



## Language Link

Your Pass to  
Spanish Learning

No cost: 800.552.2051  
Email: [info@langlink.com](mailto:info@langlink.com)

Full details of all programs on our  
website including fees and dates:  
[www.langlink.com](http://www.langlink.com)

### **Language Link's Latest**

**If you have teens, it's not too late to arrange a wonderful summer program!** We have superb teen programs, and the most popular ones are in San Sebastian, Seville, Costa Rica and Cuernavaca. Since we know that every teen is unique, we urge you to call Meredith at 800.552.2051. She's very good at placing your teen in just the right program. You can get some ideas from our website in the Categories section.

For those early planners this will be the first announcement of our highly rated On The Road to Chiapas, Nov 3 – 10, \$1250. Without any publicity we are already 30% filled. You can see the full itinerary on our website under Language Link News or write to [kay@langlink.com](mailto:kay@langlink.com) to request info. It is a real exploration into the world of the Maya.

In addition to our usual 3 – 5 week university groups, we also are arranging a full semester program in Costa Rica. Another interesting one is three young men who are customizing their own South American semester abroad program, and we are setting them up for study in Ecuador, Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. What an experience!

Cuba in June is completely filled, and this study is in conjunction with a college offering

# Language Link Line

April 2014

Tips and information about learning Spanish and the people who speak it. Published every other month.

### **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

What do we do? We represent 20 Spanish schools in 8 different countries and have sent thousands of people of all ages to study Spanish in countries where it is spoken. Our students learn Spanish and live the culture.

**Plan early! On The Road to Chiapas, language and culture, Nov. 3 – 10, 2014. [kay@langlink.com](mailto:kay@langlink.com) for info**

**Keep your teen productive this summer! See our beneficial and fun teen programs.**

### **Online Lesson**

*Suffuse with Suffixes and Dally with Diminutives*

It's a great moment in your Spanish when you have acquired a basic vocabulary and then you can start playing with the words and increasing your comprehension. It's like an entirely new toy box. Suffix is simply a fancy word for adding syllables onto the end of a word, thereby changing its meaning, in most cases making it larger. You'll note that sometimes the words change gender. Let's play a bit...

Big -ón, ona, ote, ota azo, aza– la casona (very big house), el mesón (big dinner table), el sillón (big arm chair), la mujerona (big, tough woman)...don't confuse this one with mujeriego (a man who is a womanizer), los ojotes (big eyes), el librote (big book), el chillón (crybaby)

Intensity – el solterón (confirmed bachelor), la solterona (old maid), un favorzote (big favor), un abrazote (big hug), grandote (very large), un besote (big kiss), el cañonazo (cannon firing ceremony)

Outstanding – un cuerpazo (great body)

In newspapers many of these words are used, encontronazo –large accident of vehicles

academic credit. We hope to announce soon another viaje to Cuba to be scheduled in October.

We are pleased to tell you that we now have two great B & B options for our PLFM students in Antigua, just in case you don't want to stay with a host family. Check out the ratings on Trip Advisor for Casa Florencia and Casa Cristina, both very close to the school. We have personally negotiated a reduced price exclusively for our students, and we know you will be well attended at either the budget or superior level.

Summer dates book up early. If you have custom requests, please get your reservations in as soon as you can. Don't forget that our experiences make an unforgettable family vacation or a parent-child combination.

### **Cocina Cooking**

*Crema de Aguacate* An often requested favorite warm weather Mexican soup. Serves 4 -6

2 - 3 large ripe avocados, peeled and seeded, 2 T. lime juice, 2 T. finely minced onion, 2 T. dry vino blanco or vermouth, 1 ½ C. chicken broth, ¾ C. milk, ½ C. heavy cream, salt and dash of white pepper

Put avocados in blender with lime juice, onion, vino blanco/vermouth and broth. Blend until smooth. Combine blender contents with milk, cream, salt and pepper to taste. Adjust thickness with either more milk or more cream. Chill well. Serve garnished with either chopped avocado or fresh cilantro leaves.

