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MINI-GUIDE TO SPEAK MEXICAN SPANISH

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Welcome to this mini guide! In here you'll learn the most important things about Mexican Spanish!



If you are wondering what kind of Spanish this is, well... this is the Spanish that is spoken by more than 120 million people in Mexico, more than 30 million in the United States, and thousands more in the rest of the world.

You'll be able to communicate with more than 150 million people around the world!

However, if you still want more reasons to learn it, here is another one: Mexican Spanish is one of the most neutral variations of Spanish in terms of pronunciation: you will not have to bite your tongue to say the word "cerveza" (as you would in Spain), and it'll be easier in terms of verb conjugation, as you can skip learning "vos" and "vosotros" entirely, and just use "ustedes" instead.

The biggest reason why you should be interested in the Spanish from Mexico is because of the cultural discovery that you will obtain as you get in touch with Mexicans and all the beautiful things this country has to offer, such as the rich history that still prevails in the culture, the legendary parties, and of course, the world renowned cuisine.

If you are still not a 100% convinced, I can promise you that learning Mexican Spanish is also very fun, and when you get to practice it in Mexico or with Mexican friends, it'll will be even more so.





IN THIS MINI-GUIDE YOU WILL LEARN THE BASICS
TO START LEARNING MEXICAN SPANISH, THESE
ARE THE TOPICS YOU WILL LEARN:



1. BASIC PRONUNTIATION RULES
2. PHRASES AMONG FRIENDS
3. LIVESAVER PHRASES WHEN YOU DON'T GET A
WORD



1. BASIC PRONUNTIATION RULES.

As we've explained, Mexican Spanish is one of the easiest forms of Spanish, you just have to remember a few things, these are the most important to start:

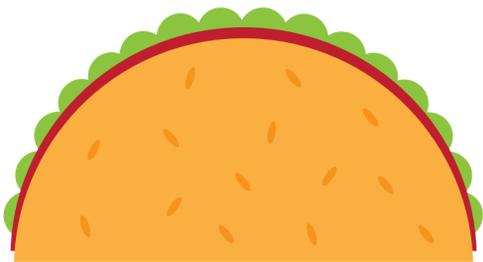
"H" MUDA

It's called this way because is mute, meaning it does not have a sound, so when you want to say "hi" in Spanish you have to say:

"Hola" sounds like [Ola]

never say [Jola]!

Alcohol- [Alkol] and not [Alkojol]!



"LL" TORTILLA

This is a very important word as it the refers to base ingredient of the mexican cuisine, that is why it is necessary to pronounce it correctly, the sound of the "LL" is as in the word "jam" in english, not like the sound of "lamborgini".

When you go to eat with your mexican friends, be sure to say **Quesadilla** - [quesadiya] not [quesadila]

**LAST IMPORTANT RULE:
IN MEXICAN SPANISH THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN THE SOUND OF THE C AND S.**

That's why you can ask for a **c**erveza and say grac**ci**as, without having to press your tongue between your teeth, the pronunciation is the same as in the word “salad”.

Try to practice a little and remember those key words, these rules will be very good to sound like a native.



2. PHRASES AMONG FRIENDS.

¿QUÉ ONDA?



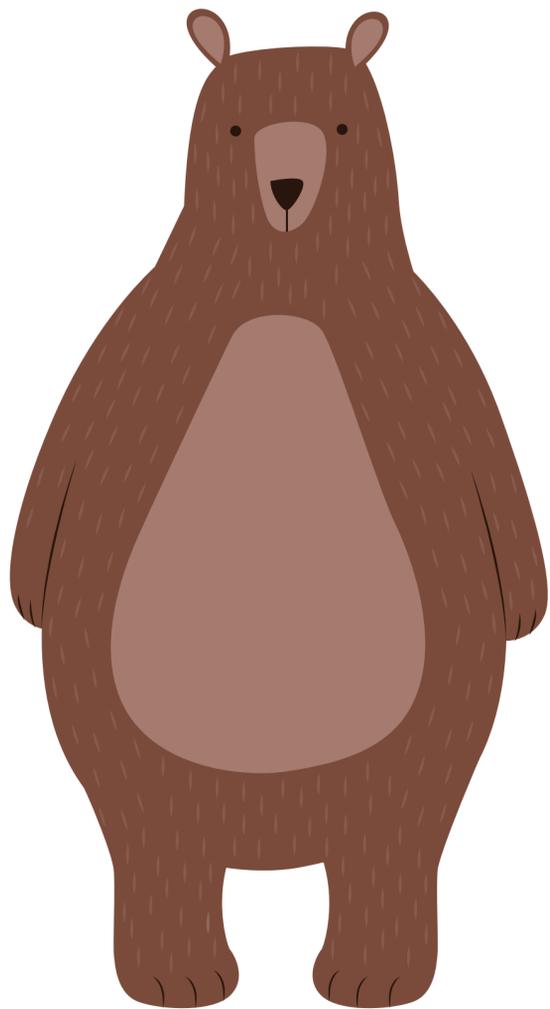
It is a very common way to greet your friends, ask about their plans, and also respond to someone's greeting.

