



**COFFEEBREAK****SPANISH** *espresso*

# Coffee Break **Spanish** **Espresso - Episode 6**

Radio Lingua Ltd

## Video episode

Begin by watching the video episode below. You can then read the notes which follow and increase your understanding of the language contained in this episode.



The video is embedded in the ePub version of these notes. If you're using the PDF version of these notes, you will have to access the video on the members' page.

## Part 1: Real life Spanish

In this episode Mark takes a closer look at the language he saw on a poster in Barajas airport in Madrid.

The key phrase under discussion is as follows:

**A todos nos gusta volar.**



### Key Vocabulary

**volar** to fly

In Spanish, the verb “to like” is **gustar** but “I like something” is really, “something is pleasing to me”. For example: I like to fly = me gusta volar. **Me** means “to me”, **gusta** means “is pleasing” and **volar** is “to fly”. In English you can use either the infinitive (I like to fly) or the gerund (I like flying) but in Spanish you must use the infinitive: “I like singing” or “I like to sing” is always translated as **me gusta cantar**.

When we want to talk about what someone else likes, the construction changes slightly. To say María likes flying, you say **a María le gusta volar**. Just like **me** means “to me” (something is pleasing to me), **le** is “to him” or “to her” and you can add **a** before the subject to emphasise who you are talking about: **a Juan le gusta comer paella, a mí me gustan los champiñones, a ti no te gustan los champiñones, a todos nos gusta volar**. Please note that although it’s very common to add “**a**” plus the person or the pronoun at the beginning of the sentence for clarification, it is not essential and it is possible to say **le gusta paella, ¿te gustan los bombones?** without this additional information.

See below for further examples of this construction:

**me gusta el chocolate** I like chocolate

**me gusta bailar** I like dancing, I like to dance

**me gusta cantar** I like singing, I like to sing

**(a ella) le gusta nadar** she likes swimming, she likes to swim

**(a él) no le gusta limpiar** he doesn't like cleaning, he doesn't like to clean

**(a todos) les gusta volar** they (all) like flying, they (all) like to fly

**(a todos) os gusta volar** you (all) like flying, you (all) like to fly

It is important to consider the differences between **gustar** in Spanish and "to like" in English. In English we follow a simple subject - verb - object construction, with the verb "like" agreeing with the subject. Note that "like" changes to "likes" when using the third person:

subject	verb	object
I	like	chocolate
you	like	to dance
María	likes	mushrooms

In Spanish the verb still agrees with the subject, but here the subject is "chocolate", "to dance" or "mushrooms". So for plural subjects such as "mushrooms" the verb must change to the plural form, **gustan**.

object	verb	subject
(a mí) me	gusta	el chocolate
(a ti) te	gusta	bailar
a María le	gustan	los champiñones

Here are some further examples:

(a ella) **le gusta escribir poesía** she likes writing poetry

(a ellos) **les gusta escribir poesía** they like writing poetry

(a mí) **me gustan los dulces** I like sweet things

(a ellos) **les gustan los dulces** they love sweet things

In this episode we've focused on the verb **volar** and it is important to note that is a radical changing verb. This means that the **o** changes to **ue** in the **yo, tú, él/ella, ellos/ellas** forms which gives the full conjugation of the verb as follows:

volar - to fly - present tense	
vuelo	volamos
vuelas	voláis
vuela	vuelan

It's also worth remembering that it's not just birds and planes which fly:

**¡Cómo vuela el tiempo!** how time flies!

## Part 2: Subjunctive of the week

- Mark: I love that jingle - it's so cheesy! Fernanda, ¿cómo se diría "cheesy" en español?
- Fernanda: En español se diría "cursi".
- Mark: Cursi, claro.
- Fernanda: Muy cursi.
- Mark: Muy cursi. Bueno, hola Fernanda.
- Fernanda: Hola, Mark. ¿Qué tal?
- Mark: Muy bien, ¿y tú?
- Fernanda: Muy bien, gracias. Bueno, el subjuntivo de esta semana es **hasta que**.
- Mark: Ahhh, **hasta que**.
- Fernanda: Sí.
- Mark: Que quiere decir "until".
- Fernanda: Sí, muy bien, muy bien. Hay bastantes canciones que dicen **hasta que**.
- Mark: Hasta que...sí. Vamos a ver.
- Fernanda: Bueno, la primera oración es:

Yo te espero aquí hasta que llegues

La repetimos:

Yo te espero aquí hasta que llegues

¿Sabes lo que significa, Mark?

