

Berlitz[®]

Advanced Spanish

by Elisabeth Graf-Riemann
and Palmira López

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ADVANCED SPANISH

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Editorial: Lorraine Sova, Juergen Lorenz, Nela Navarro
Cover design: Claudia Petrilli
Interior art: Ute Weber
Production Manager: Elizabeth Gaynor

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Lesson 1 What Are We Going to Give Him as a Present?

- Nicolás:* Do you already know what you're going to give Manu? Have you thought of something?
- Marta:* Well... no. Why don't we give him something together, from the three of us?
- Celia:* Good idea. It has to be a special present. He loves adventures, right? Then I have an idea for something that he won't easily forget. Just a moment... Here it is: hot-air balloon rides... Six people. What do you guys think?
- Nicolás:* I think that's great! But, departing at 4:30 in the morning? Good heavens!
- Marta:* It's a little expensive, don't you think?
- Celia:* Yes, but divided among the three of us... Shall we give him that?
- Marta:* OK, he's going to love this, for sure!
- Celia:* Absolutely! And who's going to go with Manu in the balloon basket?
- Marta:* Me!
- Nicolás:* Me, too!
- Celia:* And me, too. That's the three of us and Manu. There are four of us and we're missing two people.
- Nicolás:* His wife...
- Marta:* And his two children... We already have seven candidates. One of us has to remain on the ground, unfortunately. Shall we play heads or tails?
- Nicolás:* But there are three of us. Heads or tails doesn't help.
- Celia:* That's true. I have an idea: let's play Ludo*. The loser stays on the ground.
- Marta:* This is going to be the most exciting Ludo game of our lives!
- Nicolás:* Oh my, how exciting!
- Celia:* Just a moment, I'll make some coffee.
- Marta:* And I'm going to turn off my cell phone and the house phone.
- Nicolás:* And I'm going to sleep a little bit—to be refreshed and in shape.

Marta: Aha, that's what you do in Guinea before an important event. OK, Celia, then we can prepare the big party without a big hurry.

Nicolás: But no tricks!

Celia: No, no, just female intuition. Bye, I'm off to bed. See you at 5:30 in the kitchen, OK?

*Ludo is a board game including dice, in which the players (2-4) race their four tokens from start to finish.

Lesson 2 The Birthday Party

It's Manu's birthday party. Marta, Nicolás and Celia enter the bar and greet all the guests: there are many regulars, neighbors, Manu's family... The bar is full. The three friends approach the bar and greet Manu's wife.

Nati: Hi!

Marta: Hi! Where's the birthday boy? We'd like to give him his present.

Nati: He's in the yard helping the musicians.

Celia: Oh, there's an orchestra!

Nati: Yes, sure! There'll be a dance today and free food and drinks for all.
What would you like to drink?

Nicolás: For me a small beer.

Celia: For me, too.

Nati: OK and for you, Marta? What can I get you?

Marta: An orange juice, please.

Nati: What tapas would you like?

Celia: What do they have?

Nati: Well, this week... I recommend the octopus. It's very good!

Nicolás: Oh, I don't know if I like octopus. I've never eaten it...

Nati: You never had octopus? Then you have to try it. You'll see. You'll like it. Shall I bring you a portion?

Marta: Yes, fine!

While they're trying the exquisite octopus Galician style, Manu arrives.

Manu: Hi! The three musketeers! You like the octopus?

Marta: Our best wishes! Manu, we have a special gift for you. Here!

Manu: Thanks, guys. Can I open it? Let's see... ahem... A hot-air balloon ride?
But... I...

Celia: What's the matter? You don't like it? You're always such an adventurer...

Manu: I don't know if I can do that... I'm a little scared.

Marta: You are scared? Ha, ha, ha... I can't believe that!

Manu: I'm scared of heights.

Celia: But Manu, you have to overcome your fear. You'll see, hot-air balloon rides are the best therapy against fear of heights. Cheer up! And we'll hold you, OK?

Manu: Ahh! I'm feeling badly already...

Lesson 3 At the Dentist's Office

Manu: Good afternoon. I have an appointment for 5:15.