- ¡Hola!
- ¿Qué onda?
- Todo bien

CHIDO

It is the most common way to replace the word “cool” (which we also use in Mexico) but if you are learning Spanish and you want to surprise your Mexican friends, wait for the right moment and give your opinion on the subject by expressing: **¡que chido!**



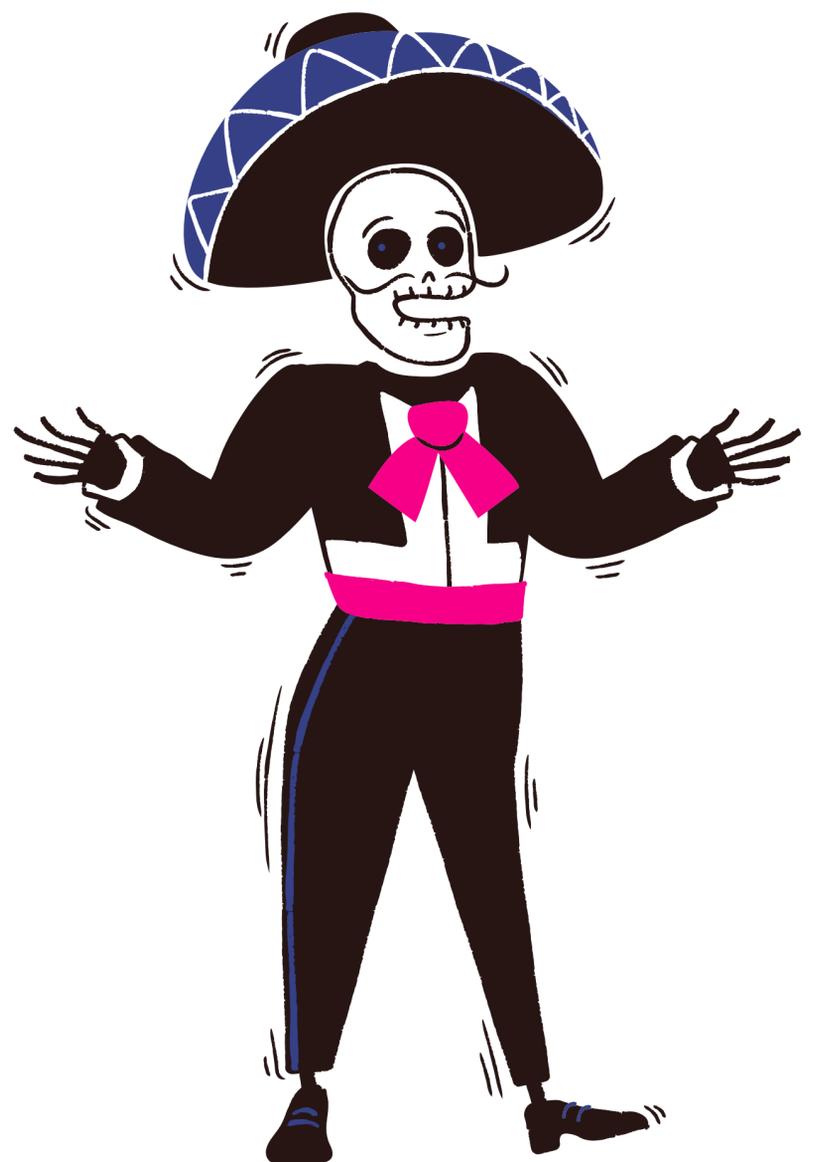


¡QUÉ OSO!

When someone has done something shameful or maybe you're in that situation, you can express very naturally **¡qué oso!** You'll not find it in Spanish books since it would literally mean “**what a bear**” but in Mexico, we'll all understand what it means.

ÓRALE

You could use it to express surprise and also to affirm, if your friends are making plans in Spanish and want to know your opinion, you can confidently answer: **¡Órale!**



3. LIVESAVER PHRASES WHEN YOU DON'T GET A WORD.

You are in a conversation in Spanish and you do not understand anything?

Don't worry, we'll give you some options that you can use to cope with the situation or at least to make your friends laugh.

"ÁJA"

This is a phrase to affirm and show interest, although you really have no idea what they are talking about, you can move your head affirming and repeating -Ajá as necessary.

Bonus: did you know Mexicans can say yes by moving up and down their index finger?



