt water). 'El río' is a freshwater river.

17. C La montaña

'La montaña' is a mountain. 'El valle' is the low area between mountains.

18. B Dry, with very little rain

'El desierto' is a dry desert. A dense jungle is 'la selva' and salt water is 'el mar'.

19. D El valle

'El valle' is the valley. 'El desierto' is a desert and 'la selva' is a jungle.

20. A An ordinary forest, such as pine or oak

'El bosque' is a general forest (pine, oak). A tropical rainforest is 'la selva'.

21. A Buenos Aires

Buenos Aires is the capital city of Argentina.

22. D The border

'La frontera' is the border. 'En el extranjero' means abroad and 'el país' means the country.

23. C Outside the country

'En el extranjero' means abroad, outside the country. 'La frontera' is the border and 'la capital' is the capital city.

24. B El país

'El país' is the country/nation. 'La ciudad' is the city and 'el pueblo' is the town.

25. B The town

'El pueblo' is the town or village (also 'the people'). The city is 'la ciudad'.

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