This makes very elegant cocktail fare if served in jigger glasses with demitasse spoons if needed and passed on a silver tray. Mix among the avocado ones other jigger glasses of chilled red gazpacho to make a beautiful presentation. This idea of serving soup in shot glasses came from a closed coctel at a museo in España. Memorable!

### **Rhythm and Reads**

*Pecados y Milagros* – Lila Downs From Oaxaca, this popular Mexican artist goes back to her Mexican indigenous roots. You will be taken on an emotional tonal journey with each track.

*Malintzín's Choices: An Indian Woman in the Conquest of Mexico* by Camilla Townsend - Malintzín was the indigenous woman who translated for Hernando Cortés in his dealings with the Aztec emperor Moctezuma. The Spanish called

Although it's not really a suffix, you can easily add mente to any noun and turn it into an adverb. The trick here is to remember to always use the *feminine* form. Rápido – rápidamente, lento (slow) – lentamente, exclusivo – exclusivamente, necesario, necesariamente, amoroso – amorosamente

Then have some fun with the diminutive toys. In Mexico, ito is everywhere. It can mean something literally small or to denote affection. Un beso – un besito, la mesa – la mesita, Non native speakers are often confused when they hear mi hijita, which with elision sounds like Mi-i-ta – my dear daughter, aguita – asking nicely for some water, un cafecito – coffee, el taquito – small taco, usually rolled, la florecita – small flower, mi amorcito – my little love. Notice the C added if the base word doesn't end in an o or an a.

un dolorcito – little ache, muy cerquita – very close by, abuelita – dear granny, los pesitos – small change, gordita – fatty but in a nice, friendly, endearing way. And we all know momentito, but in Costa Rica it's a momentico. That's why Costa Ricans are called ticos, as it is so frequently heard. Illa and illo are also used – manteca – lard, mantequilla – butter, bolsa – bag or purse, bolsillo – pocket, ventanilla – window for sales or window in a bus, pasillo - aisle

**One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.–Frank Smith**

### **Culture Clips**

*From Cuernavaca – Tepoztlán, Pueblo Mágico*

Yes, it's been my home ground now for eight years, but I can't help extolling the wonderful places near Cuernavaca, Mexico. One such place is Tepoztlán, a small village located only 30 minutes away. Students at the school in Cuernavaca and I, too, have always rated it as one of the top attractions of the area. Everyone simply loves going there. Having been designated by the Mexican government as the category of Pueblo Mágico, it has a long history of being an enchanted place. It is surrounded by exquisite mountains that many say resemble the softer curved mountains of China. These mountains have a very high magnetic content, and this is often cited as the reason for its unique energy. Many cellular phones will not work in the area, so there's definitely something going on...call it what you will.

Tepoztlán is a place where century old traditions are still in evidence. It's quite easy to imagine it as it was before the Spaniards. In a dip between two mountains with a good

her doña Marina, and she has become known to posterity as La Malinche. She has long been regarded as a traitor to her people. In this study of her life, Camilla Townsend rejects all the previous myths and restores dignity to this profoundly human woman. She breathes new life into an old tale, and offers insights into the major issues of conquest and colonization of Mexico.

### **OJO**

A winner! From a random drawing we have the winner of our contest. Chris Vega, a legal assistant from Washington D.C., will have up to a year to claim a gratis one week study at Intercultura of either Heredia or Playa Sámara, Costa Rica. He found Language Link through a friend's referral. Hoping to use his win to enhance his Spanish skills, he wants to continue on in international business.

And now we're on to another contest, this one to PLFM of Antigua, Guatemala. Gratis - One week of all one on one classes and a homestay with meals. Remember that to enter all you have to do is send us an email as shown in the contest description on our website. You'll then be included in the general drawing. ¡Suerte!

