A SELF-STUDY WORKBOOK

Verbs in Real Speech

What Argentine learners get wrong, and how to fix it

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INTRODUCTION

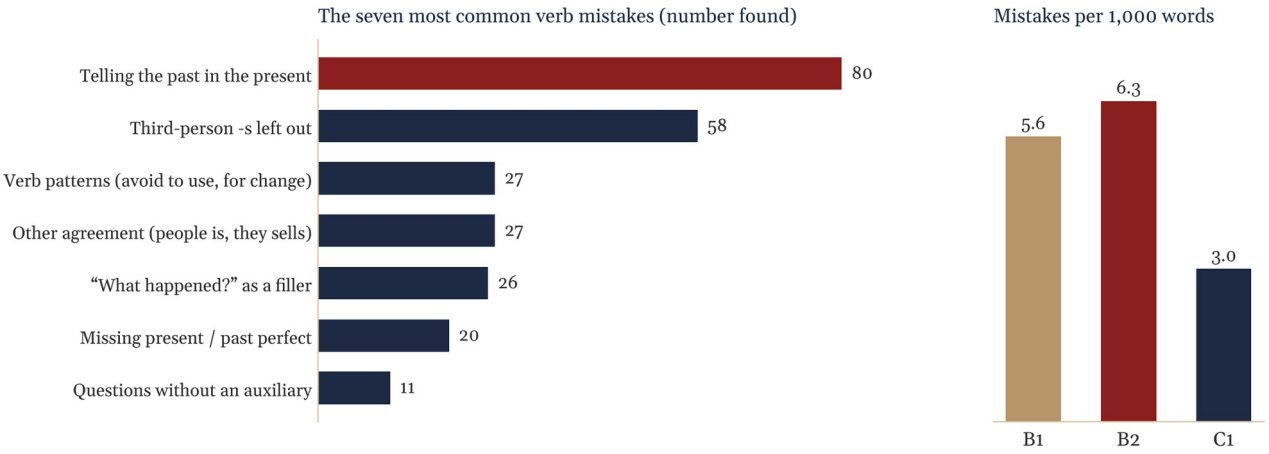
Before you start

326
verb mistakes analysed

58,000+
words of student speech

1 in 4
mistakes: telling the past in the present

THE DATA AT A GLANCE



The rate per 1,000 words leaves out one B1 student's filler habit ("What happened?"). With it, B1 rises to 7.0.

This workbook started in my own classes. For a few months I listened carefully to my students, not to *what* they said (I'm always interested in their work, their trips and their opinions) but to *how* they used verbs. And I noticed something that worried me.

Most of the mistakes I heard were not with difficult grammar. They were with structures my students had studied many times and knew perfectly well. In a written test on the third-person *-s*, the past simple or *Did you see…?*, they would get almost everything right. But when they spoke, the same structures broke.

So I decided to look at the data. I went through the transcripts of many classes with B1, B2 and C1 students: more than 58,000 words of student speech in total. I marked every verb mistake I could identify clearly. I found 326. The students were Spanish speakers from Argentina, but I think the patterns are common to many Spanish-speaking learners of English, and probably to you too. Here's what the data showed:

- **The biggest problem is telling past events in the present.** *"Yesterday I have a meeting…", "We sell it in two hours."* About a quarter of all the mistakes are of this type. It's very common at B1 and B2, and almost disappears at C1.
- **The second is the third-person *-s*.** *"The company have…", "Everyone say…".* It's the most widespread mistake: two out of every three students made it, at every level.
- **Next come agreement and verb patterns:** *"people is", "avoid to use", "a tool for change".*

- **At C1 the mistakes are different.** Tense is mostly under control, but some old habits remain: *"Did you saw…?"*, *"I don't know what is the difference"*, *"If I had the money, I will…"*.

The most interesting finding isn't *what* goes wrong but *when*. The mistakes rarely appear in short answers. They appear in long turns, when someone is telling a story, explaining how something works in their job, or giving a strong opinion. In those moments attention goes to the content, and the grammar runs on autopilot. Very often, the correct form appears in the same sentence as the wrong one. The rule is known. The problem is control under pressure.

That's why this workbook isn't a grammar course. It reminds you of what you already know, shows you the situations where it breaks, and then makes you use it in exactly those situations.

HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

- Do **one lesson at a time**. Don't rush through three in an evening.
- Do every exercise **before** you look at the key at the end. Check your answers afterwards and notice which ones you got wrong.
- The last two exercises of each lesson are writing tasks. Take your time with them. They are the most important part.
- If you have the chance to speak English during the week (in a class, with friends, at work, or even talking to yourself), **try to listen to yourself** and pay attention to that lesson's structure. If you can record yourself telling a short story, even better. Noticing your own mistakes is the first step to fixing them.

The lessons go from simple to complex. If you are C1, you can go quickly through the early ones, but don't skip them completely. Some of the most persistent mistakes are in Unit 1.

THE COURSE MAP

Thirty lessons at a glance

The dots show where each mistake appeared in the data. A **filled dot** marks the level where it was most frequent. Use the map to choose where to start, but don't skip Unit 1: some of the most persistent mistakes are there.

	LESSON	B1	B2	C1
UNIT 1 ·	The present and agreement			
01	*be* and *there is / there are / there will be*		○	○
02	Third-person *-s*	○	●	○
03	Agreement with tricky subjects	○	●	○
04	*do*-support in present questions and negatives	○	○	●
05	*be* or *do*?	○	○	○
UNIT 2 ·	Continuous forms			
06	Present continuous: form	●		○
07	Present simple vs present continuous	○	○	
UNIT 3 ·	The past			
08	Past simple: forms	○	○	
09	*did*-support in the past	○		●
10	Telling a story in the past	●	●	
11	Past continuous for background	○	○	
12	*What happened* vs *what happens*	●	○	○
13	Asking questions in all tenses		○	●
UNIT 4 ·	Modals and the future			
14	Modals + base verb	○	○	
15	Talking about the future	○		
16	Time clauses		○	○
UNIT 5 ·	Perfect tenses			
17	Present perfect: form	○	○	●
18	Present perfect for experience	○	○	○
19	Duration: *for* / *since* and the present perfect continuous	○	●	
20	Present perfect vs past simple		○	
21	Past perfect (simple and continuous)		○	●
UNIT 6 ·	Verb patterns			
22	Purpose: *to* + verb	●		○
23	Verb + *-ing* or verb + *to*	○	○	○
24	Verbs and their objects	○	○	○
25	Negation in complex sentences		●	

	LESSON	B1	B2	C1
UNIT 7 ·	Complex structures			
26	Indirect questions		○	●
27	Reported speech and the future in the past	○	○	
28	The passive	○		●
29	Real conditionals (zero and first)		○	
30	Unreal conditionals and hypotheticals		○	●

HOW EACH LESSON IS BUILT

Nine steps, always in the same order

1

Think about

Notice how you use the structure now.

2

You already know

The rule in one look, plus Spanish vs English.

3

Why it goes wrong

The moments when it breaks, with typical mistakes.

4

Read

An Argentine text full of the correct form.

5

Check your understanding

True or false, and multiple choice.

6

Focus on form

Find the structure, then fill the gaps.

7

Correct the mistakes

Six typical errors to fix.

8

Write about yourself

Five sentences about your own life.

9

Write a text

100–150 words in the situation where it breaks.

STEPS 1–3

Remember

You already know the rule. These steps remind you of it and show you when it breaks.

STEPS 4–7

Notice

You meet the structure in a real text, then find it, use it and fix it.

STEPS 8–9

Use it

You write in the situations where the mistake usually appears. This is the most important part.

> **The answer key is at the end of the workbook.** It has the answers to every exercise, five model sentences for step 8 and a model text for step 9. Do each exercise before you look.

1

The present and agreement

01 *be* and *there is / there are / there will be*

○ B2 ○ C1

02 Third-person *-s*

○ B1 ● B2 *most frequent* ○ C1

03 Agreement with tricky subjects

○ B1 ● B2 *most frequent* ○ C1

04 *do*-support in present questions and negatives

○ B1 ○ B2 ● C1 *most frequent*

05 *be* or *do*?

○ B1 ○ B2 ○ C1

Lesson 1 *be* and *there is / there are / there will be*

LEVELS	○ B2 ○ C1
FOCUS	*am / is / are; was / were; there is / there are; there will be; there was / there were*
WATCH FOR	*"I'm sure it will be a lot of people at the event."* · *"There is many options for that."* · *"There was three meetings yesterday."* · *"You was right."*

THE SPANISH PULL

Habrá gente

↓

There will be people

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

For existence, the subject is always there, never it: there will be, not it will be.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- When you describe your city or your office, how do you say *hay*? Do you change it for plural nouns?
- How do you say *va a haber* or *habrá* in English? Do you ever say *it will be*?
- What's the past of *there is*? And of *there are*?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

- *There is* + singular or uncountable noun; *there are* + plural noun.
- *There* changes tense like any verb: *there was / there were / there will be / there has been / there would be.*
- *was / were* agree with the subject: *you were, they were, he was.*

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

Spanish	English
Hay gente que... (never changes)	*There **are** people who...*
Va a haber / Habrá dos bandas (no subject)	***There will be** two bands*
Había muchos problemas	*There **were** a lot of problems*

THE KEY IDEA

Habrá has no subject, but English needs one. For existence, the subject is always **there**, never **it**.

- *It will be fun* describes something we've already mentioned.
- *There will be food* introduces something new.

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- **You're describing a future event,** like a trip, a conference or a party. *Habrá* comes out as *it will be*, because *it will be* is a chunk you've said thousands of times. *There will be* is much less familiar.
- **You start the sentence before you've chosen the noun.** *There is…* comes out automatically, like *hay*, and then the noun turns out to be plural: *there is… people*.
- **You're generalising about trends.** *There is a lot of people who…* sounds natural because *a lot of* feels singular.
- **You're reporting what someone said,** and *was* comes out with *you* or *they*.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"I'm sure it will be a lot of people at the event."	**there will be** a lot of people
"There is many options for that."	**There are** many options
"There was three meetings yesterday."	**There were** three meetings
"You was right."	You **were** right

4 READ *notice the structure in use*

Read this email from Lucía to her friend Tom, who is visiting Córdoba for a music festival.

Subject: Your trip to Córdoba – everything you need to know

Hi Tom,

I'm so glad you're coming to Córdoba for Cosquín Rock! When we spoke on the phone last week, you were worried that there wouldn't be much to do apart from the festival. Don't worry: there is a lot to do here, and there are plenty of people who would love to show you around.

First, the city. There is a beautiful old centre with Jesuit buildings from the seventeenth century, and there are churches on almost every corner. There is also a university that is more than four hundred years old, which is why people call Córdoba *La Docta*. There are students everywhere, so there are always cheap bars and cafés open late.

Then there's the festival itself. It isn't in the city. It's in the hills, about an hour away in the Punilla valley. There will be several stages, and there will be bands from all over Latin America. Last year there were more than a hundred artists over the weekend, and there was a whole stage just for electronic music. I'm sure this year there will be even more. There won't be much shade, so bring a hat. There will also be thousands of people, so we'll need a meeting point. There is a big sign at the main entrance. Let's meet there if we lose each other.

You asked me if there was a bus. There is! There are special buses from the city centre, and there is also a shuttle from the nearest village. My cousins were on one of those buses last year and they were happy with it, although there was a long queue at the end of the night.

One more thing. There is a drink you have to try: fernet with cola. There are people who hate it the first time, and there are people who love it immediately. There's no middle ground. It will be an experience either way!

Finally, the weather. It's summer, so it will be hot during the day, but there is usually a cool breeze at night in the hills. There might be a storm, too. There often is in February, and when there is one, it's spectacular.

You were right to book early, because there are hardly any rooms left now. If you need it, there's a spare bed at my flat for the last two nights.

See you soon!

Lucía

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 Tom was worried that there wouldn't be much to do apart from the festival. ○ T ○ F

2 The festival takes place in the centre of Córdoba. ○ T ○ F

3 Last year there was a stage just for electronic music. ○ T ○ F

4 Lucía says there are no buses to the festival. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 Why do people call Córdoba *La Docta*?

a) Because there are churches on every corner.
b) Because it has a very old university.
c) Because of the music festival.

6 What does Lucía say about fernet with cola?

a) Everyone loves it.
b) People usually either hate it or love it.
c) It's only popular with tourists.

7 What does Lucía offer Tom?

a) A lift to the festival.
b) A spare bed for the last two nights.
c) A ticket for the electronic stage.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Underline every *there + be* in the email. Then make a list of the ones that talk about the **future** (*there will be*, *there won't be*). Finally, find two sentences with *it will be*. Why is the subject *it* and not *there* in those two sentences?

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with the correct form of *there + be* or *was / were*.

1 Last year _____ more than a hundred artists.

2 _____ a beautiful old centre with Jesuit buildings.

3 I'm sure this year _____ even more bands.

4 _____ much shade, so bring a hat.

5 My cousins _____ on one of those buses last year.

6 _____ a long queue at the end of the night.

7 You _____ right to book early.

8 _____ hardly any rooms left now.

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

Each sentence has one mistake. Correct it.

1 There is a lot of people at the festival.

2 Tomorrow it will be a meeting with the whole team.

3 There was many problems with the new system.

4 You was right about the traffic.

5 I think next year it will be more jobs in that sector.

6 There is some good restaurants near the office.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five sentences about your workplace, your neighbourhood or your plans. Use *there is* / *there are* / *there was* / *there were* / *there will be* at least once each.

> *Example: There will be a big meeting at my office next Friday.*

1

2

3

4

5

9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

A colleague from another country is coming to your city for a work event next month. Write an email (100–150 words). Describe what there is in your city, what there will be at the event, and what there was at the same event last year.

Lesson 2 Third-person -s

LEVELS	○ B1 ● **B2** *most frequent* ○ C1
FOCUS	*he / she / it + -s; has and does; organisations, systems and indefinite pronouns as subjects*
WATCH FOR	*"The app send you a notification."* · *"Someone always tell me the same thing."* · *"I have a colleague who work from home."* · *"The company have an office in Chile."*

THE SPANISH PULL

Todo el mundo dice

↓

Everyone says

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

Ask yourself: could I replace the subject with it or he / she? If so, add the -s.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- When you explain how your company or a tool works, what is the subject of your sentences? Is it usually *he* or *she*?
- Do you say *everyone say* or *everyone says*? Which one sounds right to you, and why?
- Which verbs are hardest for you in the third person: regular verbs, or *have* and *do*?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

- Present simple: *he / she / it* + verb-*s*.
- Irregular forms: *have* → *has*, *do* → *does*, *go* → *goes*.

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

- In Spanish every person has its own ending (*uso, usás, usa, usamos…*), so the third person isn't special. You never have to *remember* it.
- In English, *-s* is the **only** person ending left. It's small, it comes at the end of the word and it adds no meaning, so it's the first thing to disappear when you're concentrating on content.
- *Todo el mundo dice* and *cada persona tiene* are singular in Spanish too. The problem is that *everyone* **sounds** plural in English.

THE KEY IDEA

Change the question you ask yourself. Don't ask "is it *he / she / it*?". Ask **"could I replace the subject with *it* or *he / she*?"**

Subject	Replace with	Verb
The bank	it	uses
Everyone	he / she (one person, many times)	says
A person who…	he / she	sees
The company	it	has
That idea	it	makes

In relative clauses, look back at the noun before *who / that*: *a person* ***who*** *has*, *people* ***who*** *have*.

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- **The subject isn't a person.** You drilled the *-s* with *he / she / it*, so subjects like *the bank*, *the app*, *the government* or *the AI* don't set off the "third person" alarm.
- **The subject feels plural.** *Everyone*, *everybody*, *each person* and *nobody* describe many people, so the verb comes out without *-s*.
- **The subject is far from the verb.** In *a colleague who works with me*, your attention is on *who*, and the verb loses its connection with *colleague*.
- ***have* and *do* are special.** *has* and *does* aren't made by adding *-s*. They are separate words you have to retrieve, so they're the verbs most often left bare.
- **You can't hear it.** In fast speech, you don't notice that you've dropped it. The same person often says *talks* and *talk* a few seconds apart.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"The app send you a notification."	**sends**
"Someone always tell me the same thing."	**tells**
"I have a colleague who work from home."	**works**
"The company have an office in Chile."	**has**

4 READ *notice the structure in use*

How Mercado Libre works

Almost everyone in Argentina has a Mercado Libre story. Someone buys a second-hand bicycle, someone else sells an old camera, and everybody has an opinion about the delivery times. The company, which Marcos Galperin started in 1999 while he was studying in the United States, is now one of the largest businesses in Latin America. But how does it actually work?