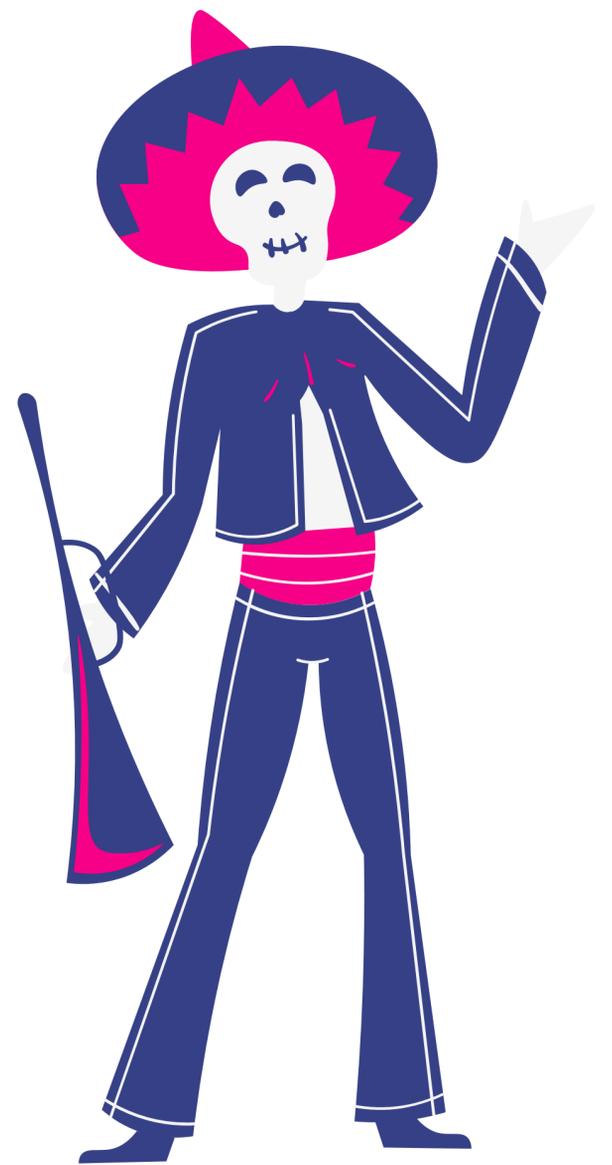
"NETA"

During a conversation in which you have not understood anything, you can intervene with this question, which could be translated as: **Really?** It'll definitely make your friends cry with laughter when they realize that you actually didn't understand anything of the conversation.

"SEPA LA BOLA"

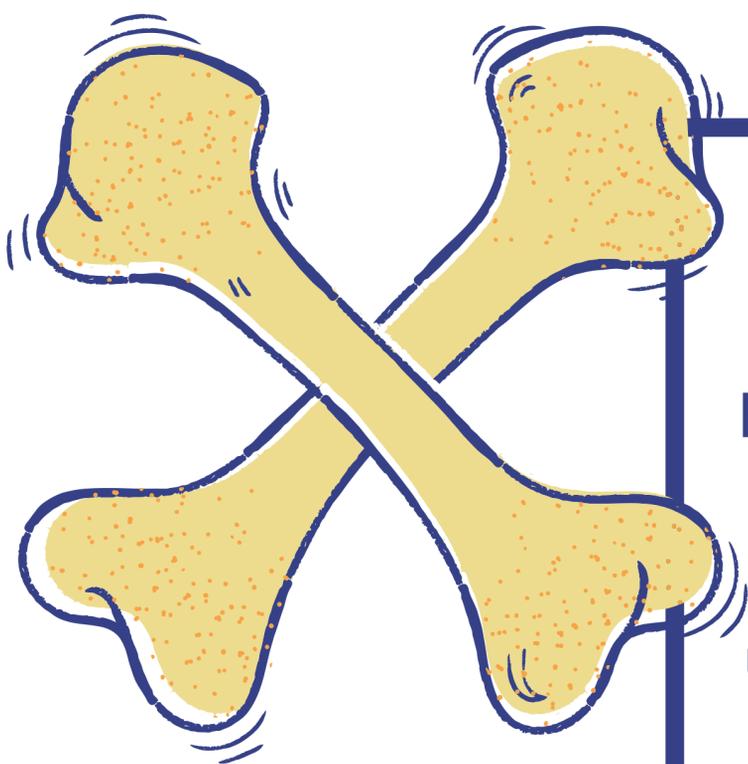
If within that conversation someone asks you a question, which you surely cannot answer, you can calmly say this phrase "**sepa la bola**" and move your shoulders up, it literally makes no sense to translate it but we use it as "**don't have a clue**".

You could also say: **¡Ni idea!** In a less casual context.



"EQUIS"

It is literally the letter "X" however, the expression "**equis**" works perfectly to say "I don't care, it is not relevant", if we reach a point in this conversation where you do not understand, you can say **¡equis!** And you'll make it clear that what happened is not important to you.





THE CULTURAL ASPECT PLAYS A MAJOR ROLE IN LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE. THESE EXPRESSIONS ARE VERY USEFUL AND NECESSARY TO LEARN THE REAL MEXICAN SPANISH.

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