



LEARNING SPANISH VOCABULARY

When studying Spanish we must not forget that there are many dialects around. A dialect is defined as a language variation which is spoken in a specific territory. There are important variations in dialect among the various regions of Spain and Latin America. The differences between dialects are usually limited to intonation, pronunciation and isolated words and expressions.

Here are some examples of every day words that change according to the region:

Bean:

"Poroto "(Argentina and Chile),

"Frijol" (Mexico),

"Habichuela" (Andalucía),

"Alubias" (Castilla).

"Caraotas" (Venezuela)

T-shirt:

"Remera" (Argentina), "Polera" (Chile),

"Playera" (Mexico).

"Franela" (Venezuela).

Car:

"Coche" (Uruguay),

"Auto" (Chile),

"Carro" (Andalucía - Venezuela).

What we need to remember is that everyone speaks a dialect, and therefore dialects are NOT incorrect or less valid versions of a language.

One of the main differences between the dialects of Spain and those of Latin America is the use of pronouns. In Spain, the informal pronoun that has remained for the second person singular is "tú". However, some Latin American countries, (Argentina, Uruguay or Paraguay, for example) use "vos", and this is called "voseo".

Let`s see the rules that apply when we use the "voseo":

"Vos" is used extensively as the primary form of the second-person singular. The second person plural pronoun, which is "vosotros" in Spain, is replaced with "ustedes" in Rioplatense Spanish (Argentina and Uruguay). While "usted" is the formal second person singular pronoun, its plural "ustedes" has a neutral connotation and can be used to address friends and acquaintances as well as in more formal occasions. "Ustedes" takes a grammatically third person plural verb.

As an example, let`s study the conjugation table for the verb "amar" in the present tense, indicative mode:

| Person/Number | Peninsular (Spain) | Rioplatense (Argentina and Uruguay) |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1st sing. | yo amo | yo amo |
| 2nd sing. | tú amas | vos amás |
| 3rd sing. | él ama | él ama |
| 1st plural | nosotros amamos | nosotros amamos |
| 2nd plural | vosotros amáis | ustedes aman |
| 3rd plural | ellos aman | ellos aman |

Here are some examples to illustrate the voseo:

1) Vos tenés miedo, por eso no querés entrar.

(You're afraid, that is why you don't want to come in)

2) Vos sos la hermana de Juan ¿no?

(You're Juan's sister, right?)

3) Ya te dije que (vos) no podés correr por la casa.

(I already told you, you can't run around the house)

4) ¿Pensás que llegaremos tarde?

(Do you think we will be late?)

5) ¡Dormís todo el día y no hacés nada!

(You sleep all day and don't do anything!)

"Vos" also differs in its affirmative imperative conjugation from both tú and vosotros. Specifically, the "vos" imperatives are formed by dropping the final -r from the infinitive, but keeping the stress on the last syllable. The only verb that is irregular in this regard is "ir"; its "vos" imperative is not used, with "andá" (the "vos" imperative of "andar") being used instead.

| Verb Meaning | Tú | Vos |
|-----------------------|--------|-------|
| ser "to be" | sé | sé |
| ir "to go" | ve | andá |
| hablar "to speak" | habla | hablá |
| callar "to be silent" | calla | callá |
| soltar "to let go" | suelta | soltá |
| salir "to leave" | sal | salí |
| tener "to have" | ten | tené |
| decir "to say" | di | decí |
| pedir "to ask/order" | pide | pedí |

- 1) Sé más cuidadoso al lavar los platos, podrías romper algo.
(Be more careful when you wash the dishes, you could break something)
- 2) ¡Decíme la verdad! (Tell me the truth!)
- 3) Por favor, habla más claro. (Please, speak more clearly)
- 4) Apuráte, andá al colegio que se hace tarde.
(Hurry up, go to the school that it is getting late)
- 5) Pedíle al Sr. Morales que por favor pase por aquí antes de las 4.
(Ask Mr. Morales to please come by before 4)