At its simplest, Mercado Libre connects people. A seller who has something to sell creates a listing, adds photos and sets a price. A buyer who searches for that product sees the listing, compares it with others and clicks "Buy". The platform takes a commission from the sale, and that commission pays for most of what the company does.

The key, however, is trust. A person who never sees the seller face to face needs a reason to send money to a stranger. So the site uses a reputation system. Each seller has a colour bar that goes from red to green, and every buyer who completes a purchase leaves a rating. Nobody wants a red bar, so the system pushes everyone to behave well.

Payment is the second piece. Mercado Pago, the company's financial arm, holds the buyer's money until the product arrives. If something goes wrong, the platform steps in and usually returns the money. Today Mercado Pago does much more than that. It lets people pay with a QR code in a corner shop, transfer money to a friend or pay the electricity bill. A lot of small businesses that don't have a card terminal accept payments this way.

The third piece is logistics. Mercado Libre runs its own delivery network, Mercado Envíos. A warehouse in the suburbs of Buenos Aires receives products, stores them and sends them out, often on the same day. The company also has its own planes. When a parcel arrives in less than twenty-four hours, it feels almost magical, but it depends on a huge operation that never stops.

Of course, not everything works perfectly. Each user has a complaint: a parcel that takes too long, a seller who doesn't answer, an app that changes its design every few months. Still, the platform does what it promises most of the time, and that explains why almost everyone uses it.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 Marcos Galperin started the company while he was working in a bank in Argentina. ○ T ○ F

2 The platform takes a commission from each sale. ○ T ○ F

3 Mercado Pago sends the money to the seller before the product arrives. ○ T ○ F

4 Mercado Libre has its own planes. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 What does the colour bar show?

a) The price of the product.

b) The seller's reputation.

c) The delivery time.

6 What can people do with Mercado Pago?

a) Only buy things on the website.

b) Pay with a QR code, send money to friends and pay bills.

c) Open their own online shop.

7 According to the text, why does almost everyone use the platform?

a) Because it is always the cheapest option.

b) Because it does what it promises most of the time.

c) Because the app never changes.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Underline every present simple verb with *-s* in the text. Then sort the subjects into three groups:

- companies, systems and things (*the platform takes*)
- indefinite pronouns (*someone buys*)
- people in relative clauses (*a seller who has*)

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1 A seller who _____ (have) something to sell creates a listing.

2 A buyer who _____ (search) for a product sees the listing.

3 The platform _____ (take) a commission from the sale.

4 Each seller _____ (have) a colour bar.

5 Nobody _____ (want) a red bar.

6 Mercado Pago _____ (hold) the buyer's money.

7 Today Mercado Pago _____ (do) much more than that.

8 Almost everyone _____ (use) it.

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 My boss always ask for the reports on Friday.

2 Everyone in my team say the new software is slow.

3 I have a friend who work in a hospital.

4 The bank use your data to offer you loans.

5 This app have a dark mode.

6 Each person need a password to enter the building.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five sentences about how your company, a tool you use, or the people you work with do things. Use at least one company or system as the subject, one of *everyone* / *someone* / *nobody* / *each person*, and one relative clause (*a colleague who…*).

> *Example: My company has a strict policy about passwords.*

1

2

3

4

5

9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Explain how a company, a service or a tool you know well works (100–150 words). It can be your own company, an app you use every day or a public service in your city. Write for someone who has never used it.

Lesson 3 Agreement with tricky subjects

LEVELS	○ B1 ● **B2** *most frequent* ○ C1
FOCUS	*people are; most of … + plural; agreement at a distance; no -s on plural subjects*
WATCH FOR	*"People is very friendly here." · "A lot of people doesn't use cash any more." · "Most of my clients was happy with the result." · "They works from home on Fridays."*

THE SPANISH PULL

La gente es

↓

People are

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

People is plural. Think personas, not gente: people are, people don't.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- Do you think of *people* as singular or plural? What about *la gente*?
- When you say *most of my colleagues…* or *a lot of people…*, what verb comes next: *is* or *are*, *doesn't* or *don't*?
- Have you ever added an *-s* to a verb "just in case"?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

The verb agrees with the **head** of the subject, not with the nearest noun.

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

Spanish	English
La gente ***es*** / ***no confía*** (singular noun)	*People* ***are*** / ***don't*** *trust* (plural noun)
La mayoría de mis clientes ***estaba***	*Most of my clients* ***were***
Mucha gente todavía no ***recuperó***	*A lot of people* ***haven't*** *recovered yet*

THE KEY IDEA

- ***People* is the plural of *person*.** Think *personas*, not *gente*. If you'd say *las personas son*, English says *people are*.
- **Quantifier + *of* + noun → the noun decides.** *Most of the **students** are…*, but *most of the **time** is….*
- **-*s* on the verb means ONE.** *They*, *humans* and *people* are many, so the verb has no *-s*.

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- ***la gente* is singular.** When you generalise about society, *people doesn't* comes straight from *la gente no*. This is the clearest Spanish transfer in all the data, and it appears at every level.
- **The verb agrees with the nearest noun.** In *the price of the tickets*, the verb should agree with *price*. In *the prices of everything*, it should agree with *prices*, not *everything*.
- **The quantifier sounds singular.** *A lot of people* starts with *a*, so the verb comes out singular.
- ***doesn't* becomes an all-purpose negative.** *My clients doesn't…*, *they doesn't….*
- **Over-correction.** When you're concentrating hard, you sometimes add *-s* to a plural subject: *they works*. The rule has become "present verbs need *-s*" instead of "only after one person or thing".

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"People is very friendly here."	**People are**
"A lot of people doesn't use cash any more."	**don't**
"Most of my clients was happy with the result."	**were**
"They works from home on Fridays."	**work**

4 READ *notice the structure in use*

Boca or River? Football and the people who live for it

Ask anyone in Buenos Aires which team they support, and you will rarely hear "I don't really follow football." People here don't just watch the game; they organise their weeks around it. And most people belong to one of two tribes: Boca Juniors or River Plate.

People say that the two clubs represent different worlds. Boca fans are proud of their working-class roots in La Boca, the old port neighbourhood, while River fans are traditionally associated with the wealthier north of the city. Today the reality is more mixed, and there are people on both sides from every social class. But the stereotypes survive, because people love them.

On the day of a *superclásico*, the atmosphere changes. Most of the city's attention is on one match. A lot of people don't work properly that afternoon, and the streets around the stadium are full hours before kick-off. Fans who travel from other provinces arrive the night before. Since 2013, away fans haven't been allowed into league matches in Argentina, so the home crowd fills the whole stadium.

The rivalry reached a strange peak in 2018, when the two clubs met in the final of the Copa Libertadores. The second leg couldn't be played in Buenos Aires after Boca's team bus was attacked, and the match was moved to Madrid. Most of the supporters who wanted to be there were thousands of kilometres away. River won 3–1, and many Boca fans still refuse to talk about it.

Going to a match isn't cheap. The prices of almost everything around the stadium are high: tickets, food, transport and the shirts that every child wants. The number of fans who can afford a season ticket has fallen, and a lot of families now watch at home or in a bar.

Still, the passion doesn't fade. Children learn the songs before they learn to read. Grandparents who remember the great teams of the past tell the stories again and again. Fans who never miss a game call themselves *hinchas*, from the verb *hinchar*, "to swell", and that tells you a lot. People here don't support a team. They inherit it.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 According to the text, most people in Buenos Aires support either Boca or River. ○ T ○ F

2 Boca fans traditionally come from the wealthy north of the city. ○ T ○ F

3 Away fans haven't been allowed into league matches since 2013. ○ T ○ F

4 River lost the 2018 Copa Libertadores final. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 Where was the second leg of the 2018 final played?

a) In La Boca.

b) In Madrid.

c) In Montevideo.

6 What does the text say about prices around the stadium?

a) They are lower than in the past.

b) They are high.

c) They are the same for everyone.

7 Where does the word *hincha* come from?

a) A verb meaning "to sing".

b) A verb meaning "to swell".

c) The name of an old club.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Find every verb whose subject is *people*, *fans*, *children*, *most of…*, *a lot of…*, *the number of…* or *the prices of…*. Write the subject and the verb. Then look at these two sentences and notice the difference. Why is one verb singular and the other plural?

- *Most of the city's attention **is** on one match.*
- *Most of the supporters who wanted to be there **were** thousands of kilometres away.*

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1 People here _____ (not / just watch) the game.

2 Most people _____ (belong) to one of two tribes.

3 A lot of people _____ (not / work) properly that afternoon.

4 Fans who travel from other provinces _____ (arrive) the night before.

5 Most of the supporters who wanted to be there _____ (be) thousands of kilometres away.

6 The prices of almost everything around the stadium _____ (be) high.

7 The number of fans who can afford a season ticket _____ (fall).

8 Grandparents who remember the great teams _____ (tell) the stories again and again.

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 People in my city is always in a hurry.

2 Most of my colleagues works from home on Fridays.

3 A lot of people hasn't heard about the new law.

4 The prices of everything is going up.

5 My clients doesn't answer emails at the weekend.

6 Young people today uses their phones for everything.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five sentences generalising about people in your city, your country or your profession. Use *people*, *most of…*, *a lot of…* and *the number of….*

> *Example: Most of my colleagues prefer to start work early.*

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9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Write a short opinion paragraph (100–150 words) about how people in your country spend their free time, or how working habits have changed in the last few years. Make general statements about groups of people and support them with examples.

Lesson 4 *do*-support in present questions and negatives

LEVELS	○ B1 ○ B2 ● C1 *most frequent*
FOCUS	*don't / doesn't + base verb; Do / Does … + base verb?; What does … mean?*
WATCH FOR	*"What this word means?"* · *"Does the app has a free version?"* · *"My team not need more meetings."* · *"Why the printer doesn't work?"*

THE SPANISH PULL

¿Qué significa?

↓

What does it mean?

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

Does takes the -s, so the main verb doesn't: What does it mean?

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- How do you ask what a word means in English? Write the question exactly as you would say it.
- When you hear someone say *has*, and then you ask a question about it, what do you say: *Does it has…?* or *Does it have…?*
- How do you say *no necesitan* in English?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

- Questions: *Do / Does* + subject + **base** verb.
- Negatives: *don't / doesn't* + **base** verb.
- Once *does* appears, the main verb loses its *-s*: *Does it **have**…?*

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

Spanish	English	Wrong
¿Qué significa? (verb only)	*What **does** it mean?*	*What it means?*
¿Claude tiene…? (statement order + intonation)	***Does** Claude **have**…?*	*Does Claude has…?*
No necesitan (just *no* + verb)	*They **don't** need*	*They not need*

THE KEY IDEA

- English questions need an **auxiliary in front**.
- In the present simple there's no auxiliary you can see, so English *brings one in*: *do* / *does*.
- ***Does* takes the -s,** so the main verb doesn't: *Does it **work**? What does it **mean**?*
- Practise ***What does … mean?*** as a fixed phrase. It's probably the question you ask most when you're learning a language.

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- **Statement order carries over.** You start with *What this word…* as a frame and add *means* as if it were a statement. Spanish questions keep the statement order (*¿Qué significa?*), so there's no habit of inserting an auxiliary.
- **You echo the form you just heard.** If someone says *it has*, the word *has* is active in your memory, and it comes out again after *does*.
- **The question is spontaneous.** Questions out of curiosity are short and fast, and you don't plan them, so the automatic form wins.
- **Strong opinions.** When you negate something firmly, *not* goes straight in front of the verb, as *no* does in Spanish.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"What this word means?"	What **does** this word **mean**?
"Does the app has a free version?"	**Does** the app **have**…?
"My team not need more meetings."	**doesn't need**
"Why the printer doesn't work?"	Why **doesn't** the printer **work**?

Your first milonga in Buenos Aires: questions and answers

What does "milonga" mean?

It means two things. It's a style of music, faster and more playful than tango, and it's also the name of the place where people go to dance. When someone says "I'm going to a milonga tonight," they don't mean a song. They mean a dance hall.

Do I need a partner?

No, you don't. Most people arrive alone or with friends and dance with different partners during the night. Nobody expects you to bring someone.

How does someone invite you to dance?

At a traditional milonga, people don't walk across the room and ask. They use the *cabeceo*: a look and a small nod of the head from one table to another. If the other person nods back, the invitation is accepted. If they look away, it isn't, and nobody feels embarrassed.

Does the man always lead?

Traditionally, yes, but today it doesn't work that way everywhere. Many milongas welcome women who lead and men who follow. What does matter is that each couple knows who is leading.

Does tango have fixed steps?

Not really. Tango has a basic walk and some common figures, but it doesn't follow a fixed routine. The leader improvises and the follower responds. That's why a beginner doesn't need to memorise long sequences.

What does "tanda" mean?

A tanda is a set of three or four songs of the same style. Between tandas, the DJ plays a short piece of non-tango music, the *cortina*, and couples leave the floor. You usually dance a whole tanda with the same person.

What happens if I say "thank you" after a song?

Be careful! In many milongas, "gracias" means "I'd like to stop now." If you want to keep dancing, smile and don't say anything.

Where do people dance in Buenos Aires?

Everywhere. There are famous halls in Almagro, Palermo and San Telmo, and on summer evenings people dance outdoors in some squares and parks.

Does it matter what I wear?

It doesn't matter much. Comfortable clothes are fine, but good shoes make a big difference. They need to turn easily on the floor.

Do I need lessons first?

It helps. Many milongas offer a class for beginners an hour before the dancing starts, and it doesn't

usually cost much.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 *Milonga* can mean a style of music and a place where people dance. ○ T ○ F

2 You need to bring a partner to a milonga. ○ T ○ F

3 At a traditional milonga, people invite each other with a look and a nod. ○ T ○ F

4 Saying "gracias" after a song means you want to dance another one. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 What is a *tanda*?

a) A basic tango step.
b) A set of three or four songs.
c) A dance school.

6 What is the *cortina*?

a) A short piece of non-tango music between tandas.
b) The area where couples dance.
c) A class for beginners.

7 According to the text, what makes a big difference?

a) Elegant clothes.
b) Good shoes.
c) Dancing with the same partner.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Copy every question with *do* or *does* from the text, and circle the main verb in each one. Is it ever in the *-s* form? Then find five negative sentences with *don't* or *doesn't*.

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Use *do*, *does*, *don't* or *doesn't* and the verb in brackets.

1 What _____ "milonga" _____ (mean)?

2 _____ I _____ (need) a partner?

3 How _____ someone _____ (invite) you to dance?

4 _____ the man always _____ (lead)?

5 Tango _____ (not / follow) a fixed routine.

6 A beginner _____ (not / need) to memorise long sequences.

7 _____ it _____ (matter) what I wear?

8 The class _____ (not / usually / cost) much.

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 What "deadline" means?

2 Does your company has a gym?

3 My manager not like long emails.

4 Where you buy your coffee in the morning?

5 Do she work on Saturdays?

6 This tool doesn't works offline.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five sentences: three questions you would like to ask a new colleague about their job or routine, and two negative sentences about your own routine.

> *Example: Does your team have a weekly meeting?*

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9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Write a short FAQ (100–150 words) for a new employee at your workplace, or for a visitor to your city. Write four or five questions with short answers. Include at least one *What does … mean?* question and some negative answers.

Lesson 5 *be* or *do*?

LEVELS	○ B1 ○ **B2** ○ **C1**
FOCUS	*agree as a verb (I agree); be with its own negatives (they aren't)*
WATCH FOR	*"I'm agree with you." · "I'm not agree with that idea." · "No, they don't are ready." · "That problem is never exist before."*

THE SPANISH PULL

Estoy de acuerdo

↓

I agree

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

Agree is a verb, so it takes no be. And be never takes do.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- How do you say *estoy de acuerdo* and *no estoy de acuerdo*?
- How do you make *be* negative? And other verbs?
- Have you ever started a sentence with *It's...* and then realised you needed a different verb?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

- *be* makes its own negatives and questions: *aren't, isn't, Is it...?*
- Other verbs need *do*: *don't, doesn't, Do you...?*
- *agree* is a verb, not an adjective.