- Mark: Ok, **yo te espero aquí**, I will wait for you here.
- Fernanda: Sí.
- Mark: En español es el presente, ¿no?
- Fernanda: Sí, sí, sí.

Mark: "I am waiting for you here", pero en inglés diríamos "I will wait for you here".  
**Hasta que llegues**, until you arrive.

Fernanda: Perfecto, muy bien. Y el subjuntivo es **llegues** que viene del verbo **llegar**.  
¿Sabes lo que significa?

Mark: To arrive.

Fernanda: Sí, perfecto, ¡muy bien!

Mark: I suppose this is a little bit like **cuando. Cuando llegues**, we don't know if you're going to arrive or not...

Fernanda: Sí, es un hipótesis, sí.

Mark: Entonces utilizamos el **hasta que** o **cuando llegues**, el subjuntivo después. So we'll wait here or I'll wait here until you arrive. And that's a hypothesis so we don't know if that's going to happen or not.

Fernanda: Es un hipótesis, sí. Muy bien. Ahora, la segunda oración dice:

Nos quedaremos en la fiesta hasta que termine.

Repitámosla:

Nos quedaremos en la fiesta hasta que termine.

¿Cuál es la traducción, Mark?

Mark: Ok, **nos quedaremos en la fiesta**. "Quedarse" en esta situación es "to stay"

Fernanda: Sí.

Mark: So we'll stay at the party, **hasta que termine**, until it finishes.

Fernanda: Sí, perfecto. Algo que a los hispanos nos encanta - ¡quedarnos hasta el final! Y bueno, ahora el subjuntivo de esta oración es **termine** que viene del verbo **terminar**.

Mark: Claro. **Terminar** quiere decir to finish.

Fernanda: Sí.

Mark: Terminar ends in -AR but in the subjunctive forms we use the -E endings.

**Termine, termines, termine, terminemos, terminéis, terminen.**

Fernanda: Perfecto, Mark. Has hecho todos tus deberes.

Mark: Bueno, muchas gracias Fernanda.

Fernanda: Gracias, Mark. Adiós.



## Part 3: La cita de la semana

The quotation of the week is as follows:

**Hemos aprendido a volar como los pájaros, a nadar como los peces;  
pero no hemos aprendido el sencillo arte de vivir como hermanos.**

*We have learned to fly like birds, to swim like fish;  
but we have not learned the simple art of living as brothers.*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

### Key Vocabulary

**aprendido** < **aprender** learned

**un pájaro** a bird

**un pez, unos peces** a fish, fish

**sencillo** simple

## Exercise

Use what you've learned in this episode to translate the following sentences from English into Spanish or Spanish into English where appropriate.

1. (A ellos) no les gustan los serpientes.
2. Me encantan las canciones cursis.
3. Cuando tenga 40 años, iré a Portugal.
4. Tengo que quedarme en casa hasta que vuelva mi madre.
5. ¿(A ti) te gusta volar?
6. I'm not going to sleep until the noise stops.
7. We all like churros.
8. We like to speak French.
9. He won't leave until you give him the book.
10. She likes birds.

## Answer key

1. They don't like snakes.
2. I love cheesy songs.
3. When I'm 40, I'll go to Portugal.
4. I have to stay at home until my mother gets back.
5. Do you like flying?
6. No voy a dormir hasta que el ruido pare.
7. A todos nos gustan los churros.
8. (A nosotros) nos gusta hablar francés.
9. No sale hasta que le des el libro.
10. (A ella) le gustan los pájaros.