



Language Link Line APRIL 2013

Language Link
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Tips and information about learning Spanish and the people who speak it. Published several times yearly.

What's in this edition

Online Lesson, Cocina Cooking, Culture Clips, Language Link's Latest, OJO (real deals), Rhythm & Read, Been There, Loved That (reports from participants), Likeable Links

FINALLY, CUBA!! Now you can legally go to Cuba with Language Link! We have been granted an official license from the U.S. government for People to People/viajes to Cuba. U.S. citizens can legally go to Cuba on this type of *viaje* and agree to meaningful contacts with the Cuban people. October 9 – 17, 2013, all inclusive with a comprehensive itinerary and many people contacts as required by the license. We sent out full information to our pre-publication list, and within one day had 11 out of the 20 spaces filled. If you are interested in one of the remaining nine, please request full information at kay@langlink.com, as we would be delighted to have you share this great cultural project. Kay Godfrey and Maru Cortés Ramos of Cuernavaca will accompany the group.

Online Lesson

Proverbial Wisdom

If your Spanish is more or less grammatically where you want to be, another step in expressing yourself fluently is to throw in an appropriate proverb in Spanish when the time is right. A few favorites, and many include a historical reference which we don't have the space to adequately explain here. These are widely heard and easy to remember to incorporate into your conversations.

No se ganó Zamora en una hora. Loosely – Take

OJO

In this article we are substituting the word vuelo in order to get through email filters. Gracias y un abrazo to Dr. Robert Dailey (a self-confessed miles junkie) for sending more valuable information for you who use frequent flyer miles to your study destinations:

The Star Alliance (~30 airlines) now has excellent miles availability to Central America and northern South America, IF PLAYED WISELY! Folks usually try to get from the USA to their destination in one day. Thus, am *vuelos* from interior USA hubs and pm *vuelos* from southern USA hubs to Latin America (eg Miami, Houston) are over sought and so often don't have availability. So I fly to Houston (IAH) in the afternoon, stay at a nearby inn using Priceline.com, and continue to my destination on a morning *vuelo*. Advantages? 1) Excellent availability on both *vuelo* segments. 2) no wee hour

departures or arrivals, 3) NO REDEYES, just daytime *vuelos*, 4) equal daily *vuelosegments* of about 4 hr each, and 5) pleasant "overnight stay just a no cost shuttle away". For example, Priceline gave me a \$35 stay at Wynngate, which was delightful and included a hot breakfast. What was not to like?!! Also UA, TACA, LACSA, and COPA blanket northern Latin America, are all in the UA search engine, and are all part of the Star Alliance.

Get a deal studying in Guadalajara at IMAC. Register from now until July 31 and get up to 20% off your Spanish language course tuition.

10% off for two weeks, 15% off for three weeks, 20% off for four weeks. Courses must be taken between April 15 and December 20. Booking must be made no later than July 31.

An ongoing contest on our website for a gratis one week study at Intercultura of either Heredia or Playa Sámara, Costa Rica. Air is on you, but included is one week of small group classes and an individual homestay with two daily meals. Just click our contest box to enter. All we ask is a brief comment from you. You'll then be included in the general drawing for a winner. ¡Suerte!

Language Link's Latest

Keep an eye out for our newly revised website, coming soon in May. We've worked hard to make the multitude of programs and schools we offer easy for you to navigate, choose, and register. Our address of www.langlink.com will remain the same.

Don't forget our teen programs for your children. We have some superb ones, and it will be life-changing for your teen to spend a few summer weeks in another country. There is still availability in all our programs.

Replacement school in Ecuador! We are very pleased to now have a great

your time to do something right and win the battle.

Lo barato sale caro. – Quality is worth the price, as something cheap won't last or be effective.

En boca cerrada no entra mosca. Know when to keep your mouth closed.

Hay moros en la costa. This isn't a proverb, but it's something you say to alert someone that there may be someone else overhearing your conversation. I love the history on this one, as it refers to the Moors of Spain and locals trying to secure themselves from spies and invasions.

A pan duro, diente agudo. When times get tough, the tough get going.

A buen hambre no hay pan duro. Hunger creates the best appetite.