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

Spanish	English	Wrong
Estoy *de acuerdo* (be + adjective)	*I* ***agree*** (verb)	*I'm agree*
No ***son*** *iguales*	*They* ***aren't*** *the same*	*They don't are the same*
Nunca ***existió***	*It never* ***existed***	*It's never exist*

THE KEY IDEA

- *Agree* = *acordar / coincidir*. It's a verb, so it doesn't take *be*: *I agree, I don't agree, Do you agree?*
- With *be*, **never** use *do*. *Be* is its own auxiliary: *aren't, isn't, wasn't*.

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- ***estoy de acuerdo* is "be + adjective".** That makes *agree* feel like an adjective that needs *be*, so *I'm agree* comes out, especially in a lively exchange of opinions.
- ***don't* works as a general "negation" chunk.** In a strong denial, it goes in front of any verb, even *be*.
- **You choose the start of the sentence before the verb.** *It's...* or *This is...* comes out first, and then you attach a verb that doesn't fit: *it's never exist*.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"I'm agree with you."	**I agree** with you
"I'm not agree with that idea."	I **don't agree**
"No, they don't are ready."	they **aren't** ready
"That problem is never exist before."	That problem **has never existed** before

4 READ *notice the structure in use*

This is a transcript from a radio programme.

Debate: Is dulce de leche Argentine or Uruguayan?

Host: Good evening. Tonight's question divides two countries: who invented dulce de leche? Martín, you say it's Argentine.

Martín: That's right. There's a famous story about the year 1829. A maid in a house near Cañuelas was heating milk with sugar for a political leader's breakfast, forgot about it, and found a thick brown cream in the pot. That was the first dulce de leche.

Host: Valentina, do you agree?

Valentina: No, I don't agree at all. That story is a legend. I'm not saying it isn't charming. It is. But a legend isn't evidence. People in Uruguay were cooking milk with sugar at the same time, and so were people in Mexico, France and the Philippines. The "first" dulce de leche doesn't exist.

Martín: I agree that other countries have similar sweets. But they aren't the same thing. Mexican *cajeta* is made with goat's milk. French *confiture de lait* isn't as thick. Ours is different.

Valentina: Yours? Uruguayan dulce de leche is exactly the same. We don't need a legend to prove that we make it well.

Host: Are you both saying that the question doesn't matter?

Martín: No, I'm not. It matters. UNESCO doesn't list it as anyone's heritage, but in Argentina it's part of national identity. We put it in alfajores, in pancakes, in ice cream. A birthday cake isn't complete without it.

Valentina: And in Uruguay it isn't? We eat just as much of it! I don't think one country owns a recipe. Recipes travel. They don't need passports.

Martín: OK, I agree with that, partly. But do you agree that Argentina made it famous around the world?

Valentina: No, I don't. That's marketing, not history.

Host: So you don't agree on anything?

Valentina: We agree on one thing. It isn't a dessert you eat with a small spoon.

Martín: Exactly. You eat it straight from the jar.

Host: Finally, something you agree on. Listeners, do you agree with Martín or Valentina? Send us your messages. And no, "both" isn't an option tonight.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 Martín believes dulce de leche was invented in Argentina. ○ T ○ F

2 Valentina says the story from 1829 is proven history. ○ T ○ F

3 According to Martín, Mexican *cajeta* is made with goat's milk. ○ T ○ F

4 At the end, they agree that dulce de leche is a dessert for a small spoon. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 What does Valentina say about recipes?

a) They need passports.
b) They travel between countries.
c) They belong to one country.

6 According to Martín, where do Argentines put dulce de leche?

a) In alfajores, pancakes and ice cream.
b) Only in birthday cakes.
c) In coffee.

7 Why doesn't Valentina agree that Argentina made it famous?

a) She thinks that's marketing, not history.
b) She thinks France made it famous.
c) She thinks nobody knows it outside South America.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Make three lists from the text:

- every use of *agree* (*do you agree, I don't agree...*)
- every negative of *be* (*isn't, aren't, I'm not*)
- every negative with *don't / doesn't*

Look at your lists. Does *agree* ever appear after *am / is / are*? Does *be* ever appear after *don't*?

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with one word or a short form. Use the text to help you.

1 Valentina, do you _____?
2 No, I _____ _____ at all.
3 A legend _____ evidence.
4 But they _____ the same thing.
5 The "first" dulce de leche _____ _____ (not / exist).
6 We _____ _____ (not / need) a legend to prove it.
7 _____ you both saying that the question doesn't matter?
8 No, I _____ _____.

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 I'm agree with your proposal.

2 The results don't are very good this month.

3 This kind of problem is never exist before.

4 Are you agree with the new rules?

5 She doesn't is in the office today.

6 We are not need a new printer.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five sentences giving your opinion about work, technology or life in your city. Use *agree / don't agree*, a negative with *be* (*isn't, aren't*) and a negative with *do* (*don't, doesn't*).

> *Example: I agree that meetings should be shorter, but they aren't always a waste of time.*

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9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

A colleague says: *"Working from home is better than working in the office."* Write a reply (100–150 words). Say which points you agree with and which you don't, and explain why.

2

Continuous forms

06 Present continuous: form

● B1 *most frequent* ○ C1

07 Present simple vs present continuous

○ B1 ○ B2

Lesson 6 Present continuous: form

LEVELS	● B1 *most frequent* ○ C1
FOCUS	*am / is / are + -ing; the auxiliary can be contracted but never dropped*
WATCH FOR	*"I thinking about changing jobs."* · *"My sister still working on her thesis."* · *"We waiting for the bus."* · *"What you doing?"*

THE SPANISH PULL

Estoy pensando

↓

I'm thinking

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

If the -ing form has no am / is / are in front of it, it isn't a verb yet.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- How do you say *estoy pensando* in English? Say it out loud. Can you hear the *'m* in *I'm*?
- When you start speaking in a hurry, or start again after an interruption, what happens to the first words of your sentence?
- How do you ask *¿Qué estás haciendo?* in English?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

- *am / is / are + -ing*.
- The auxiliary can be contracted (*I'm, she's, they're*) but never dropped.

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

- *Estoy pensando* / *estaba pensando* has a clear *estar* that you can hear.
- English *I'm* is a single reduced sound, and in fast speech it can disappear completely.

THE KEY IDEA

Say the contraction out loud: *I'm thinking, he's working, they're waiting*. If the *-ing* form has no *am / is / are / was / were* in front of it, it isn't a verb yet.

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- **At the start of a turn, or when you restart after an interruption.** You begin in a rush, and the auxiliary gets lost. You "hear" it in your head, but you don't say it.
- **Describing your current situation.** *I still working…* sounds complete, because *still* takes the place where *'m* should be.
- ***I thinking* works as a frozen chunk.** It means *estoy pensando* / *estaba pensando* and you use it to take the floor, so the grammar isn't processed at all.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"I thinking about changing jobs."	**I'm thinking**
"My sister still working on her thesis."	My sister **is** still working
"We waiting for the bus."	**We're** waiting
"What you doing?"	What **are** you doing?

4 READ *notice the structure in use*

This is a live report on a radio programme.

Live from Avenida Corrientes: Saturday, 11 p.m.

Good evening! I'm standing on Avenida Corrientes, just a few metres from the Obelisco, and as you can probably hear, the city isn't sleeping. They call this "the street that never sleeps", and tonight it's proving it.

Right now I'm looking at the entrance of the Gran Rex. The evening show has just finished and hundreds of people are coming out onto the pavement. Some of them are taking photos of the posters, and a group of teenagers is singing the last song of the concert. A security guard is trying to keep the doorway clear, but he isn't having much success.

Across the street, a queue is forming outside one of the theatres. People are waiting for a late-night comedy show that starts at midnight. I'm talking to a couple at the front of the queue. "We're celebrating our anniversary," they're telling me. "We're not going home until three!"

Next to me, the most famous pizzerias on the avenue are working at full speed. Through the window I can see the waiters. They're carrying huge trays of mozzarella pizza, and a lot of customers are eating standing at the counter, the traditional way, *de parado*. Nobody is complaining about the noise. Everyone's enjoying it.

What's happening in the bookshops? Many of them are still open, and a few people are browsing the second-hand tables. One bookseller is closing the shutters slowly. "I'm not in a hurry," he's saying. "People are still buying."

The traffic isn't moving much. Taxis are hooting, a bus is trying to turn left, and a street musician is playing a tango on his bandoneón at the corner of Talcahuano. Some tourists are dancing next to him, a little clumsily, but they're laughing.

Are things getting quieter? Not at all. The bars are filling up, the theatre lights are still shining, and more people are arriving every minute. I'm going to walk towards Callao now to see what's happening further down the avenue. Stay with us: we're broadcasting live from Corrientes all night.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 The reporter is standing near the Obelisco. ○ T ○ F

2 The show at the Gran Rex is about to start. ○ T ○ F

3 Some customers are eating standing at the counter. ○ T ○ F

4 All the bookshops are closed. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 Why is the couple in the queue celebrating?

a) It's their anniversary.

b) They've just got married.

c) They've won tickets.

6 What is the street musician doing?

a) Singing the last song of the concert.
b) Playing a tango on the bandoneón.
c) Dancing with some tourists.

7 Where is the reporter going next?

a) Into a pizzeria.
b) Home.
c) Towards Callao.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Underline every *am / is / are + -ing* in the text, including the contracted forms (*I'm, they're, it's*). Then find four **negative** sentences and two **questions** in the present continuous.

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with the present continuous of the verb in brackets.

1 I _____ (stand) on Avenida Corrientes.
2 Hundreds of people _____ (come) out onto the pavement.
3 A security guard _____ (try) to keep the doorway clear.
4 But he _____ (not / have) much success.
5 People _____ (wait) for a late-night comedy show.
6 "We _____ (celebrate) our anniversary."
7 The traffic _____ (not / move) much.
8 _____ things _____ (get) quieter?

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 I still waiting for an answer from the bank.

2 My sister living in Spain at the moment.

3 What you doing this weekend?

4 They not working today because it's a holiday.

5 I thinking about taking an online course.

6 He's work from home this week.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five sentences about what is happening in your life at the moment: projects, studies, changes at home or at work.

> *Example: I'm learning to cook Thai food at the moment.*

1

2

3

4

5

9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Imagine you are sending a long voice message to a friend. Describe what's happening around you right now, at home, at work, in a café or in the street (100–150 words). Write it as you would say it, then check that every *-ing* verb has its *am / is / are*.

Lesson 7 Present simple vs present continuous

LEVELS	○ B1 ○ **B2**
FOCUS	*habits and facts vs things happening now; state verbs in the simple*
WATCH FOR	*"This month I stay at my sister's because they're painting my flat."* · *"I'm needing a new phone."* · *"Usually I'm taking the train to work."* · *"I'm not eating meat for two years."*

THE SPANISH PULL

Este mes me quedo en lo de mi hermana

↓

This month I'm staying at my sister's

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

Always true → simple. Only for now → continuous.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- What's the difference between *I work in an office* and *I'm working from home this week*?
- Can you say *I'm knowing* or *I'm needing*? Why not?
- When something is temporary in your life (a course, a project, a stay somewhere), which tense do you use?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

- **Present simple:** habits, facts and states (*I work in an office, I know, I need*).
- **Present continuous:** now, or temporary situations around now (*I'm working from home this week*).
- **State verbs** (*know, need, agree, like, love, believe, want*) usually don't take *-ing*.

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

- Spanish often uses the simple present for temporary situations: *este mes trabajo en el campo*. English needs the continuous: *this month **I'm working** in the countryside*.
- Spanish *estar* + gerund and English *be* + *-ing* mostly match, so this is usually not a big problem.

THE KEY IDEA

Ask yourself: *is this always true, or only for now?* Always → simple. For now → continuous. And if there's ***for* or *since***, neither works. You need the perfect (*I haven't…*), which you'll see in Lesson 19.

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

In the data, this contrast causes few mistakes. When it does go wrong, it's usually in one of these situations:

- **Describing a temporary change in your routine** with the simple present, as in Spanish.
- **Using a state verb in the continuous** because the situation feels temporary: *I'm needing…*
- **Using the continuous with *for* or *since*** for something that started in the past: *I'm not smoking for a long time*.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"This month I stay at my sister's because they're painting my flat."	**I'm staying**
"I'm needing a new phone."	**I need**
"Usually I'm taking the train to work."	**I take**
"I'm not eating meat for two years."	**I haven't eaten** meat for two years

4 READ *notice the structure in use*

Subject: Greetings from Cafayate!

Hi Sofía,

I know you're wondering what I'm doing in the north, so here's the news. I'm spending the whole of March in Cafayate, in the Calchaquí Valleys, and I'm helping with the grape harvest at a small family winery.

You know my normal life. I work in an office in Palermo, I take the subway every morning and I spend eight hours in front of a screen. I usually eat lunch at my desk. Well, this month everything is different. I'm getting up at six, I'm working outside in the vineyards, and I'm eating lunch under a tree with the other pickers. My hands hurt, but I love it.

Cafayate is a small town, and life here moves slowly. The shops close at lunchtime and open again in the late afternoon. People greet each other in the street, and everybody knows everybody. The town sits at about 1,700 metres, so the sun is strong and the nights are cool. That's exactly what the grapes need. The winemakers say that the altitude gives the wines their character.

The most famous grape here is torrontés. It's a white grape that smells of flowers but tastes dry. I don't like sweet wine, so I was surprised: it's delicious. This week we're picking torrontés, and next week we're starting on the red grapes.

The owner, Don Ramón, is teaching me a lot. He knows every row of vines, and he believes that a good harvest depends on choosing the right day. At the moment he's watching the weather all the time, because a storm can ruin a whole year. He isn't sleeping much, I think.

At the weekends I'm exploring. Last Sunday a group of us drove through the Quebrada de las Conchas, where the red rocks look like a cathedral. This Saturday we're going to a folk festival in the main square.

I don't want to go back to Buenos Aires yet. I know I need my salary, but right now I'm learning more than I learn in a year at the office. I'm also thinking about what I really want to do next.

Write soon and tell me what you're doing!

Clara

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 Clara normally works in Cafayate. ○ T ○ F

2 Cafayate is at about 1,700 metres. ○ T ○ F

3 Clara likes sweet wine. ○ T ○ F

4 Don Ramón is watching the weather because a storm can ruin the harvest. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 What is torrontés?

a) A red grape.
b) A white grape that smells of flowers but tastes dry.
c) A sweet dessert wine.

6 What is happening next week?

a) They're starting on the red grapes.
b) Clara is going back to Buenos Aires.
c) They're going to a folk festival.

7 What does Clara usually do at lunchtime in Buenos Aires?

a) She eats under a tree.
b) She eats at her desk.
c) She goes home.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Make two lists from the email:

- **always true / habits** (present simple): *I work in an office…*
- **only for now** (present continuous): *I'm spending the whole of March…*

Then circle every state verb (*know, love, like, need, want, believe…*). Are any of them in the continuous?

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with the present simple or the present continuous of the verb in brackets.

1 I _____ (spend) the whole of March in Cafayate.
2 Normally I _____ (work) in an office in Palermo.
3 This month I _____ (get up) at six.
4 The shops _____ (close) at lunchtime.
5 I _____ (not / like) sweet wine.
6 This week we _____ (pick) torrontés.
7 He _____ (know) every row of vines.
8 At the moment he _____ (watch) the weather all the time.

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 This week I drive to work because there's a train strike.

2 I'm needing a new laptop.

3 Usually I'm taking the train to work.

4 Look outside! It rains.

5 I'm not knowing the answer.

6 She can't come to the phone. She has a shower.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five sentences that contrast your normal routine with something different that you're doing this week or this month.

> *Example: I usually drive to work, but this week I'm taking the train because my car is at the mechanic's.*

1

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9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Write an email to a friend (100–150 words) about a temporary change in your life: a new project, a course, a trip, a house move or a different schedule. Compare your normal routine with what you're doing now.