Young woman: Your name, please?

Manu: Manuel Jiménez.

Young woman: With a "J"?

Manu: Yes, correct.

Young woman: This is your first time here, right?

Manu: Yes.

Young woman: OK. Have a seat in the waiting room and fill out this form with your personal information. Doctor Merano will need about 20 minutes before he can see you.

Manu: OK, thank you.

Young woman: Mr. Jiménez, please!

Manu: Yes.

Young woman: Please go to room two. Have you finished filling out the form?

Manu: Yes, yes. Here it is.

Doctor: Good afternoon. Please sit down!

Manu: Thank you.

Doctor: Tell me, what's wrong?

Manu: Well, one of my molars hurts a lot, several days already, it's...

Doctor: Let's see... Open your mouth a little bit more, please. Relax, sir. You're very nervous, eh? I'm only examining you. Hmm... There's nothing wrong.

Manu: That can't be. I'm hurting a lot. Also, my head hurts and here, too...

Doctor: Could it be that you're under a little bit of stress? Do you have any worries or problems?

Manu: No, no... well... it's only that I'm going on a hot-air balloon ride tomorrow... and...

Doctor: In a balloon? How horrible! I have a terrible fear of heights.

Manu: Me too! But it's my birthday present. I can't... you understand?

Doctor: Look, take these tablets every six hours. They are tranquilizers, but not strong ones. Cheer up! Always look forward, not downward, hold on to the basket, and talk a lot. And come back next week if you're still in pain...

Manu: And if I'm still alive, which I don't think... Thank you! Goodbye!

Doctor: Bye, get better soon! And tell me all about it!

Lesson 4 The San Fermín Celebrations

It's lunchtime. Nicolás sits outside in front of the bar "Manu" reading a newspaper.

Manu brings him a beer and a few olives.

Manu: What does the newspaper say, any good news?

Nicolás: It says that the San Fermín celebrations ended yesterday, without any fatalities.

Manu: Thank goodness... Last year there were many accidents... Have you ever been there?

Nicolás: No, I've never been to Pamplona. But I know the song "1st of January, 2nd of February, 3rd of March, 4th of April..." What about you? Have you been there?

Manu: Me, yes, but that was ten years ago already. I was there for the whole festival week. It was great! I closed up the bar, put on white pants, a white shirt and a red handkerchief, and boarded the first train to Pamplona and...

Nicolás: And you were at the running of the bulls? You also ran in front of the bulls?

Manu: Sure! That was very exciting, and I had no problems at all. I was lucky, but I'll never, ever do that again. That year, three people died. It is too dangerous of a game.

Nicolás: I don't quite understand this. In Guinea, no one plays with dangerous animals.

Manu: Yeah, sure, it's not logical at all. I think it's just to show bravery. You know, we men have to prove how brave we are...

Nicolás: Oh, the women don't run with the bulls...

Manu: I don't think so. I don't know any... But, you know what?

Nicolás: What?

Manu: I'm more scared of women than bulls.

Nicolás: Aha! But it's better to run behind the women than in front of the bulls, don't you think?

Manu: That's right! And besides, women are prettier.

Lesson 5 The Interview

Currently, Celia works for a newspaper, and she has to interview Don Atanasio, the man who has lived through three centuries, and his daughter Doña Teresa, who is 86 years old.

Celia: Don Atanasio, you have already lived in three centuries. Which of the three do you like best?

Don Atanasio: Well... in the 19th century I was only a child. And now, in the 21st century, I'm an old man. So the century I know best is the 20th century. But I like all three.

Celia: You have seen so many things in daily life that have disappeared or have changed. That's why I'd like to ask you: has your life changed much from your childhood until today?

Don Atanasio: What's that?

Celia (louder): I'm asking, if your life has changed much since your childhood, Don Atanasio.

Don Atanasio: Oh, yes, very much! There was no telephone. I have one now, but I don't like it because my hearing is bad, you know? And here, on the island, there were no cars or airplanes, nothing, only boats. Imagine, we didn't have a school in my village. I learned to write at the age of 30. But there were a lot of fish. We ate fish every day.