De tal palo, tal astilla. Like father, like son.

Del plato a la boca se cae la sopa. There's many a slip between cup and lip.

No hay que buscarle tres pies al gato. Don't overcomplicate things. Keep it simple.

Cada quien a su gusto. To each his own.

Las cuentas claras y el chocolate espeso. Keep your business matters transparent and your friendship matters thick. Saying that you are *un hombre de cuentas claras* means that you're on the up and up in business affairs.

Ojos que no ven, corazón que no siente. Out of sight, out of mind.

Culture Clips

Quien no ha visto Sevilla no ha visto maravilla. – Anónimo

It was my first time to go to Spain, and I couldn't shake the feeling of being a traitor. As a strong Latin Americanist by education, I felt as though I was betraying the whole continent by consorting with the "conquerors". I had studied Spain's history, but always with the slant of how it had reflected in Latin America. Then adding to my traitorous feeling, I kept wondering how my Mexican influenced Spanish was going to play on a Spanish stage. Would I understand anyone, and would they understand me? (I remember having the same feelings when I visited England for the first time...even about my own English language!)

After the *avión* hop across the pond I was immediately faced with navigating the AVE *tren* from Madrid to Seville. Easy enough, with many signs that I could handily read, and I couldn't help but smile over hearing for the first time the expected ceceo (where the letter c is pronounced as th), or *grathias* for *gracias* and *thinco* for *cinco*. It was charming –

relationship with an excellent school in Quito, Academia Bipo y Toni. Despite that we jest that the name sounds like a lounge act, it's a long established school of high quality programs. We already have an Illinois college group attending in June, as well as registrations in from individuals. We know you'll love it, and one on one classes in Quito are quite affordable. Our most popular program is the Quito Activo, with 4 hours of one on one classes in the morning and 3 afternoon hours touring the city with your teacher accompanying. And don't forget that something amazing awaits in the Amazonia program.

Language Link Online. We have very successfully had our first few students for our Spanish through Skype program. They're loving it and extending their class packages. Until we develop a separate website for this program, please just ask us for information about it at info@langlink.com.

The fall date of November 3 – 10, 2013, has been set for our very popular On The Road viaje to Chiapas. Many students have asked us to get that date on their calendars. We will have information available soon to send to you early planners.

Cocina Cooking

White Gazpacho – a tradition in Andalucía and a perfect summer soup

Ingredients for 4 servings:

1 T. olive oil, 1 cup white section of leeks, washed and chopped, salt and pepper to taste, 2 English cucumbers, peeled, 8-10 green grapes, 1/4 cup slivered almonds without skins, 1 T olive oil, 1/3 cup crème fraiche, sour cream or plain yogurt, 1 generous cup fresh white bread cubes, 2 T. sherry vinegar or to taste, 1 t. salt plus more to taste, cayenne to taste, 1 1/2 cups cold water, more or less as needed.

More green grapes and slivered almonds plus fresh dill for garnish.

In first T. of olive oil, cook white part of chopped leeks about 10-15 minutes until soft. Cool. Peel English

like taking to a drawl from the Deep South of the U.S., but which was still completely understandable English. I found I couldn't return the pronunciation, as it felt the equivalent of an American putting on a British accent. So I just chose my usual Latin American style and was comfortable and understood doing so.

And how about my role as a "traitor"? It was completely lost when I arrived in Seville after the remarkably efficient ride by rail. The architecture, the churches, the courtyards, the fountains, the orange trees, the faces, the formality and courtesy – it was like visiting grandparents from a family that I knew very well and seeing some of its origins. What had taken me so long to get here? I felt instantly "at home".

Since that first time I have returned to Spain many times. A deluge of wonderful memories returned as I was going through each school for our website revision and reading our students's comments. Faces, places, friends, experiences from Spain were fondly recalled. Some of my favorites – a closed coctel held at the Alcázar (Moorish fortress) in Seville, an evening with a British symphonic group held in a church in the medieval quarter of Barcelona, a dinner where our plates were in the style of Gaudí, and a requested two hour explanation by Angel, owner of the Madrid school, in front of Picasso's masterpiece Guernica. And then there was a dining experience in the Alhambra parador when my companion and I erupted in laughter as the assorted tapas he had ordered ended up at 35 very small plates on our table, a speech in Basque and Spanish by the mayor of San Sebastian at a red carpet reception, and I will never forget the electricity of a guitar presentation by Paco de Lucía, surrounded by ecstatic aficionados. They were all the sort of times when I pinched myself to believe that I was, really, really in these intriguing places and having such a wonderful time. Spain awaits you to create unforgettable memories.