3 The past

08 Past simple: forms

○ B1 ○ B2

09 *did*-support in the past

○ B1 ● C1 *most frequent*

10 Telling a story in the past

● B1 *most frequent* ● B2 *most frequent*

11 Past continuous for background

○ B1 ○ B2

12 *What happened* vs *what happens*

● B1 *most frequent* ○ B2 ○ C1

13 Asking questions in all tenses

○ B2 ● C1 *most frequent*

Lesson 8 Past simple: forms

LEVELS	○ B1 ○ B2
FOCUS	*regular -ed and the irregular verbs that go wrong; found vs founded*
WATCH FOR	*"The company grow very fast last year."* · *"My grandfather found a small business in 1970."* · *"I tried to called you."* · *"They sell the house last month."*

THE SPANISH PULL

Intenté despertarme

↓

I tried to wake up

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

In verb + to + verb, only the first verb shows the past: I tried to wake up.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- Which irregular past forms make you hesitate? Write five.
- In *I tried to wake up*, which verb shows the past? And in Spanish, *intenté despertarme*?
- What's the difference between *I found my keys* and *My grandfather founded a company*?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

- Regular verbs take *-ed*.
- Irregular verbs have their own past form, which you have to memorise.

THE KEY IDEA

- In *verb + to + verb*, **only the first verb** shows the tense: *I **tried** to **wake** up*, *I **wanted** to **sell** it*. Spanish works the same way (*intenté despertarme*), so trust your Spanish here.
- Review the irregular verbs that most often went wrong in the data:

Base	Past
give	gave
sell	sold
grow	grew
wake	woke
lend	lent
choose	chose
draw	drew
find	found
found (a company)	founded

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- **The verb is rarely used in the past.** If you don't often say *grew* or *chose*, the base form comes out instead.
- **Confusable pairs.** *found* is the past of *find*, but it's also a verb of its own (*to found* = *fundar*), with the past *founded*.
- **The past goes on the wrong verb.** You know the event is past, so you mark it, but on the second verb instead of the first: *I try to woke up*.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"The company grow very fast last year."	**grew**
"My grandfather found a small business in 1970."	**founded**
"I tried to called you."	I **tried** to **call** you
"They sell the house last month."	**sold**

4 READ *notice the structure in use*

Lionel Messi: from Rosario to the world

Lionel Andrés Messi was born in Rosario on 24 June 1987. His father worked in a steel factory and his mother cleaned houses. He grew up in a modest neighbourhood in the south of the city, where he played football in the street with his brothers and cousins. His grandmother Celia took him to his first club, Grandoli, when he was only four or five. She believed in him before anyone else did.

A few years later he joined Newell's Old Boys, one of the city's two big clubs. He scored goal after goal in the youth teams, but there was a problem: he didn't grow. At the age of ten, doctors found that his body didn't produce enough growth hormone. The treatment cost a lot of money every month, and his family couldn't pay for it for long.

Several clubs watched him play, but none of them offered a solution. Then Barcelona showed interest. In December 2000, a Barcelona director wrote a promise of a contract on a paper napkin in a restaurant, because he didn't want to lose the boy. The club agreed to pay for the treatment, and the family decided to move to Spain. Messi was thirteen. He missed his friends and his home, and he later said that the first months were very hard.

He chose to stay, and he learned quickly. He made his first-team debut in 2004 and soon became the most important player at the club. Spain wanted him to play for its national team, but he chose Argentina. It was a decision that many people in Rosario never forgot.

In 2007 he founded a foundation that helps children with health problems and education. Over the next years he won almost every title with Barcelona and received the Ballon d'Or many times. With Argentina, success came later. He lost several finals, and in 2016 he even announced that he was leaving the national team. He soon changed his mind.

In 2021 he finally won the Copa América in Brazil, and in December 2022 he lifted the World Cup in Qatar. That night, millions of people in Rosario and all over the country sang his name. The boy who didn't grow became the man who gave them the trophy they wanted most.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 Messi's father worked in a steel factory. ○ T ○ F

2 Messi's first club was Newell's Old Boys. ○ T ○ F

3 A Barcelona director wrote a promise of a contract on a paper napkin. ○ T ○ F

4 Messi chose to play for Spain's national team. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 Who took Messi to his first club?

a) His father.

b) His grandmother.

c) A coach from Newell's.

6 Why couldn't his family continue the treatment for long?

a) It cost too much money.

b) The doctors stopped it.

c) They moved to Spain.

7 What happened in 2016?

a) He won the Copa América.

b) He announced he was leaving the national team.

c) He founded his foundation.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Underline every irregular past form in the text and write its base form next to it (*grew → grow*). Then find the sentence with *founded*. Why isn't it *found*? Finally, find four examples of *verb + to + verb* (*agreed to pay*) and notice which verb shows the past.

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with the past simple of the verb in brackets.

1 He _____ (grow) up in a modest neighbourhood.

2 His grandmother _____ (take) him to his first club.

3 Doctors _____ (find) that his body didn't produce enough growth hormone.

4 A Barcelona director _____ (write) a promise of a contract on a napkin.

5 He _____ (choose) to stay, and he learned quickly.

6 In 2007 he _____ (found) a foundation.

7 He _____ (win) almost every title with Barcelona.

8 The boy who didn't grow _____ (give) them the trophy they wanted most.

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 Our company grow a lot after the pandemic.

_____

2 My parents found their business in 1995.

_____

3 I tried to finished the report on time.

_____

4 Last year we sell our old car.

5 She choosed the cheapest option.

6 Yesterday I wake up at five because of the noise.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five sentences about past events in your life. Use at least five of these verbs: *give, choose, sell, grow, find, wake up, lend, begin, try to*.

> *Example: I chose my career when I was eighteen.*

1

2

3

4

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9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Write a short biography (100–150 words) of someone you admire: a family member, a colleague, a teacher or a famous person from your country. Include where they grew up, important decisions they made and what they achieved.

Lesson 9 *did*-support in the past

LEVELS	○ B1 ● **C1** *most frequent*
FOCUS	*didn't + base verb; Did … + base verb?; the past is marked once*
WATCH FOR	*"Did you saw the email?" · "I didn't knew that." · "Did she told you about the meeting?" · "We didn't went to the party."*

THE SPANISH PULL

¿Viste el video?

↓

Did you see the video?

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

Did steals the past from the main verb: did you see, I didn't know.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- How do you ask *¿Viste el partido?* in English? Write it.
- After *didn't*, which form of the verb do you use?
- Do you think *Did you see* and *Did you saw* sound different when someone speaks fast?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

- Negatives: *didn't* + **base** verb.
- Questions: *Did* + subject + **base** verb?

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

Spanish	English	Wrong
*¿**Viste** el video?* (the verb carries the past)	***Did** you **see** the video?* (*did* carries it)	*Did you saw…?*
*No lo **sabía***	*I **didn't know** it*	*I didn't knew it*

THE KEY IDEA

- **The past is marked once.** In Spanish the main verb always carries the tense, so your instinct puts it there.
- In English, when *did* appears, **it takes the tense away from the main verb**. Think of *did* as "stealing" the past: *did + see*, *didn't + know*.

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- **Double marking.** You think "this is past", and by reflex you put the past on the main verb, as in Spanish, even after *did*.
- **You echo what you just heard.** If someone says *I saw a great video*, the word *saw* is fresh in your memory, and your question comes out as *Did you saw...?*
- **Explaining why you didn't know something.** *Because I didn't knew* comes out quickly, almost as one word.
- **It survives at high levels.** The meaning is always clear and it's hard to hear in fast speech, so nobody corrects it. That's why it's one of the most typical C1 mistakes.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"Did you saw the email?"	Did you **see**
"I didn't knew that."	I didn't **know**
"Did she told you about the meeting?"	Did she **tell** you
"We didn't went to the party."	We didn't **go**

"I didn't expect the noise": a visitor's day at the Perito Moreno Glacier

We talked to Hannah, a teacher from Melbourne, the evening after her visit to the Perito Moreno Glacier, near El Calafate.

How did you get there from El Calafate?

We took a bus in the morning. It didn't take long, about an hour and a half. The road goes along Lago Argentino, so the views started before we arrived.

What did you see first?

The ice, from the road, through the trees. Everybody on the bus stood up. Then we walked along the footbridges in front of the glacier. I didn't know it was so big. The front is about five kilometres wide.

Did you see any ice fall into the lake?

Yes, several times! That was the best part. You hear a crack, like thunder, and then a piece of ice the size of a building falls into the water. I didn't expect the noise. It's very loud.

Did you go on the boat trip?

We did. The boat didn't go very close, for safety reasons, but it went close enough. From the water you realise how tall the wall is. It's like a block of flats made of blue ice.

Did you walk on the glacier?

Yes, we did the mini-trekking. The guides gave us crampons and showed us how to walk. I didn't fall once, which surprised me. At the end they served us a glass of whisky with glacier ice.

Did you feel cold?

Not really. I didn't wear too many layers, because the walking keeps you warm. But the wind was strong on the boat.

Why did you choose El Calafate?

A friend went last year and didn't stop talking about it. She said it was the most impressive place she had ever visited in Argentina. I didn't believe her completely. Now I do.

Did anything go wrong?

Only one thing. I didn't bring enough memory for my camera! I took about five hundred photos.

Did you learn anything about the glacier?

A lot. The guide explained that the ice moves forward about two metres a day. I didn't know glaciers moved so fast.

What did you do in the evening?

We went back to El Calafate and ate Patagonian lamb. I didn't want to go to bed. I just wanted to look at my photos.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 Hannah travelled to the glacier by bus. ○ T ○ F

2 She knew the glacier was very big before she arrived. ○ T ○ F

3 The boat went very close to the ice wall. ○ T ○ F

4 Hannah didn't fall during the mini-trekking. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 What surprised Hannah when the ice fell?

a) The colour of the water.
b) The noise.
c) The size of the waves.

6 What went wrong?

a) She didn't bring enough memory for her camera.
b) She felt very cold on the glacier.
c) The bus was late.

7 How fast does the ice move, according to the guide?

a) About two metres a day.
b) About two metres a year.
c) About five kilometres a year.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Copy every question with *did* and every negative with *didn't* from the interview. Circle the main verb in each one. Is it ever in the past form?

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with *did* or *didn't* and the verb in brackets.

1 How _____ you _____ (get) there from El Calafate?

2 It _____ (not / take) long.

3 I _____ (not / know) it was so big.

4 _____ you _____ (see) any ice fall into the lake?

5 I _____ (not / expect) the noise.

6 _____ you _____ (walk) on the glacier?

7 I _____ (not / bring) enough memory for my camera.

8 What _____ you _____ (do) in the evening?

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 Did you went to the party on Saturday?

2 I didn't knew about the change of schedule.

3 Did he said anything about the budget?

4 We didn't had time for lunch.

5 Why did you chose that hotel?

6 She didn't found her keys.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five sentences: three questions you would ask a friend who has just come back from a trip, and two negative sentences about your last weekend.

> *Example: Did you take many photos?*

1

2

3

4

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9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Write a short interview (100–150 words) with a friend or a colleague about a trip, an event or a course they did recently. Write at least five questions with *did*, and their answers. Include some negative answers with *didn't*.

Lesson 10 Telling a story in the past

LEVELS	● B1 *most frequent* ● B2 *most frequent*
FOCUS	*the past simple on every verb of a story; had to; coming back to now*
WATCH FOR	*"Yesterday I have a meeting with a new client."* · *"On Saturday we go to the beach and we eat fish."* · *"I have to wait an hour at the bank."* · *"He used the file that I send him."*

THE SPANISH PULL

Y entonces llego y le digo...

↓

And then I arrived and told him...

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

Once the story starts in the past, every verb stays there until you come back to now.

This is the most important lesson in the workbook. In the data, this single mistake was about a quarter of all the verb mistakes at B1 and B2.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- When someone asks *How are you?* and you answer with a story about yesterday, what tense do you start in?
- When you tell a long story, do you keep the past until the end? Or does the present come back after a few sentences?
- How do you say *tuve que* in English?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

Finished events in the past take the past simple. **Every verb** in the story needs it, not just the first one.

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

- **The historic present.** Spanish speakers naturally tell stories in the present to make them vivid: *"Y entonces llego, y le digo..."*. English also has a historic present, but only in jokes and very informal stories, and the speaker *chooses* it for the whole story. Switching back and forth sounds like a mistake.

- **Present relevance.** In Spanish, *"Tengo plata en ese banco"* is acceptable while telling what happened last week. English separates the two: *"I **had** money in that bank"* (the story) and *"I still **have** an account there"* (now).
- ***tuve que* = *had to*.** *Have to* has a past like any other verb. It's *had to*, never *have to*, for the past.

THE KEY IDEA

- The time expression (*yesterday, last week*) is not enough. **English marks the past on every verb, including verbs after *that, what, which, because* and *when*.**
- One mental check: **once the story starts in the past, every verb stays in the past until you deliberately come back to now.** Use a "now" phrase to mark the return: *"... and now I still have an account there."*

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- **The question is in the present.** *How are you? What are you doing?* sets a present frame, and the story about yesterday comes out in that frame: *"Yesterday I have a meeting..."*
- **You say the time once.** After *yesterday* or *on Saturday*, your brain feels the time is "done" and doesn't mark it on each verb. In the data, more than a quarter of these mistakes came right after a clear past time expression.
- **The event is also a routine.** If you did something last Saturday that you also do regularly, the present feels right.
- **The situation still feels ongoing.** If the consequences are still with you, the present pulls the verb.
- **Verbs inside other clauses lose the past.** The main verb is fine, but the verb after *that* or *what* isn't: *"He used what I give him."*
- ***have to* is stored as a fixed chunk** that never changes.
- **After you stop to find a word**, you often restart the sentence in the present.
- **The story gets lively.** The more emotional or interesting the story, the more the Spanish habit takes over.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"Yesterday I have a meeting with a new client."	I **had**
"On Saturday we go to the beach and we eat fish."	we **went** ... we **ate**
"I have to wait an hour at the bank." *(yesterday)* → *I **had to** wait*	
"He used the file that I send him."	that I **sent** him

4 READ *notice the structure in use*

The day we won the World Cup

On Sunday 18 December 2022, I woke up at seven, although the final didn't start until noon. I couldn't sleep. I made some coffee, put on my Argentina shirt and went to my parents' house in Caballito, where the whole family met to watch the game.

When I arrived, my father was already in front of the TV. He had to see the pre-match show, he said, because it was part of the ritual. My mother prepared food that nobody ate. My uncle sat in the same chair he used for every match of the tournament, and nobody was allowed to move it.

The first half was perfect. Messi scored a penalty, and then Di María scored the second goal after a beautiful move. We hugged, we shouted, and my grandmother cried. At half time, we thought it was over.

It wasn't. In the second half France came back. Mbappé scored twice in two minutes, and the room went silent. My father turned off the sound because he couldn't listen to the commentators any more. In extra time Messi scored again, and Mbappé equalised again. I had to go out to the balcony because I couldn't breathe. Then, in the very last minute, Dibu Martínez made the save that everyone in Argentina still remembers.

The penalty shoot-out was the longest ten minutes of my life. My uncle held a rosary that he found in a drawer. When Montiel took the last penalty, I didn't watch. I heard the scream from the street before I saw the ball in the net.

What happened next was chaos. We ran out of the building, and the whole neighbourhood did the same. People hugged strangers, cars hooted, and someone gave me a flag that I didn't even ask for. We walked all the way to the Obelisco, which took us nearly three hours. Millions of people filled the city. A man next to me said he had waited thirty-six years for that moment, and I believed him.

I got home at four in the morning with no voice and very sore feet. Now, every time I watch the video of that final, I still feel the same knot in my stomach.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 The narrator woke up just before the match started. ○ T ○ F

2 The family watched the match at the narrator's parents' house. ○ T ○ F

3 At half time, they thought Argentina had won. ○ T ○ F

4 The narrator watched Montiel's last penalty very carefully. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 Why did the narrator's father turn off the sound?

a) He couldn't listen to the commentators any more.

b) The neighbours complained.

c) He wanted to listen to the radio.

6 What did the uncle hold during the penalty shoot-out?

a) A flag.
b) A rosary.
c) His phone.

7 How long did it take them to walk to the Obelisco?

a) Half an hour.
b) Nearly three hours.
c) All night.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

- Underline every past simple verb in the story.
- Find five verbs **inside other clauses** (after *where, when, that, which, because*): *where the whole family met…*
- Find the two sentences with *had to*.
- Find the sentence where the narrator comes back to **now**. Which words mark the change?

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with the past simple of the verb in brackets.