Celia: What is or has been the best time of your life?

Don Atanasio: Well, when my children were little and also the time when I was engaged. My wife and I were engaged for 15 years before we got married, you know? This is my daughter Teresa, the oldest one. She was just like my wife. As a child she wanted to be an artist. She was a very pretty girl and she sang and danced very well. She had a very nice voice, right, Teresa?

Doña Teresa: Well, I don't know, Dad, I don't remember very well. My father has a better memory than I. Before, he cooked by himself and cleaned up. Today I help him around the house, but he is in very good health. I always hurt here and there...

Celia: Finally, Don Atanasio, what's the secret of your longevity?

Don Atanasio: Well, I don't know. I have always eaten everything, and I have drunk everything. When I was a young man, I even smoked and drank wine, but everything in moderation and with joy.

Doña Teresa: And a little luck, too, right dad?

Don Atanasio: Yes, yes, and a lot more than just a little, my daughter.

Lesson 6 In the Men's Department

Nicolás is going to a casting call for actors. They are looking for the perfect man to play the part of soccer player Rolando in the film With My Feet on the Ground, the same title of the book. That's why he is in the men's department of a department store with his friends Manu and Marta, looking for an appropriate suit.

Shop assistant: Are you being helped?

Manu: No. You see, we'd like a gray suit for him. (*points to Nicolás*)

Shop assistant: What size does he wear?

Nicolás: Well, 48 usually, sometimes 50.

Shop assistant: Very good. Please come with me. Look, we have all of these in gray.

Nicolás: Thank you. Can I try one on?

Shop assistant: Sure, sure, try on all the ones you'd like. I'm going to go to the cash register and I'll be back right away.

Nicolás: Let's see... This one I like...

Marta: Oh, no, how sad! Look, the other one is better. It is a nicer shade of gray.

Manu: Yes, but it's striped; you shouldn't wear that, that's for older people.

Marta: Aha. Which one do you like then?

Manu: Hmm... This one, for example, I like it better than the other one. And it's 100 percent wool.

Marta: Wool? Manu, it's August!

Nicolás: Well, I like it. It's the most expensive one and also the nicest one, and the color goes very well with the yellow shirt. I'll try it on.... What do you think?

Marta: You look very handsome! It fits you very well. All right, the sleeves are a little short for you.

Manu: No, no, you look very elegant. There's only one thing missing for you to look like Rolando in person.

Nicolás: What?

Manu: Two feet, size 48*!

Nicolás: Right! I'm five sizes smaller... What can I do?

Marta: Perhaps with six pairs of woolen socks...

Nicolás: Well, then they'll give me the role of the Yeti and not that of Rolando.
But that's not a bad idea. Where is the sock department? Let's go!

* Shoe size 48 European = Shoe size 17 US

Lesson 7 I Would Do the Same for You

Marta is at her friend Diego's house.

Diego: Today, I'd been eating with a few foreign colleagues at the "El Portón."

Marta: Where were they from?

Diego: From everywhere: Germans, Russians, Poles, Brits...

Marta: And how was it?

Diego: We laughed a lot because they didn't know how to eat shrimp or crab... I explained it to them and they imitated me. But in the end, I think they didn't eat much. Well, yes, they ate... they ate a lot of bread. They told me that they liked the Spanish custom of getting free bread with every *tapas* and every meal. And they also found it strange to see that we use the bread like a tool for eating, with the left hand. Imagine, they wanted to eat the tortilla with a knife and fork! And the fried sardines as well.

Marta: How funny! I was in Germany once; I went to a bar, and you know what? A few young people came and asked me if the two chairs at my table were free. I told them that they were free, sure. I thought they'd take the chairs. But no, they sat down right there, by my table, next to me. That's normal there.

Diego: Really? Then you can't talk about personal things any more.

Marta: Well,... I don't know. Maybe they don't talk so much about those things while they eat... Speaking of which, Diego, could you bring me a cold beer from the fridge, and a glass, please? And could you give me the bag of potato chips that's on the table?