Likeable Links

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spain> - general information about Spain

<http://winefolly.com/review/map-of-spain-wine-regions/> - nice overview of Spanish vineyards

cucumbers and put in a blender. Add seedless grapes, white slivered almonds (no brown skins), olive oil and salt. Add cream, then bread, sherry vinegar, cooled leeks. Add cold water of either 1 to 1 1/2 C. for thickness. Blend all well. Taste for needed salt and add dash of cayenne or white pepper. Sieve if you want a very fine texture. Hint – here pour enough of the mixture into an ice cube tray to make four ice cubes of the soup. Cover and refrigerate soup mixture for 2 – 3 hours.

To serve place one of the ice soup cubes in the bottom of the soup dish, then pour liquid cold soup over it. This must be served icy, icy cold.

Garnish with thin sliced grapes and more slivered almonds. Top with a sprig of fresh dill if desired.

Rhythm and Reads

Rhythm - Folk Música of Spain by Madrid Pasadobles Ensemble - Focusing on diverse influences, this set offers a rare view of the sounds of Spain. It features the jota from the Balearic Islands of the Mediterranean, Galician inspired tunes on the gaita (a Spanish bagpipe), the brassy, yet playful, sounds of the Catalonian sardana which still boasts a strong medieval influence, and brazen fandango sounds.

Reads - *Winter in Madrid*: A Novel by C. J. Sansom – If you enjoy reading historical thrillers, try this one set in post-Guerra Civil Spain. Written by British author Sansom, this was a bestseller and on the top reading lists in the U.K. for many months. A lot of Spanish history in a very readable way.

<http://www.foodsfromspain.com> - Good Spanish food site

Been There Loved That

A few comments from past students in Spain

Eureka of Madrid - We had an amazing time. In only 4 weeks we learned quite a lot. We feel like we have a solid foundation for learning more. I had contacted a student who sent me a raving review, and our experience even surpassed that! We were treated like family. Everyone at the school was concerned about every aspect of our time there from the moment we walked in the door. Given the quality of the teaching and the personal attention, we felt the cost of the school was quite reasonable. - *Julie Roehm, Financial Writer, CA*

CLIC of Seville - I met so many people from all over the world. I improved my Spanish a lot, and I saw so many cool things in Spain. I loved my teachers and host stay. It was such a unique experience. I learned a lot about the culture and traditions and practiced my Spanish a ton. – *Mary Corelli, South Salem NY*

I.D.E.A. of Granada - This is an excellent school that will leave every student with great memories from Granada. The size of the school and each class is very manageable and makes it possible for each student to get thorough instruction and teaching. The teachers are amazing! They are people you will never forget and you will learn a lot from. It's a fun environment, there are a lot of activities organized from the school that bring students more together but also push them into “the Spanish world”. Loved it! – *Perla, Iceland*

IH Barcelona - The school was very friendly, organized, comfortable, and was in a great location in Barcelona...I learned more in this class than any other Spanish classes I've taken in the U.S. I was so sad to leave! - *Monica Slater, Marketing, CA*

Lacunza of San Sebastian -I have just returned from a month in Europe and in San Sebastian for the 2nd time. There wasn't one negative in my 2 weeks there. As you know, San Sebastian is one of the most beautiful of small Spanish towns with extraordinary food and vino and cheese. Being on the *playa* isn't bad either!! Teachers, organization of Lacunza, course content were all 5 star. *Gail Gold, Bilingual Speech Pathologist, Chicago IL*

We hope you enjoyed our news. Please visit us
at www.langlink.com.

Call us at 800.552.2051.

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info@langlink.com, www.langlink.com ¡Hasta luego!