1 On Sunday I _____ (wake up) at seven.

2 I _____ (put on) my Argentina shirt.

3 My father _____ (have to) see the pre-match show.

4 My mother prepared food that nobody _____ (eat).

5 Mbappé _____ (score) twice in two minutes.

6 I _____ (have to) go out to the balcony.

7 My uncle held a rosary that he _____ (find) in a drawer.

8 Someone gave me a flag that I _____ (not / even / ask) for.

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 Last week my boss calls me into his office.

_____

2 On Friday I have to stay late because the system crashed.

_____

3 We arrived at the hotel, but the room isn't ready.

4 She showed me the photos that she take on holiday.

5 Yesterday I go to the dentist after work.

6 A month ago we have a big problem with a supplier.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five sentences about what you did last weekend. Start each one with a different time expression: *On Saturday morning…, After lunch…, Later…, That night…, On Sunday…*. Use *had to* at least once.

> *Example: On Saturday morning I had to take my car to the mechanic's.*

1

2

3

4

5

9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Tell the story of a day you remember well (100–150 words): a day when something went wrong at work, a family celebration, a trip, a big match or a concert. Start with a time expression in the past, and keep every verb in the past until the last sentence, where you come back to now.

Tip: write it quickly first, as if you were telling it to a friend. Then go back and check **every** verb, especially the ones after *that, what, when* and *because*.

Lesson 11 Past continuous for background

LEVELS	○ B1 ○ **B2**
FOCUS	*was / were + -ing for background; I was thinking... as a softener*
WATCH FOR	*"I thinking we could meet on Monday." · "He talking about the budget, and he told me..." · "When you called, I cooking." · "We was waiting for an hour."*

THE SPANISH PULL

Estaba pensando

↓

I was thinking

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

Background = was / were + -ing. Event = past simple.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- How do you say *estaba pensando que...* at the start of a sentence?
- When you tell a story, how do you describe what was happening around you before the main event?
- What's the difference between *When you called, I had dinner* and *When you called, I was having dinner*?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

- *was / were + -ing* for an action in progress, often interrupted by a past simple event.
- *I was thinking...* is also a polite way to introduce a suggestion.

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

- *Estaba pensando* → *I **was** thinking*. The Spanish *estaba* is always there, and the English *was* needs to be there too.
- *Mientras hablaba de eso, me dijo...* → ***While he was talking** about that, he told me...*

THE KEY IDEA

Background = *was / were -ing*. Event = past simple.

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- ***was* disappears at the start of a sentence.** It's the same problem as in Lesson 6: in a rush, the auxiliary is lost.
- ***I thinking* is a frozen chunk** for *estaba pensando*, used to start speaking or to make a suggestion.
- **Introducing what someone was saying** when something else happened: the background verb loses its *was*.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"I thinking we could meet on Monday."	**I was thinking**
"He talking about the budget, and he told me..."	**While he was talking** about the budget, he told me...
"When you called, I cooking."	**I was cooking**
"We was waiting for an hour."	We **were** waiting

4 READ *notice the structure in use*

The night Soda Stereo came back

In 1997 Soda Stereo said goodbye with a famous concert at River Plate's stadium, and Gustavo Cerati thanked the crowd with two words that became legendary: *"Gracias totales."* For ten years, fans thought they would never see the band together again. Then, in 2007, the impossible happened. They announced a reunion tour called *Me verás volver*, "You'll see me come back".

I was nineteen and I was studying in La Plata. When the tickets went on sale, I was sitting in a statistics class. My phone was vibrating every two minutes with messages from my friends, but the teacher was watching me, so I couldn't answer. By the time the class finished, the first show was sold out. Luckily, they kept adding dates, and we got tickets for one of the later nights.

On the day of the concert, it was raining in Buenos Aires. While we were waiting in the queue outside the stadium, people were singing old songs, sharing umbrellas and taking photos. Some fans were wearing T-shirts from the 1980s. A man behind us was telling everyone that he was at the farewell concert in 1997, and he was crying before the band even appeared.

When the lights went out, the rain was still falling, but nobody cared. Sixty thousand people were screaming at the same time. I remember that I was holding my friend's arm so hard that she had marks the next day. Cerati, Zeta Bosio and Charly Alberti walked on stage, and for a few seconds they were just standing there, looking at the crowd, as if they couldn't believe it either.

During the concert I was singing so loudly that I lost my voice. At one point, while Cerati was playing a guitar solo, I looked around. Strangers were hugging, couples were kissing, and a girl next to me was filming everything with a tiny camera. When the first notes of *De música ligera* started, the whole stadium jumped at once, and I felt the ground move.

A few years later, Cerati fell into a coma and died in 2014. That's why that night feels even more special now.

I was thinking that maybe you'd like to borrow my DVD of the tour. Shall I bring it next time?

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 Soda Stereo's farewell concert was in 1997. ○ T ○ F

2 The narrator bought tickets for the first show as soon as they went on sale. ○ T ○ F

3 It was raining on the day of the concert. ○ T ○ F

4 The man behind them in the queue had been at the 1997 concert. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 What was the narrator doing when the tickets went on sale?

a) Waiting in a queue.

b) Sitting in a statistics class.

c) Working at a shop.

6 What happened when *De música ligera* started?

a) The rain stopped.

b) The whole stadium jumped.

c) The lights went out.

7 What does the narrator offer at the end?

a) To lend a DVD of the tour.

b) To buy tickets for another concert.

c) To sing a song.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Underline every *was / were + -ing* in the text. Then choose three of them and find the past simple event that happens *during* or *interrupts* that background action.

> *Example: I **was sitting** in a statistics class (background) → the tickets **went** on sale (event).*

Finally, look at the last paragraph. What does *I was thinking…* do there? Is the narrator describing the past?

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with the past simple or the past continuous of the verb in brackets.

1 I was nineteen and I _____ (study) in La Plata.

2 When the tickets went on sale, I _____ (sit) in a statistics class.

3 My phone _____ (vibrate) every two minutes.

4 While we _____ (wait) in the queue, people were singing old songs.

5 A man behind us _____ (tell) everyone about the 1997 concert.

6 When the lights _____ (go) out, the rain was still falling.

7 While Cerati _____ (play) a guitar solo, I looked around.

8 I _____ (think) that maybe you'd like to borrow my DVD.

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 I thinking you could help me with this report.

2 When the power went off, we watching a film.

3 While I was drive to work, I heard the news on the radio.

4 They was talking when the manager came in.

5 She was cutting vegetables when she was cutting her finger.

6 He talking on the phone, and he told me the news.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five sentences about what you were doing at particular moments: at eight o'clock this morning, when you heard some important news, at midnight last New Year's Eve, when someone called you recently, and one more of your choice.

> *Example: At eight o'clock this morning I was having breakfast with my family.*

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9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Describe a concert, a match, a party, a wedding or another event you went to (100–150 words). Start by describing the scene: what people were doing, what the weather was like, how you were feeling. Then tell what happened.

Lesson 12 *What happened* vs *what happens*

LEVELS	● B1 *most frequent* ○ B2 ○ C1
FOCUS	*What happened? for the past; The thing is... and What happens is... for points*
WATCH FOR	*"Yes, but what happened? The tickets are very expensive."* · *"What happened is that people don't read the instructions."* · *"Every time I go to the bank, they asked me for the same documents."* · *"What happen yesterday?"*

THE SPANISH PULL

Lo que pasa es que...

↓

The thing is...

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

Use the thing is to introduce a problem. Keep What happened? for real past events.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- How do you say *lo que pasa es que...* in English?
- And *Sí, pero ¿qué pasa?*, when you want to introduce a problem?
- When do you use *What happened?*

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

What happened? asks about a past event.

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

Spanish	English	Wrong
¿Qué pasa? (*Sí, pero ¿qué pasa?*)	***The thing is... / Here's the problem:***	*What happened?*
Lo que pasa es que...	***What happens is... / The thing is...***	*What happened is...*
¿Qué pasó?	***What happened?***	(correct)

THE KEY IDEA

- In Spanish, *¿qué pasa?* is often not a question at all. It's a way of saying "listen, here's the issue".
- English has fixed phrases for that job: *the thing is, the problem is, here's the thing*.
- Keep ***What happened?*** for real questions about the past.
- When you make a **general** statement, keep it in the present all the way through: *Every time I **go** there, I **take** a taxi.*

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- **It's a translation of a Spanish discourse marker.** *¿Qué pasa?* and *lo que pasa es que* are among the most frequent expressions in Rioplatense Spanish.
- ***What happened?* is the version you've heard most** in films, news and class dialogues, so it's the one that comes out, even when the meaning is present.
- **It works as a way of taking the turn,** not as a real question. Because you aren't really asking anything, the tense isn't processed.
- **Tenses mix in general statements.** *I took an Uber every time I come* starts in the past and finishes in the present.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"Yes, but what happened? The tickets are very expensive."	Yes, but **the thing is**, the tickets are very expensive.
"What happened is that people don't read the instructions."	**What happens is** that people don't read the instructions.
"Every time I go to the bank, they asked me for the same documents."	they **ask** me
"What happen yesterday?"	What **happened** yesterday?

4 READ *notice the structure in use*

Planning a winter trip to Bariloche

Nico: So, are we going to Bariloche in July or not?

Ana: I'd love to. The thing is, July is the most expensive month of the year there.

Nico: Why? Because of the snow?

Ana: Partly. What happens is that the winter school holidays start in July, so half the country goes skiing at the same time. Flights double, hotels fill up, and the queues for the ski lifts at Cerro Catedral are endless.

Nico: OK, but here's the problem: I can only take time off in July.

Ana: Then we need to book now. Every time I leave it until June, I end up paying twice as much.

Nico: You went two years ago, didn't you? What happened? You never told me the whole story.

Ana: Oh, that was a disaster. We arrived on a Friday, and on Saturday a huge snowstorm closed the road to the mountain. We spent three days in the hotel eating chocolate.

Nico: That doesn't sound like a disaster to me.

Ana: It was fun at first. But we paid for ski passes that we never used. What happened after that was even worse: the airport closed and we lost our flight home.

Nico: Right. So the thing is, we need travel insurance.

Ana: Exactly. And something else. What usually happens with groups is that everyone wants to do something different. Some people want to ski all day, others want to sit in a café on Mitre Street, and someone always wants to go on the Circuito Chico by bike.

Nico: That's not a problem. The point is to relax.

Ana: I agree. But the thing is, you can't do everything in four days.

Nico: So what do you suggest?

Ana: Here's my idea. We go at the end of July, when the holidays in Buenos Aires are over. Prices drop a little, the snow is usually still good, and there are fewer students on their end-of-school trips.

Nico: Perfect. And if there's a storm again?

Ana: Then we do what we did last time. We stay in and eat chocolate. Bariloche has plenty of it.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 Ana says July is the cheapest month in Bariloche. ○ T ○ F

2 Nico can only take time off in July. ○ T ○ F

3 On Ana's last trip, a snowstorm closed the road to the mountain. ○ T ○ F

4 Ana suggests going at the beginning of July. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 Why is July so expensive?

a) Because of the winter school holidays.
b) Because there are fewer flights.
c) Because the ski season is short.

6 What happened after the snowstorm on Ana's trip?

a) They went skiing every day.
b) The airport closed and they lost their flight.
c) They moved to another hotel.

7 What will they do if there's a storm again?

a) Go home early.
b) Stay in and eat chocolate.
c) Go on the Circuito Chico.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

- Find every phrase that **introduces a problem or a point** (*The thing is…*). How many are there?
- Find the two places where Ana and Nico use ***What happened***. Why is the past correct there?
- Find two sentences with *every time* or *usually*. What tense are all the verbs in them?

B COMPLETE THE DIALOGUE

Complete the dialogue with *The thing is, What happens is, What happened, here's the problem* or the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1 "I'd love to. _____, July is the most expensive month."
2 "_____ that the winter holidays start in July."
3 "You went two years ago. _____? You never told me."
4 "Every time I leave it until June, I _____ (end up) paying twice as much."
5 "_____ after that was even worse: the airport closed."
6 "What usually _____ (happen) with groups is that everyone wants something different."
7 "Some people _____ (want) to ski all day."
8 "OK, but _____: I can only take time off in July."

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 Yes, but what happened? This flat is too far from my office.

2 What happened is that nobody reads the terms and conditions.

3 Every time I travel, I forgot something important.

4 What happens at the meeting yesterday?

5 What happened with online shopping is that you can't touch the product.

6 I took the bus every time I go downtown.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five sentences about problems or annoying situations in your work or daily life. Use *The thing is…*, *What happens is…*, *The problem is…* and *Every time I….* Include one real *What happened?* question about something in the past.

> *Example: The thing is, my commute takes over an hour.*

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9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

A friend wants to do something you think is a bad idea: move to a big city, start a business, buy an expensive car, change careers. Write a message (100–150 words) explaining the problems. Use *the thing is*, *what happens is* and *the problem is* to introduce your points, and tell them briefly what happened when you, or someone you know, did the same thing.

Lesson 13 Asking questions in all tenses

LEVELS	○ B2 ● C1 *most frequent*
FOCUS	*question word + auxiliary + subject + verb; subject questions*
WATCH FOR	*"Why you have that car if you never drive?"* · *"What we were talking about?"* · *"Why I have to explain everything twice?"* · *"Who did call you?"*

THE SPANISH PULL

¿Por qué tenés ese perro?

↓

Why do you have that dog?

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

The auxiliary jumps in front of the subject, unless who or what is the subject.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- When you react quickly to something surprising, do you say *Why you have...?* or *Why do you have...?*
- How do you ask *¿De qué estábamos hablando?* in English?
- What's the difference between *Who called you?* and *Who did you call?*

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

Question word + **auxiliary** + subject + verb.

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

Spanish (same order as a statement)	English (the auxiliary moves to the front)
¿Por qué tenés ese perro?	*Why **do** you have that dog?*
¿De qué estábamos hablando?	*What **were** we talking about?*
¿Por qué renunció?	*Why **did** he resign?*

THE KEY IDEA

- In English, the **auxiliary jumps in front of the subject**: *do / does / did / is / are / was / were / have / can / will*. If there's no auxiliary in the statement, use *do / does / did*.
- **Rhetorical questions follow the same rule.** *Why do I have to explain myself?* is still a question.
- **Subject questions are the exception.** When *who* or *what* is the subject, there's no auxiliary: *Who **called** you? What **happened**?*

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- **Spanish questions have no auxiliary and no inversion.** *¿Por qué tengo que explicarme?* So "question word + statement" feels complete.
- **Quick reactions to something surprising or emotional** are short and fast. You don't plan them, so the automatic form wins.
- **Rhetorical questions inside a story** (*and I thought, why I need to...?*) feel like part of the narrative, not like real questions.
- **Getting back on track after an interruption,** and **asking about meaning**, both produce fast, unplanned questions.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"Why you have that car if you never drive?"	Why **do you** have
"What we were talking about?"	What **were we** talking about?
"Why I have to explain everything twice?"	Why **do I have** to
"Who did call you?"	Who **called** you?

"Corrientes is my second home": an interview with a stage actor

Paula Ferrero, 38, is starring in a musical at one of the big theatres on Avenida Corrientes. We met her in a café before the evening show.

Where did you grow up?

In Tucumán. I came to Buenos Aires when I was twenty to study acting.

Why did you choose acting?

I don't know if I chose it. When I was a child, I did imitations of all my teachers, and everyone laughed. What else was I going to do?

Who gave you your first role?

A director from a small independent theatre in Abasto. He saw me in a student play and called me the next day.

What were you doing before that call?

I was working as a waitress, like every young actor in this city. I was serving coffee about two blocks from here.

What happened when you got your first role on Corrientes?

I cried. Seriously. Walking past those posters every day and then seeing my name on one of them was unbelievable.

How many shows do you do a week?

Eight. From Wednesday to Sunday, with two performances on Saturdays and Sundays.

Does it get tiring?

Of course it does. But the audience gives you energy. Why would I complain? This is the job I dreamed of.

What do you do between the two Saturday shows?

I eat a slice of pizza standing at the counter of one of the old pizzerias. It's a tradition. Half the cast goes there.

Which theatre do you like most on the avenue?

That's a difficult question. Do you want the honest answer? The small ones. In a big theatre you can't see faces. In a small one you hear every breath.

Who taught you the most?

The older actors. They knew how to hold a silence. You can't learn that from a book.

What were you thinking about when we arrived?

My lines, probably. I always go through the first scene before a show.

Why do people still go to the theatre when they have Netflix at home?