Diego: Anything else?

Marta: Hmm... Well, could you look for the remote control for the TV? And could you give me a massage? I'd like to watch my favorite TV series, and I feel comfortable here on the sofa. That will be great.

Diego: OK, because you're asking me so nicely, I can't say no.

Marta: I'd do the same for you. And now, please, could you stop talking because it has already started?

Diego: Ah, all right. Tomorrow is the European Soccer Cup and some of my friends will come over, and so I'll ask you, from the sofa, for help if we need any.

Marta: Oh, no!

Lesson 8 Adventures of a Pilgrim

Manu has decided to take some vacation time and walk part of the Route of St. James by himself. His friends say goodbye to him at the bar.

Nicolás: Will you write us a postcard or a letter?

Manu: Well, if I can, I will write you and tell you about my pilgrim adventures.

Marta: But why don't you take your cell phone? This way, if you have a problem, you could call and ask for help.

Manu: No, I won't take this damn phone with me. First, I don't think I'll have serious problems, and if I have them, I'll ask for help directly. And secondly, I don't want anyone calling me during these three weeks, not friends nor family, nor customers, nor banks...

Marta: But your wife is worried that you'll go alone and no one will know anything about you for all those days...

Manu: This way she'll even be happier when I return. She'll kiss me and she'll make me ham croquettes... hmmm!

Marta: Well, then it is better you don't take the cell phone with you, really...

Nicolás: But I heard that in northern Spain there are wolves and bears... Aren't you afraid that they will attack you?

Manu: I think it's unlikely that a bear will appear on my way, and besides, I don't think he'd like to eat an old and tough, ugly guy like me.

Marta: That's true...

Manu: Thanks!

Marta: Don't get angry. As you know— man and bear: the uglier...

Nicolás: The more handsome!

Manu: Thank you, my friends, thank you very much...

Lesson 9 How Did You Make Out?

This morning, Celia has had a job interview at the company Simons Ibérica. She's back at home.

Nicolás: How was the interview? How did you do?

Celia: Well, it didn't go badly, but this job doesn't interest me.

Nicolás: Why?

Celia: It is a full-time job and I would have to stop studying. And also, they asked me whether I would move to another city if necessary for the job, and I said no. I don't want to go, you know? I already left my country to come here and that's enough. Now I have friends in Madrid and, it's true, I don't have a good job, only low-paying jobs... But this is my home and I'm staying here. I feel comfortable here. I don't want to start again from scratch.

Nicolás: I understand. I wouldn't want to move to another city again today. I just got here!

Celia: But if they offered you a great role in a fantastic movie with a famous director...

Nicolás: Well, that depends... but I would only change residencies for the required time and after that I would come back. I can't leave you and Marta, alone, you understand...

Celia: Ha, ha, ha... no of course not, I don't know what we would do without you!

Lesson 10 **But You Said...**

Nicolás: And what does your Argentinean friend write in his letter? What's with the happy face? It's as if it were a love letter.

Celia: You're nosy! OK, it's a letter from my former boss. I worked in his dance group. I was the choreographer.

Nicolás: Aha. And?

Celia: Well, he says that he wants to get the group going again.

Nicolás: And he says you should go back.

Celia: Yes. The truth is that when I left, I told him that he should call me if he ever needed me. And now he needs me.

Nicolás: But you said that this was your home, that you had friends here and your studies, and that you wouldn't change your residency for a better job offer, do you remember?

Celia: Yes, that's true. But imagine, he is offering me an indefinite contract and five weeks of vacation. That's a little unusual in my profession and in my country, you know?

Nicolás: Aha! You go then and leave us for a well-paying job and for a handsome boss. You leave us alone, you forget us, as if we weren't the good friends we always have been.

Celia: Nicolasito... come on, man, don't be like that, you make me feel terrible. If they wrote to you from Equatorial Guinea with such an offer, you would go, too, right?

Nicolás: Ahem, fine, fine. Let's drop the subject, OK? You can go away. But then we will visit you, OK?

Celia: Sure! Whenever you want and as long as you want! With pleasure!