### **Likeable Links**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/12/10/AR2010121003044.html> – a reporter's account of her visit to Tepoztlán  
<http://www.frommers.com/destinations/tepoztlan/713072> - travel intro to Tepoztlán  
<http://www.mexconnect.com/articles/1503-tepoztlan-morelos-has-it-all-part-one> - article with many photos

eye or a telescope you can see the flat top of a temple dedicated to the god of pulque in the time of the Aztecs, around 1200 A.D. If you are in good shape, you can climb up the Tepozteco and enjoy an incredible vista. It is not unusual to hear Náhuatl spoken or see books sold, as this was the Pre-Conquest language.

Then you can jump right from these very early times to the next historical period, the colonial era. The Templo and the Ex-Convento de la Natividad date from the 16th century and are a UNESCO Patrimonio de la Humanidad. The façade of the church is one of the earliest in Mexico and is of the style called plateresque. The Ex-Convento still has original murals and drawings on its thick walls. Personal favorites are the images of the 16th century Dominican priests who supervised the construction.

The large courtyard with its fountain surrounded by arches is always a reminder of the Moorish influence of Southern España, home of many of the early conquistadores.

Market days (Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays) present a very eclectic array of art from amate paper (from the bark of a tree), wood carvings, natural geodes and crystals, and my favorite – hollowed out and dried orange rind shells containing candles. How do they do it? It's impossible to resist leaving some of your pesos in this town. And for a retail therapy break you can pop into an ice cream store called Nieves Tepoztecas, with the variety of ices and creams only rivalled by the multi-colored carved décor filling every wall and counter space. Think fig ice cream with mezcal as an example.

Marvelous, magical, mysterious and very Mexican Tepoztlán - it's impossible to resist its appeal and charms.

### **Been There Loved That**

Spanish Language Institute of Cuernavaca, Mexico

(with UWGB group) My experience at SLI Cuernavaca was superior. I loved the excursions that we went on and loved how much Spanish I learned. Our house mom was wonderful! She was an amazing cook and was very generous and helpful! I also loved the fact that she did not speak any English, so it forced me to practice my Spanish. I was very satisfied with this viaje. It is such a great learning experience and may even be influential enough to change someone's major! I would like to eventually incorporate some sort of Spanish into my career. – Doneen Althen, Educ. Major UWGB, Wisconsin

It was excellent! The school was charming, clean, tranquil and the instructors and administrators were attentive, helpful and had fantastic personalities! Marco was a fantastic instructor ! He made class fun, moved along at a quick pace, but made sure everyone was up to speed before moving on. - Lora Jorgensen – BusinessAdmin/Environmental Science major, Sturgeon

Bay, Wisconsin

(on the Cuernavaca Winter Getaway in February) I loved the tours - I had not been to Cuernavaca before. The city and climate were perfect!! The school was very accommodating and always tried to make all as enjoyable as possible and at the same time ensured we learned a lot about the history of Mexico and local traditions. My host mother was fantastic!! AND what a cook! Her house was pristine and very comfortable - plenty of hot water and I would definitely stay with her again. – Rose Ann Corley, Retired U.S. Govt., Frederick, Maryland

The Winter Getaway in Cuernavaca exceeded expectations. The teacher Susana in the mornings was flexible, enthusiastic, well organized and taught us a lot. The excursions in the afternoon were very enjoyable and offered a variety of experiences. We came away with the great feeling that it was a week very well spent. – Sieglinde Lug and Lee Chambers, retired professors, Denver, Colorado

A mother accompanying three children – We had a wonderful week with Fabiola and her family studying Spanish at SLI. We felt comfortable and fortunate to stay in their house. By the end of the week, I felt comfortable speaking and writing in Spanish. I surprised myself that I was able to compose text messages to my family without any difficulties. We felt safe in Cuernavaca. We didn't have any problems except that aeropuerto officials took Audrey's shampoo out of her suitcase and threw it out. We look forward to returning to Cuernavaca and studying at SLI again soon – Nancy B. , California

We hope you enjoyed our news. Please see us at

[www.langlink.com](http://www.langlink.com).

Call us at 800.552.2051.

Central Standard Time with hours 9:00 to 5:00.

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