Because nothing is recorded here. If something goes wrong, it goes wrong in front of you. Where else do you get that?

What are you doing after this run?

I'm not sure yet. Ask me again in March!

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 Paula grew up in Buenos Aires. ○ T ○ F

2 Her first role was at a small independent theatre. ○ T ○ F

3 She does six shows a week. ○ T ○ F

4 She prefers small theatres. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 What was Paula doing before she got her first role?

a) Studying in Tucumán.
b) Working as a waitress.
c) Acting in a big musical.

6 What does she do between the two Saturday shows?

a) She sleeps in her dressing room.
b) She eats pizza at the counter of an old pizzeria.
c) She goes through her lines.

7 Why does she think people still go to the theatre?

a) Because tickets are cheap.
b) Because nothing is recorded: it's live.
c) Because the actors are famous.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Copy all the interviewer's questions. Underline the auxiliary and circle the subject in each one. Then find the **subject questions**: the questions where *who* or *what* is the subject and there's no auxiliary.

B WRITE THE QUESTIONS

Write the questions from the words given. Use the tense in brackets.

1 Where / you / grow up? (past simple)

2 Why / you / choose acting? (past simple)

3 Who / give / you your first role? (past simple, subject question)

4 What / you / do / before that call? (past continuous)

5 How many shows / you / do / a week? (present simple)

6 it / get / tiring? (present simple)

7 Who / teach / you the most? (past simple, subject question)

8 What / you / think about / when we arrived? (past continuous)

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 Why you didn't call me?

2 What you were doing at ten o'clock last night?

3 Where she works now?

4 Who did send you this email?

5 Why I need to fill in this form again?

6 How long it takes to get there by car?

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five questions you would like to ask a person you admire. Use different tenses (present, past, past continuous) and include at least one subject question with *who* or *what*.

> *Example: What were you doing when you got your big opportunity?*

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9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Write an interview (100–150 words) with a person who has an interesting job. It can be a real person you know or an imaginary one. Write at least six questions in different tenses, with short answers.

4 Modals and the future

14 Modals + base verb

○ B1 ○ B2

15 Talking about the future

○ B1

16 Time clauses

○ B2 ○ C1

Lesson 14 Modals + base verb

LEVELS	○ B1 ○ **B2**
FOCUS	*can, could, will, would, must, should, might + base verb*
WATCH FOR	*"You can recovered the file from the bin." · "What do you must bring?" · "She can speaks three languages." · "We will to send it tomorrow."*

THE SPANISH PULL

¿Qué tenés que entregar?

↓

What do you have to deliver?

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

A modal is already an auxiliary: no do, and no -s, to or past form after it.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- How do you ask *¿Qué tenés que entregar?* with *must*? And with *have to*?
- What form of the verb comes after *can* or *will*? Does it ever change?
- Can you put *do* in front of *can* or *must*?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

- *can / could / will / would / must / should / might* + **base verb**: no *to*, no *-s*, no past form.
- In questions, the modal goes in front: *What **must** you…? **Can** you…?*

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

Spanish	English	Wrong
*¿Qué **tenés que** entregar?* (*tener* is a full verb)	*What **must** you deliver? / What **do** you **have to** deliver?*	*What do you must deliver?*
*Puede **recuperar*** (infinitive)	*can **recover***	*can recovered*

THE KEY IDEA

- **A modal is already an auxiliary.** It never takes *do*, and the verb after it never changes.
- If you want *do*, use ***have to*** instead of *must*: *What do you have to deliver?*

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

In the data this mistake was not frequent, so this lesson is a short review. It happened in three situations:

- **The content feels "done" or past,** so the verb after the modal goes into the past: *you can recovered*.
- **Asking about rules.** *must* is treated like *tener que*, a full verb, so it gets *do*: *What do you must...?*
- **Joking or quoting a film,** where the phrase comes out as a chunk.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"You can recovered the file from the bin."	can **recover**
"What do you must bring?"	What **must you** bring? / What **do you have to** bring?
"She can speaks three languages."	can **speak**
"We will to send it tomorrow."	will **send**

Iguazú Falls: what you should know before you go

The Iguazú Falls, on the border between Argentina and Brazil, are one of the great natural wonders of the world. There are around 275 waterfalls spread over almost three kilometres. You can visit them from both countries, but the Argentine side lets you get much closer to the water. Here is some practical advice.

How long should you stay?

You should plan at least one full day for the Argentine side and half a day for the Brazilian side. If you can, stay in Puerto Iguazú for three nights. You won't regret it.

What must you bring?

You must bring your passport if you want to cross to Brazil, and you must carry cash or a card for the entrance fee. You should also bring sun cream, a hat and plenty of water. A light raincoat might be useful, because you will get wet near the Devil's Throat.

Can you swim in the river?

No, you can't. The currents are very strong, and swimming is not allowed anywhere in the park.

What mustn't you do?

You mustn't feed the coatis. These small animals look friendly, but they can bite, and they will steal food from your bag if you aren't careful. You mustn't leave the paths either. The jungle might look harmless, but it isn't.

Should you take the boat?

If you like adventure, you should. The boats go right under some of the falls. You will get completely soaked, so you should put your phone in a waterproof bag. People with back problems shouldn't take the ride, because the boat bounces a lot.

Could you do it all in one day?

You could, but you would see everything in a rush. The trails can take several hours, and the little train to the Devil's Throat might be crowded in the high season.

When should you go?

The falls are impressive all year round, but the water level can change a lot. After heavy rain, the volume might be enormous. In a dry period, some falls could be much smaller. You should check the news before you travel.

What will you remember most?

Probably the noise. At the Devil's Throat you can't hear the person next to you, and you will feel the spray on your face long before you see the water.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 You can visit the falls from Argentina and from Brazil. ○ T ○ F

2 You can swim in the river in some parts of the park. ○ T ○ F

3 You mustn't feed the coatis. ○ T ○ F

4 People with back problems should take the boat ride. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 How long should you plan for the Argentine side?

a) Half a day.
b) At least one full day.
c) Three days.

6 Why might a light raincoat be useful?

a) Because it rains every afternoon.
b) Because you will get wet near the Devil's Throat.
c) Because the train is open.

7 What will you probably remember most?

a) The noise.
b) The coatis.
c) The food.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Underline every modal and the verb that follows it (*can visit, should plan…*). Then copy all the questions with a modal. Check: do any of them have *do*? Does any verb after a modal have *-s*, *-ed* or *to*?

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with the modal in brackets and the correct form of the verb.

1 You _____ (can / visit) them from both countries.

2 You _____ (should / plan) at least one full day.

3 What _____ you _____ (must / bring)?

4 _____ you _____ (can / swim) in the river?

5 You _____ (mustn't / feed) the coatis.

6 They _____ (will / steal) food from your bag.

7 _____ you _____ (could / do) it all in one day?

8 The water level _____ (can / change) a lot.

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 What do you must do before the inspection?

2 He can plays the guitar very well.

3 You should to call the bank today.

4 Will you came to the meeting tomorrow?

5 I must finished this report today.

6 Do you can help me with this?

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five sentences about rules and advice in your workplace, your home or your city. Use *must, mustn't, should, can* and *can't*.

> *Example: In my office we must wear an ID card at all times.*

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9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Write a short guide (100–150 words) for a visitor to a place you know well: your city, a park, a museum or your workplace. Include what they can do, what they must and mustn't do, and what they should bring.

Lesson 15 Talking about the future

LEVELS	○ B1
FOCUS	*going to, the present continuous and will for the future*
WATCH FOR	*"This Friday I go to my cousin's wedding."* · *"Tomorrow I meet a client at ten."* · *"That bag looks heavy. I'm going to help you."* · *"Look at that sky. It will rain."*

THE SPANISH PULL

Este viernes voy a una fiesta

↓

This Friday I'm going to a party

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

A personal plan with a date → present continuous: I'm meeting a client on Monday.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- How do you say *Este viernes voy a una fiesta* in English?
- What's the difference between *I'm meeting a client tomorrow* and *I'll meet a client tomorrow*?
- When someone says *The phone is ringing!*, what do you answer: *I'm going to get it* or *I'll get it*?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

- ***going to***: plans you've already decided, and predictions based on what you can see.
- **Present continuous**: arrangements, often with a time and a place.
- ***will***: decisions made at the moment of speaking, promises, offers and general predictions.
- **Present simple**: timetables (*The train **leaves** at 8*).

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

- *Este viernes **voy** a una fiesta* is perfectly natural Spanish.
- In English, the present simple for the future is only for timetables. For your own plans, use ***I'm going*** or ***I'm going to go***.

THE KEY IDEA

A personal plan with a date → present continuous: *This Friday I'm going to a party. I'm meeting a client on Monday.*

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- **Mentioning a plan in passing.** When the plan isn't the main topic, the Spanish present comes out: *This Friday I go…*
- ***will* for everything.** *Will* is the "future" form most people learn first, so it's used for arrangements and plans too.
- ***going to* for offers.** When you decide to help someone at that moment, it should be *I'll*, not *I'm going to*.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"This Friday I go to my cousin's wedding."	**I'm going** to my cousin's wedding
"Tomorrow I meet a client at ten."	**I'm meeting** a client
"That bag looks heavy. I'm going to help you."	**I'll help** you
"Look at that sky. It will rain."	It**'s going to** rain

Group chat: "Mendoza weekend 🍷"

Juli: OK, everyone, final plan! We're flying to Mendoza on Friday at 7 a.m. Please don't be late this time.

Fede: I won't, I promise. I'll set three alarms.

Mica: What are we doing on Friday afternoon?

Juli: We're checking into the hostel at around 11, and then we're going to have lunch in the centre. In the afternoon I'm going to walk around Plaza Independencia and the Parque San Martín.

Fede: I'm going to sleep, probably 😴

Mica: And Saturday?

Juli: Saturday is the big day. We're renting bikes in Maipú and visiting three or four wineries. I've already booked the first one. The tour starts at 10.

Fede: Are we going to cycle after drinking wine? That's going to be interesting.

Juli: It's flat, don't worry. And we're going to eat a big lunch at the second winery.

Mica: What about the weather? I checked and it's going to be very hot.

Juli: Then we'll start early. I'll bring sun cream for everyone.

Mica: I'll bring water and snacks.

Fede: And I'll bring… my good mood.

Juli: Very useful. On Sunday morning we're taking a minibus to Potrerillos. There's a big reservoir with the Andes behind it. I think it's going to be the best part of the trip.

Mica: What time are we coming back to Buenos Aires?

Juli: Our flight leaves at 9:40 on Sunday night.

Fede: Wait, I'm meeting my cousin on Sunday at lunchtime. She lives in Luján de Cuyo. Is that a problem?

Juli: No problem. You'll join us in the afternoon, then.

Fede: Perfect. I'll take a taxi to the airport if I'm late.

Mica: Are we going to buy wine to bring home?

Juli: Of course. But remember the baggage limit. I'm not going to pay extra because of your six bottles of malbec, Fede.

Fede: Fine. I'll only buy five.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 They are flying to Mendoza on Friday morning. ○ T ○ F

2 Juli hasn't booked any of the wineries yet. ○ T ○ F

3 Mica thinks it's going to be very hot. ○ T ○ F

4 Fede is meeting his cousin on Sunday at lunchtime. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 Where are they renting bikes?

a) In the centre of Mendoza.
b) In Maipú.
c) In Potrerillos.

6 What is Mica going to bring?

a) Sun cream.
b) Water and snacks.
c) Wine.

7 What does Fede promise at the end?

a) To arrive early at the airport.
b) To buy only five bottles.
c) To pay for the extra baggage.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Sort the future forms in the chat into three groups:

- **present continuous** (arrangements): *We're flying…*
- ***going to*** (plans and predictions): *we're going to have lunch…*
- ***will*** (decisions, promises and offers): *I'll set three alarms…*

Then find two verbs in the present simple that talk about the future. Why is the present simple correct there?

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with the best future form of the verb in brackets.

1 We _____ (fly) to Mendoza on Friday at 7 a.m. (*it's arranged*)

2 "I won't be late, I promise. I _____ (set) three alarms."

3 In the afternoon I _____ (walk) around the park. (*a plan*)

4 I checked the forecast, and it _____ (be) very hot.

5 "Then we _____ (start) early." (*a decision now*)

6 "I _____ (bring) water and snacks." (*an offer*)

7 Our flight _____ (leave) at 9:40 on Sunday night.

8 I _____ (meet) my cousin on Sunday at lunchtime. (*it's arranged*)

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 This weekend I visit my parents in the country.

2 The phone is ringing. I'm going to answer it!

3 We will have dinner with some clients tonight. It's in my calendar.

4 Look at the traffic! We will be late.

5 Don't worry about the report. I'm going to send it to you right now.

6 Tomorrow I go to the dentist at four.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five sentences about next week or next month. Include an arrangement (present continuous), a plan (*going to*), a prediction (*going to* or *will*), and an offer or a promise (*will*).

> *Example: I'm having lunch with my sister on Saturday.*

1

2

3

4

5

9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Write a message to a friend or a colleague (100–150 words) about a trip, an event or a project you're organising. Say what's already arranged, what you're going to do, what you think will happen, and offer to do something.

Lesson 16 Time clauses

LEVELS	○ B2 ○ C1
FOCUS	*when, as soon as, until, before, after + present for future meaning*
WATCH FOR	*"When I finished the report, I'll send it to you."* · *"When you broke a bone, you need an X-ray."* · *"I'll wait until you will arrive."* · *"As soon as she will get the results, she'll call us."*

THE SPANISH PULL

Cuando llegue, te llamo

↓

When I arrive, I'll call you

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

After when, as soon as and until, use the present. Never will.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- How do you say *Cuando llegue, te llamo* in English?
- What tense do you use after *when* or *as soon as* when you're talking about the future?
- How do you say *hasta que me muera*?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

After *when / as soon as / until / before / after / once*, English uses the **present** for future meaning: *When I **find** it, I'll call you.*

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

Spanish (subjunctive)	English (present)	Wrong
*Cuando **encuentre** la red, la voy a escanear*	*When I **find** the network, I'll scan it*	*When I found...*
*Cuando **te rompas** el brazo, necesitás un especialista*	*When you **break** your arm, you need...*	*When you broke...*
*Hasta que me **muera***	*Until I **die***	*until die*

THE KEY IDEA

- Spanish uses the **subjunctive** after *cuando* for the future. English has no subjunctive here, so learners reach for a form that "feels unreal", which is often the past.
- **English is simpler: after *when*, use the present** (or the present perfect: *when I've finished*). Never *will* after *when*.

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- **Describing a future procedure step by step.** You're thinking about what you'll do, and the verb after *when* goes into the past or gets *will*.
- **Answering a question with *would*.** *When would you...?* contains a past-looking form, and it pulls the answer into the past.
- **Speculating about the future.** *When that happens* feels hypothetical, like *if that happened*.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"When I finished the report, I'll send it to you."	When I **finish** (or **have finished**)
"When you broke a bone, you need an X-ray."	When you **break**
"I'll wait until you will arrive."	until you **arrive**
"As soon as she will get the results, she'll call us."	As soon as she **gets**

Driving Ruta 40: advice before you go

Ruta 40 is Argentina's most famous road. It runs for more than 5,000 kilometres along the Andes, from the far south of Patagonia to the border with Bolivia. Driving even a small part of it is an adventure, and a little planning makes a big difference.

Before you leave

Before you set off, check the state of the road. Some sections are still gravel, and after it rains they can become difficult. Don't leave until you have a spare tyre, plenty of water and a paper map. Once you leave the big towns, your phone won't always have a signal.

Fuel

This is the golden rule: as soon as you see a petrol station, fill up. In some parts of Patagonia the next one may be 300 kilometres away. When the tank is half empty, start looking for fuel. Don't wait until the warning light comes on.

Altitude

In the north, the road climbs above 4,000 metres at the Abra del Acay. When you reach that altitude, you may feel dizzy or get a headache. Drink water and walk slowly when you get out of the car. Many people chew coca leaves until they feel better. After you come down, the symptoms usually disappear.

Wind and weather

In Patagonia the wind is the real challenge. When a truck passes you, hold the wheel firmly. If the wind gets too strong, stop and wait until it calms down. It usually changes by the afternoon.

Accommodation

When you arrive in a small town like Cafayate or Cachi, look for a room before it gets dark. In the high season, book ahead. Once you've found a place, ask the owner about the next stretch of road. Locals always know more than any app.

