

## Highlights of Spanish Boot Camp

### Monsoon Session 2026

#### C O R E P A T T E R N

##### [conjugated verb] + [infinitive]

Starting with a conjugated verb, we can add an infinitive to create a simple, powerful sentence. These verbs open the ability to talk about wants, needs, abilities, plans, and obligations. The first-person singular forms give us immediate expressive power:

**Quiero** aprender español. *I want to learn Spanish. (querer – to want)*

**Necesito** aprender español. *I need to learn Spanish. (necesitar – to need)*

**Puedo** aprender español. *I can learn spanish. (poder – to be able to)*

**Voy a** aprender español. *I am going to learn Spanish. (ir a – to go)*

**Tengo que** aprender español. *I have to learn Spanish. (tener que – to have)*

We know that we can replace that infinitive with verbs such as estudiar (to study), memorizar (to memorize), escribir (to write), hablar (to speak), trabajar (to work).

We can add a reason using connector words such as porque (because), pero (but), para (in order to), con (with), en (in) and then repeat the pattern:

**Quiero aprender español porque voy a viajar en Mexico en el verano.**  
*I want to learn Spanish because I am going to travel in Mexico in the summer.*

**Necesito aprender español para hablar con mis amigos en mi clase.**  
*I need to learn Spanish in order to speak with my friends in my class.*

#### subject pronouns

We learned the subject pronouns because they are the pronouns that control the verb. Subject pronouns tell us *who* is doing the action, and the verb

changes its form to match them. All conjugation patterns grow from this foundation.

- ☐ **yo**
- ☐ **tú**
- ☐ **él / ella / usted**
- ☐ **nosotros / nosotras**
- ☐ **ellos / ellas / ustedes**

### **Gustar**

We learned that expressing likes in Spanish uses a different grammatical construction. The **thing** is the subject, and the person is the receiver of the action.

A Juan, le gustan las manzanas.

John likes apples (To John, the apples are pleasing.)

Other verbs follow this gustar pattern: encantar, interesar, parecer and others. Using these gustar-like forms allows us to talk about our likes, loves, interests and opinions.

Part of the lesson on gustar-like verbs involved learning the:

### **Indirect Object Pronouns**

Me

te

le

nos

les

## **We learned the difference between Ser & Estar**

Soy (first person singular for Ser) – I am (traits, characteristics, origin, occupation)

Estoy (first person singular for Estar) – I am (how I am feeling or where I am right now)

### **Pattern: [conjugated form of estar] + [gerund]**

(ar verbs form gerund by removing ar ending and adding “ando”; er and ir verbs form gerund by removing er or ir ending and adding “iendo”).

Grammatically speaking, this is the **Present Progressive Tense** and lets us express what we are doing right now.

### **Useful Connectors & Transition Words**

- **pero** — but *Quiero caminar, pero hace calor.* I want to walk, but it's hot.
- **sin embargo** — however / nevertheless *Estoy cansada; sin embargo, voy a practicar.* I'm tired; however, I'm going to practice.
- **aunque** — although / even though *Aunque llueve, estoy contenta.* Although it's raining, I'm happy.
- **también** — also *Me gustan los perros y también los gatos.* I like dogs and also cats.
- **además** — in addition / furthermore *Leo cada día; además, escucho español.* I read every day; in addition, I listen to Spanish.
- **incluso** — even *Es fácil, incluso para principiantes.* It's easy, even for beginners.
- **por supuesto** — of course *Por supuesto, puedo ayudar.* Of course, I can help.
- **sin duda** — without a doubt *Sin duda, necesito practicar más.* Without a doubt, I need to practice more.

- **de hecho** — in fact *Me gusta estudiar; de hecho, practico cada día.* I like studying; in fact, I practice every day.
- **entonces** — so / then *Tengo tiempo; entonces, voy a leer.* I have time; so I'm going to read.
- **pues** — well... (soft opener) *Pues, no sé.* Well... I'm not sure.
- **bueno** — well... (gentle transition) *Bueno, vamos a empezar.* Well, let's begin.
- **porque** — because *Practico cada día porque quiero mejorar.* I practice every day because I want to improve.
- **ya que** — since / given that *Voy a descansar ya que estoy cansada.* I'm going to rest since I'm tired.
- **de todas formas** — anyway / in any case *No tengo tiempo; de todas formas, voy a estudiar.* I don't have time; anyway, I'm going to study.

We also learned a lot of natural phrasing by listening to each other build short narratives about our own experiences. New vocabulary grew organically from these shared stories.

**Helpful chunks to ask “What did you \_\_\_\_\_?”**

### **Expanded “Qué + Verb” Chunk Family (All Preterite, Tú-Form)**

**Qué dijiste...**

*What did you say...?*

**Qué hiciste...**

*What did you do...?*

**Qué viste...**

*What did you see...?*

**Qué comiste...**

*What did you eat...?*

**Qué aprendiste...**

*What did you learn...?*

**Qué bebiste...**

*What did you drink...?*

**Qué compraste...**

*What did you buy...?*

**Qué encontraste...**

*What did you find...?*

**Qué dijiste sobre...**

*What did you say about...?*

**Qué hiciste ayer**

*What did you do yesterday?*

**Qué viste en tu viaje**

*What did you see on your trip?*

**Qué preparaste...**

*What did you prepare...?*

**Qué escuchaste...**

*What did you listen to...?*

**Qué leíste...**

*What did you read...?*

**Qué dijiste en tu introducción**

*What did you say in your introduction?*

*... fully expanded chunk*

***¿Qué bebiste cuando fuiste al restaurante  
en Sedona en tus vacaciones en el verano***

**Example:**

¿Qué \_\_\_\_\_ cuando fuiste a la tienda?

(**comiste / compraste / bebiste / dijiste**)

What did you (**eat / buy / drink / say**) at the store?