Animals

Guanacos and rheas often cross the road without warning. As soon as you see one, slow down. They are beautiful, but they don't move out of the way.

Enjoying it

Finally, don't try to drive too much in one day. When you plan your route, allow time for stops. The best moments come when you stop the car, turn off the engine and listen to the silence.

You won't forget this road after you've driven it. Many travellers say they'll come back as soon as they can.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 Ruta 40 runs from Patagonia to the border with Bolivia. ○ T ○ F

2 You should wait until the warning light comes on before you look for fuel. ○ T ○ F

3 You may feel dizzy at the Abra del Acay. ○ T ○ F

4 Guanacos usually move out of the way when a car arrives. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 What is the golden rule?

a) Never drive at night.
b) Fill up as soon as you see a petrol station.
c) Always book a room in advance.

6 What should you do if the wind gets too strong?

a) Drive faster.
b) Stop and wait until it calms down.
c) Turn back.

7 Who knows more about the road than any app?

a) Truck drivers.
b) Tourists.
c) Locals.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Underline every *when, as soon as, before, after, until* and *once* in the text, and the verb that follows. What tense is that verb? Then look at the other half of the sentence. What forms do you find there?

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1 Before you _____ (set) off, check the state of the road.

2 Don't leave until you _____ (have) a spare tyre.

3 Once you _____ (leave) the big towns, your phone won't always have a signal.

4 As soon as you _____ (see) a petrol station, fill up.

5 When you _____ (reach) that altitude, you may feel dizzy.

6 After you _____ (come) down, the symptoms usually disappear.

7 Once you _____ (find) a place, ask the owner about the road. (*use the present perfect*)

8 Many travellers say they'll come back as soon as they _____ (can).

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 When I will get home, I'll call you.

2 I'll wait here until you finished.

3 As soon as the meeting ended, I'll send you the notes.

4 Before you will sign, read the contract carefully.

5 When you lost your passport abroad, you need to go to the embassy.

6 We'll start after everybody will arrive.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five sentences about your plans for today, this week or the future. Use *when, as soon as, before, after* and *until*.

> *Example: As soon as I get home tonight, I'll have a shower.*

1

2

3

4

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9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Write instructions (100–150 words) for someone who is going to do something for the first time: start a job at your workplace, use a public service, cook a dish you know well, or travel to a place you know. Explain step by step what they should do when, before and after each stage.

5 Perfect tenses

17 Present perfect: form

○ B1 ○ B2 ● C1 *most frequent*

18 Present perfect for experience

○ B1 ○ B2 ○ C1

19 Duration: *for* / *since* and the present perfect continuous

○ B1 ● B2 *most frequent*

20 Present perfect vs past simple

○ B2

21 Past perfect (simple and continuous)

○ B2 ● C1 *most frequent*

> *A note before you start.* Rioplatense Spanish uses the simple past (*nunca vi eso, ¿ya comiste?*) where English uses the present perfect. Spanish speakers from other regions also often use a present or past where English needs a perfect form. That's why this unit matters so much: in many cases, there's no Spanish "slot" to translate from. You have to learn when English *needs* the perfect.

Lesson 17 Present perfect: form

LEVELS	○ B1 ○ B2 ● C1 *most frequent*
FOCUS	*have / has + past participle; I've never seen; have lived vs have been living*
WATCH FOR	*"I never seen that before." · "She has went to that restaurant many times." · "I have been live here since 2010." · "We've finish the project."*

THE SPANISH PULL

Nunca vi eso

↓

I've never seen that

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

The participle can't stand alone: I've never seen, not I never seen.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- How do you say *nunca vi eso* in English? Write it.
- When you say *I've never seen*, can you hear the *'ve*?
- What's the past participle of *see, go, write, eat, drive*?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

have / has + past participle. The *have* is obligatory.

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

- Argentine Spanish says ***Nunca vi*** eso, with the simple past, where English needs ***I've never seen*** that.
- *I never seen* mixes the two: the Spanish structure (no auxiliary) with the English participle.

THE KEY IDEA

- The participle (*seen, been, done*) **can't stand alone** as the verb of a sentence. It needs *have*: ***I've*** *never* ***seen***, ***I've lived*** / ***I've been living***.
- In fast speech *I've* is almost silent, but it must be there.

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- **Reacting to something new.** *I never seen that before* comes out fast, as a reaction, and the *'ve* gets lost. You may also have heard *I never seen* in very informal spoken English online.
- **Saying how long you've lived or worked somewhere.** You know that *have been* goes with *since*, but the form isn't finished: *I have been live*.
- **Irregular participles.** *Went* and *gone*, *wrote* and *written*, *drove* and *driven* get mixed.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"I never seen that before."	**I've never seen**
"She has went to that restaurant many times."	She **has been** to
"I have been live here since 2010."	I **have lived** / **have been living** here
"We've finish the project."	We've **finished**

4 READ *notice the structure in use*

Two years in Rosario: what I've learned

I've lived in Rosario for two years now. I moved here from Neuquén to study, and people often ask me if I miss the south. Honestly? I've been too busy to miss anything. Here are some of the things this city has taught me.

The river has become part of my routine. I've never lived near such a big river before. The Paraná is enormous, brown and always moving. I've walked along the riverside promenade hundreds of times, and I've never seen two identical sunsets. On summer weekends I've taken the little boats across to the islands, where people swim, eat fish and do nothing all afternoon.

I've climbed the Monumento a la Bandera. The monument marks the place where Manuel Belgrano raised the Argentine flag for the first time, in 1812. I've been to the top three times, and every time the view of the city and the river has surprised me.

Football has taken over my life. In Rosario you have to choose: Newell's Old Boys or Rosario Central. I haven't chosen yet, and my friends have stopped inviting me to matches because of it. I've seen the mural of Messi near his childhood neighbourhood, and I've also seen the murals of Central's idols. Both sides have been very patient with me.

I've discovered the music. Fito Páez is from here, and so are many other great musicians. I've been to several concerts at small venues in the centre, and I've heard more live music in two years than in my whole life before.

I've changed my opinion about the heat. At first I hated the humidity. Now I've got used to it. Well, almost.

My Spanish has changed, too. My family says I've started to speak like a *rosarino*. I haven't noticed it myself, but apparently I've picked up a few words they've never heard in Neuquén.

The truth is that I've been living here for only two years, but it feels like ten. I've made friends, I've found my favourite café, and I've decided to stay after I finish my degree. Have you ever visited Rosario? If you haven't, you should.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 The writer moved to Rosario from Neuquén. ○ T ○ F

2 The writer has never seen two identical sunsets on the Paraná. ○ T ○ F

3 The writer has chosen to support Newell's. ○ T ○ F

4 The writer has decided to stay in Rosario after finishing the degree. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 How many times has the writer been to the top of the monument?

a) Once.

b) Three times.

c) Hundreds of times.

6 Why have the writer's friends stopped inviting them to matches?

a) Because the writer hasn't chosen a team.

b) Because the tickets are expensive.

c) Because the writer doesn't like football.

7 What does the writer's family say?

a) That the writer has started to speak like a *rosarino*.

b) That the writer should come back to Neuquén.

c) That the writer has changed a lot.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Underline every *have / has* + participle. Make a list of the participles and mark the irregular ones (*seen, been, taken…*). Then find the two sentences that say how long the writer has lived in Rosario. What's the difference in form between them?

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with the present perfect of the verb in brackets.

1 I _____ (live) in Rosario for two years now.

2 I _____ (never / live) near such a big river before.

3 I _____ (walk) along the promenade hundreds of times.

4 I _____ (be) to the top three times.

5 Football _____ (take) over my life.

6 I _____ (not / choose) a team yet.

7 I _____ (hear) more live music in two years than in my whole life.

8 I _____ (make) friends, and I _____ (find) my favourite café.

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 I never seen so much snow.

2 He has wrote three books about history.

3 We have been work here since March.

4 Have you ever ate empanadas?

5 She's never drove a car.

6 They has moved to a new office.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five sentences about things you've done, seen or learned since you started your job, moved to your home or started studying English.

> *Example: I've worked in three different companies since I finished university.*

1

2

3

4

5

9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Write a blog post (100–150 words) about a place where you've lived, worked or studied. Write about what you've done there, what you've learned and what has changed.

Lesson 18 Present perfect for experience

LEVELS	○ B1 ○ **B2** ○ **C1**
FOCUS	*ever / never; the first time I've...; the best ... I've ever...; already / yet / just*
WATCH FOR	*"It's the first time I eat this."* · *"It's the best film I ever saw."* · *"I didn't finish yet."* · *"Did you ever go to Europe?"*

THE SPANISH PULL

Es la primera vez que veo esto

↓

It's the first time I've seen this

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

There's no Spanish slot for this tense, so learn the chunks: the first time I've..., ...yet.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- How do you say *Es la primera vez que veo esto* in English?
- And *¿Ya comiste?*
- How do you say *el mejor consejo que recibí*?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

The present perfect is used for experiences up to now (*ever / never*), after *the first time* and *the best ... ever*, and with *already / yet / just*.

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

This is the most important point in Unit 5. **Rioplatense Spanish almost never uses the *pretérito perfecto compuesto*.**

Argentine Spanish	English
Es la primera vez que ***veo*** *esto*	*It's the first time I've* ***seen*** *this*
El mejor consejo que ***recibí***	*The best advice I've* ***ever received***
Lo único que todavía no ***ordené / ordeno***	*The only thing I* ***haven't organised yet***
¿Ya ***comiste****?*	*Have you* ***eaten*** *yet?*

THE KEY IDEA

You don't have a Spanish "slot" for this tense, so don't translate. **Learn the trigger phrases** as whole chunks:

- *the first time I've...*
- *the best... I've ever...*
- *I've never...*
- *...yet*
- *Have you ever...?*

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- **Commenting on something for the first time.** *It's the first time I see this* is a word-for-word translation.
- **Evaluating something.** *The best... I ever...* is the Spanish structure with English words.
- **Talking about unfinished tasks.** *I don't finish yet* or *I didn't finish yet* follows *todavía no termino / terminé*.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"It's the first time I eat this."	I **'ve eaten**
"It's the best film I ever saw."	I **'ve ever seen**
"I didn't finish yet."	I **haven't finished** yet
"Did you ever go to Europe?"	**Have** you ever **been** to Europe?

Travel diary: the Quebrada de Humahuaca

Day 1, Purmamarca

We've just arrived in Purmamarca, and I already understand why everyone talks about this place. It's the first time I've seen mountains in so many colours. The Cerro de los Siete Colores is right behind the village: red, purple, green, yellow. I've seen hundreds of photos of it, but I've never seen anything like the real thing. We haven't unpacked yet. We've only had time to drink a coca tea and walk around the square.

Day 2, Salinas Grandes

Today we drove up to the Salinas Grandes, a huge white salt flat at over 3,000 metres. This is the strangest landscape I've ever visited. The light is so bright that it hurts your eyes. Have you ever stood somewhere completely white and completely flat? It feels like another planet. Marcos has already taken more photos than he took on our whole trip to Europe.

Day 3, Tilcara

We've moved to Tilcara for two nights. This afternoon we visited the Pucará, a reconstructed pre-Hispanic fortress on a hill. I've never thought much about the history of the north, but the guide was fantastic. In the evening we ate the best humitas I've ever tasted, in a tiny restaurant with only four tables.

Day 4, Humahuaca and the Hornocal

We've finally seen the Hornocal, a range of mountains with fourteen colours, at almost 4,400 metres. It's the highest place I've ever been, and the first time I've felt the altitude: I've had a headache all afternoon. Marcos hasn't felt anything. He says it's because he's already been to Bolivia.

Day 5, Tilcara again

We've just come back from a peña, a night of folk music. It's the first time I've danced a zamba, and I'm sure I've never been so bad at anything. Nobody seemed to mind.

Day 6, the last night

We haven't decided yet if we'll come back next year, but I think we will. We haven't seen Iruya yet, and everyone says it's the most beautiful village in the region. This has been the best trip we've ever taken together. I've already started planning the next one.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 They unpacked as soon as they arrived in Purmamarca. ○ T ○ F

2 The Salinas Grandes are a huge white salt flat. ○ T ○ F

3 The writer felt the altitude at the Hornocal. ○ T ○ F

4 They have already visited Iruya. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 Where did they eat the best humitas?

a) In a big hotel.
b) In a tiny restaurant with four tables.
c) At the peña.

6 What did the writer do for the first time in Tilcara?

a) Danced a zamba.
b) Drank coca tea.
c) Visited a fortress.

7 Why does Marcos say he hasn't felt the altitude?

a) Because he drank a lot of water.
b) Because he has already been to Bolivia.
c) Because he stayed in the car.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Find and copy every example of these phrases in the diary:

- *the first time I've...*
- *the best / strangest / highest... I've ever...*
- *already / yet / just*
- *Have you ever...?*

Then notice the sentences in the past simple (*Today we drove..., This afternoon we visited...*). What do they have that the present perfect sentences don't have?

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with the present perfect of the verb in brackets.

1 We _____ (just / arrive) in Purmamarca.
2 It's the first time I _____ (see) mountains in so many colours.
3 We _____ (not / unpack) yet.
4 This is the strangest landscape I _____ (ever / visit).
5 _____ you ever _____ (stand) somewhere completely white?
6 It's the highest place I _____ (ever / be).
7 We _____ (not / see) Iruya yet.
8 I _____ (already / start) planning the next one.

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 This is the first time I visit this city.

2 That's the worst meal I ever had.

3 Did you finish the report yet?

4 I don't finish my homework yet.

5 Did you ever try sushi?

6 It's the first time she drives on the left.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five sentences about your experiences: one *first time*, one *best... ever*, one *never*, one *already* and one *yet*.

> *Example: I've never been to a music festival.*

1

2

3

4

5

9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Write a review (100–150 words) of the best trip, restaurant, film or experience you've ever had, or describe something you did recently for the first time. Use *ever, never, the first time, already* and *yet*.

Lesson 19 Duration: *for / since* and the present perfect continuous

LEVELS	○ B1 ● **B2** *most frequent*
FOCUS	*for / since with the present perfect (continuous); How long have you...?*
WATCH FOR	*"I work here for three years." · "We are waiting since ten o'clock." · "How long do you live in this city?" · "I know her since we were children."*

THE SPANISH PULL

Hace tres meses que trabajo acá

↓

I've been working here for three months

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

For or since about something still true → change the verb to have (been).

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- How do you say *Hace tres años que trabajo acá* in English?
- What's the difference between *I did that for ten years* and *I've been doing that for ten years*?
- How do you ask someone how long they've lived in their city?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

- For a situation that **started in the past and is still true now**: *have / has* + participle (or *have been* + *-ing*) + *for / since*.
- *for* + a length of time; *since* + a starting point.

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

Spanish (present)	English (perfect)	Wrong
***Hace** cuatro meses **que uso** esta herramienta*	*I've **been using** this tool **for** four months*	*I use it for four months*
*Están ensayando **desde hace** mucho*	*They've **been rehearsing for** a long time*	*They are rehearsing since a long time*

Spanish (present)	English (perfect)	Wrong
*Trabajo ahí **hace** tres meses*	*I've **worked / been working** there **for** three months*	*I work there three months*
*¿Qué hiciste **desde** la semana pasada?*	*What **have** you **done since** last week?*	*What do you do since last week?*

THE KEY IDEA

- In Spanish, the **time expression** (*hace… que, desde hace*) carries the "still true" meaning, and the verb stays in the present.
- In English, **the verb carries it**. When you hear yourself say ***for* or *since*** about something that is still true, that's the signal: change the verb to ***have (been)…***.
- Watch the contrast:
  - *I **did** that for ten years* = it's finished. I don't do it now.
  - *I've **been doing** that for ten years* = I still do it.

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- **Saying how long you've used something or worked somewhere.** The Spanish present (*trabajo ahí hace tres meses*) is translated directly.
- **Saying how long a problem has lasted.** *They are trying since three days* follows *están intentando desde hace tres días*.
- ***for* and *since* are learned as vocabulary,** not as a signal that the verb must change.
- **Mixing a finished period with an unfinished one.** *I did that for ten years* is correct English only if it's over.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"I work here for three years."	I'**ve worked** / '**ve been working** here for three years
"We are waiting since ten o'clock."	We'**ve been waiting** since ten o'clock
"How long do you live in this city?"	How long **have you lived** in this city?
"I know her since we were children."	I'**ve known** her since we were children

4 READ *notice the structure in use*

The bookseller of Avenida Corrientes

Héctor Linares has been selling books on Avenida Corrientes since 1987. His shop is narrow and dark, and the shelves reach the ceiling. He has worked there for almost forty years, and he has known some of his customers for most of that time.

"How long have you been coming here?" he asks a woman who is looking at the poetry section. "Since I was at university," she says. "So, about thirty years." Héctor smiles. "Then you've been reading Borges for thirty years, too."

Corrientes has been famous for its bookshops for decades. Many of them stay open until after midnight, and readers have been walking out of the theatres and into the bookshops since long before Héctor arrived. "This avenue has always lived at night," he says. "Theatre, pizza, books. That hasn't changed."

But a lot has changed. Before he opened the shop, Héctor worked in a bank for ten years. "I did that for ten years and I hated every day," he says. That period of his life is over. "I've been doing this for nearly forty years, and I haven't hated a single day."

Prices have been going up for years, and many small shops have closed since the pandemic. Héctor has had the same landlord since 1995, which has helped him survive. "He has been very patient with me," he admits. "I've been late with the rent a few times."

Online shopping has been a challenge, too. Since Mercado Libre and other platforms became popular, fewer people have been coming in to browse. Héctor's grandson has been helping him sell some books online for the past two years. "I don't understand the app," Héctor says, "but my grandson has been teaching me since last summer. I've learned to take photos, at least."

He has had the same habit since his first day: every morning he chooses one book and puts it in the window. "I've been doing it for thirty-nine years," he says. "Some days somebody buys it. Some days nobody does. But I've never missed a day."

How long is he going to keep going? He laughs. "I've been asking myself that question for years. The answer is always the same: one more year."

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 Héctor has been selling books on Corrientes since 1987. ○ T ○ F

2 Before he opened the shop, he worked in a bank for ten years and enjoyed it. ○ T ○ F

3 He has had the same landlord since 1995. ○ T ○ F

4 Héctor's grandson has been teaching him to use the app. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 How long has the woman been coming to the shop?

a) Since last summer.

b) About thirty years.

c) Almost forty years.

6 What has Héctor done every morning since his first day?

a) Read a poem.

b) Put one book in the window.

c) Opened at midnight.

7 What is his answer when he asks himself how long he's going to keep going?

a) Until he's eighty.

b) One more year.

c) He doesn't know.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Underline every *for* and *since* in the text, together with its verb. Is the verb in the present perfect, the present perfect continuous or the past simple? Then compare these two sentences. Why is the tense different?

- *"I **did** that for ten years and I hated every day."*
- *"I**'ve been doing** this for nearly forty years."*

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with the present perfect, the present perfect continuous or the past simple of the verb in brackets.

1 Héctor _____ (sell) books on Corrientes since 1987. (*continuous*)

2 He _____ (work) there for almost forty years. (*simple*)

3 "How long _____ you _____ (come) here?"

4 Before he opened the shop, Héctor _____ (work) in a bank for ten years.

5 Prices _____ (go) up for years.

6 He _____ (have) the same landlord since 1995.

7 His grandson _____ (help) him for the past two years.

8 "I _____ (ask) myself that question for years."

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 I study English since 2020.

2 She is working here for six months.

3 How long do you know your best friend?

4 We live in this house since 2015.

5 I've been working there for ten years, but I left in 2019.

6 They are waiting for the results since Monday.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five sentences about things that started in the past and are still true now: your job, your home, a hobby, a tool you use, a friendship. Then add one sentence about a period that is finished, in the past simple.

> *Example: I've been using the same laptop for six years.*

1

2

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9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Write a short profile (100–150 words) of someone who has been doing the same job or hobby for a long time: you, a relative or someone you know. Say how long they've been doing it, what they did before, and what has changed.

Lesson 20 Present perfect vs past simple

LEVELS	○ B2
FOCUS	*finished time → past simple; no time, or news now → present perfect*
WATCH FOR	*"That's happened to me every morning." · "I've seen him yesterday." · "Recently it's happened when we went to Chile." · "I've started a new course on Monday."*

THE SPANISH PULL

Eso me pasa todos los días

↓

That happens to me every day

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

Put a date on it → past simple. News with no date → present perfect.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- Can you say *I've seen him yesterday*? Why not?
- How does a news report usually start: with *has happened* or *happened*? And how does it continue?
- How do you say *Eso me pasa todos los días*?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

- **Finished time** (*yesterday, in 2020, last week, on Saturday*) → past simple.
- **Unfinished time, no time given, or a result now** → present perfect.

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

- Spanish *Eso me pasa todos los días* is **present**, and so is English: *That **happens** to me every day*.
- The present perfect is not a "past tense for habits".

THE KEY IDEA

- **Put a date on it → past simple.** *I've started paying for it* (news) → *I started on Saturday* (detail).
- That's also the pattern of every news article: **headline in the present perfect, details in the past simple.**

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

In the data, this was less frequent than the missing present perfect, but it's the other side of the same coin:

- ***That's happened* becomes a fixed chunk** used for habits and single events alike.
- ***recently* is learned as a "present perfect word"** and triggers the present perfect automatically, even when the story that follows is in the past.
- **News and detail get mixed.** *I've started a course on Monday* puts a finished time with the present perfect.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"That's happened to me every morning."	That **happens** to me
"I've seen him yesterday."	I **saw** him yesterday
"Recently it's happened when we went to Chile."	Recently it **happened** when we went to Chile
"I've started a new course on Monday."	I **started** a new course on Monday

4 READ *notice the structure in use*

Argentine cinema has won two Oscars, and has come close several more times

Argentina has produced some of the most successful films in Latin American history. The country has won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film twice, and its films have been nominated on several other occasions.

The first Oscar came in 1986. *La historia oficial*, directed by Luis Puenzo, told the story of a woman who discovers that her adopted daughter may be the child of a couple who disappeared during the dictatorship. The film won the award in March of that year, only three years after democracy returned.

The second came more than two decades later. In 2010, Juan José Campanella's *El secreto de sus ojos* won the same award. The film, starring Ricardo Darín and Soledad Villamil, became a huge success at home: millions of people saw it in Argentine cinemas in 2009, and it remained one of the most watched national films for years.

Darín has become the face of Argentine cinema abroad. He has worked with many of the country's most important directors, and he has starred in films that have travelled to festivals all over the world. In 2023 he was back at the Oscars with *Argentina, 1985*, Santiago Mitre's film about the trial of the military juntas. The film won a Golden Globe in January that year, but it lost the Oscar in March.

Other films have come close, too. Damián Szifron's *Relatos salvajes* received a nomination in 2015, and audiences have watched its six stories on streaming platforms ever since.

Recently, Argentine series and films have reached even bigger audiences through Netflix and other services. Lately, critics have also paid more attention to young directors from the provinces, not only from Buenos Aires.

Not everyone celebrates, however. Funding for national cinema has been a political issue for years, and in 2024 the government cut public support for the film institute, which led to protests from actors and directors.

Still, every time an Argentine film reaches the Oscars, the whole country watches the ceremony. And every time someone asks which Argentine film they should see first, the answer is usually the same: *El secreto de sus ojos*.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 Argentina has won the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film twice. ○ T ○ F

2 *La historia oficial* won the award before democracy returned. ○ T ○ F

3 *Argentina, 1985* won a Golden Globe. ○ T ○ F

4 *Relatos salvajes* won an Oscar in 2015. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 Who directed *El secreto de sus ojos*?

a) Luis Puenzo.
b) Juan José Campanella.
c) Santiago Mitre.

6 What has Ricardo Darín become, according to the text?

a) The face of Argentine cinema abroad.
b) A film director.
c) The head of the film institute.

7 What happened in 2024?

a) An Argentine film won an Oscar.
b) The government cut public support for the film institute.
c) *Relatos salvajes* arrived on Netflix.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Make two lists: every verb in the **present perfect** and every verb in the **past simple**. For each past simple verb, find the time expression that goes with it (*in 1986, in March of that year…*). Then look at the first paragraph. Why is it all in the present perfect?

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with the present perfect or the past simple of the verb in brackets.

1 The country _____ (win) the award twice.
2 The first Oscar _____ (come) in 1986.
3 The film _____ (win) the award in March of that year.
4 Millions of people _____ (see) it in Argentine cinemas in 2009.
5 Darín _____ (work) with many of the country's most important directors.
6 The film _____ (win) a Golden Globe in January that year.
7 Recently, Argentine films _____ (reach) bigger audiences through streaming.
8 Funding for national cinema _____ (be) a political issue for years.

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 I've met my partner in 2015.

2 That's happened to me every time I fly.

3 Did you ever work abroad?

4 I've finished the report yesterday.

5 She works here since 2018.

6 Last week the company has announced new prices.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five pairs of sentences. In each pair, give a piece of news about your life in the present perfect, then a detail in the past simple.

> *Example: I've changed jobs. I started at a new company in March.*

1

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9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Write a short news update for friends or family (100–150 words) about something that has changed in your life, your workplace or your city recently. Start with the news in the present perfect, then give the details in the past simple.

Lesson 21 Past perfect (simple and continuous)

LEVELS	○ B2 ● C1 *most frequent*
FOCUS	*had + participle; had been + -ing; an earlier past inside a story*
WATCH FOR	*"When I arrived, the meeting already started." · "He was working there for ten years when he got promoted." · "Before 2010, I have never travelled abroad." · "She was tired because she didn't sleep the night before."*

THE SPANISH PULL

Hacía años que no lo veía

↓

I hadn't seen him for years

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

If your reference point is then, not now, have becomes had.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- How do you say *Hacía años que no lo veía* in English?
- When you're telling a story, how do you talk about something that happened *before* the main events?
- What's the difference between *When I arrived, the meeting started* and *When I arrived, the meeting had started*?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

- *had* + participle for an event *before* another past event.
- *had been* + *-ing* for duration up to a past moment.

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

Spanish	English
Hacía cuatro meses que no ***salía***	*I* ***hadn't gone*** *out* ***for*** *four months*
Parece que lo ***venía guardando*** *hace mucho*	*It seems he* ***had been keeping*** *it for a long time*
Antes de 2014, nunca lo ***habían visto***	*Before 2014, they* ***had never seen*** *it*

THE KEY IDEA

- This is Lesson 19 moved back into the past: **"still true at that moment" → *had (been)***.
- If your reference point is *then*, not *now*, *have* becomes *had*.

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- **Explaining the background to a past decision.** The earlier event comes out in the simple past, so the order of events isn't clear.
- **Interpreting a past situation** (what someone had been doing, feeling or hiding). The past continuous replaces *had been -ing*.
- **Historical or scientific timelines.** *Before 2014, they have never seen…* uses *now* as the reference point instead of *then*.
- **At higher levels the form is known,** but in speech people choose the tense they would use if the reference point were now.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"When I arrived, the meeting already started."	**had** already **started**
"He was working there for ten years when he got promoted."	He **had been working** there for ten years
"Before 2010, I have never travelled abroad."	I **had** never travelled abroad
"She was tired because she didn't sleep the night before."	she **hadn't slept**

4 READ *notice the structure in use*

Warning: this text reveals the ending of the film.

The ending of *El secreto de sus ojos*

At the beginning of the film, Benjamín Espósito has just retired. For years he had worked as an employee at a criminal court in Buenos Aires, and now he decides to write a novel about a case that had never left his mind. In 1974, a young woman called Liliana Coloto had been murdered, and Espósito had investigated the crime with his colleague Pablo Sandoval and his boss, Irene Menéndez Hastings.

Twenty-five years had passed since the murder, but Espósito still remembered every detail. He also remembered Liliana's husband, Ricardo Morales, a bank employee who had loved her deeply. After the murder, Morales had been waiting in train stations every day, looking for the killer, because the police had done almost nothing.

Espósito and Sandoval had discovered the name of the suspect, Isidoro Gómez, in some old letters, and they had realised that Gómez was a passionate fan of the football club Racing. They found him in a crowded stadium during a match, in one of the most famous scenes in Argentine cinema. Gómez confessed, and he went to prison.

But soon afterwards, Gómez was released. A corrupt official had decided to use him as a hitman for the government. Morales saw him on television and understood that justice had failed. Later, men who had been looking for Espósito killed Sandoval by mistake, and Espósito had to leave Buenos Aires for many years.

When Espósito finally visits Morales in the countryside, in 1999, he wants to understand how the man had lived with so much pain. Morales tells him that he had killed Gómez years before. Espósito doesn't believe him. Something doesn't feel right.

He returns to the house at night and discovers the truth. Morales had not killed Gómez. He had been keeping him in a cell behind the house for twenty-five years, without ever speaking to him. Gómez begs Espósito to ask Morales to say at least one word to him.

At the end, Espósito goes back to Irene. He had never told her that he loved her, although he had been in love with her since the day they met. It had been a quarter of a century. This time, he closes the door.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 Espósito had worked at a criminal court before he retired. ○ T ○ F

2 The murder had happened in 1999. ○ T ○ F

3 Gómez was a fan of Racing. ○ T ○ F

4 Morales had killed Gómez. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 Where did Espósito and Sandoval find Gómez?

a) At a train station.

b) In a football stadium during a match.

c) In Morales's house.

6 Why was Gómez released?

a) Because there wasn't enough evidence.

b) Because a corrupt official had decided to use him as a hitman.

c) Because Morales asked for it.

7 What had Morales been doing for twenty-five years?

a) Writing a novel.

b) Keeping Gómez in a cell behind his house.

c) Waiting for Espósito.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Underline every *had* + participle and every *had been* + *-ing* in the text. Choose three of them and write which event happened **first** and which happened **later**.

> *Example: Liliana **had been murdered** (first) → Espósito decides to write a novel (later).*

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with the past perfect simple or continuous of the verb in brackets.

1 For years he _____ (work) at a criminal court.

2 ...a case that _____ (never / leave) his mind.

3 Twenty-five years _____ (pass) since the murder.

4 After the murder, Morales _____ (wait) in train stations every day. (*duration*)

5 The police _____ (do) almost nothing.

6 A corrupt official _____ (decide) to use him as a hitman.

7 He _____ (keep) him in a cell behind the house for twenty-five years. (*duration*)

8 He _____ (never / tell) her that he loved her.

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 When we got to the station, the train already left.

2 I didn't recognise him because he changed a lot.

3 She was living in Paris for five years when she met him.

4 Before that day, I never saw the sea.

5 They were exhausted because they worked all night.

6 When we met again, it was a year since we last spoke.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five sentences about moments in your past, and what had or hadn't happened before them.

> *Example: When I started my first job, I had never used a spreadsheet.*

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9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Retell the plot of a film, a series or a book you know well (100–150 words), or tell a story from your own life with a surprise at the end. Use the past perfect to explain what had happened before the main events.

6

Verb patterns

22 Purpose: *to* + verb

● B1 *most frequent* ○ C1

23 Verb + *-ing* or verb + *to*

○ B1 ○ B2 ○ C1

24 Verbs and their objects

○ B1 ○ B2 ○ C1

25 Negation in complex sentences

● B2 *most frequent*

Lesson 22 Purpose: *to* + verb

LEVELS	● B1 *most frequent* ○ C1
FOCUS	*to + verb for purpose; for + -ing; so that; so as not to*
WATCH FOR	*"I use this app for organise my tasks." · "This folder is for save the old files." · "I left early to I could catch the train." · "I write everything down to don't forget."*

THE SPANISH PULL

Para ahorrar tiempo

↓

To save time

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

Para + verb → to + verb. Para que → so that. Never for + bare verb.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- How do you say *una herramienta para traducir PDFs* in English?
- And *para que puedan seguir trabajando*?
- And *para no olvidarme*?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

- Purpose = ***to*** + verb (*I use it **to save** time*).
- *for* + noun (*for work*), or *for* + *-ing* for the general function of a thing (*a tool **for cutting***).
- *so that* + clause (*so that I can…*).
- Negative purpose: *so as not to* / *in order not to*.

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

Spanish	English	Wrong
*Una herramienta **para traducir** PDFs*	*A tool **to translate** PDFs*	*for translate*
***Para que** puedan seguir trabajando*	***So that** they can keep working*	*to they can keep*
***Para no** pisar ese país*	***So as not to** set foot in… / **To avoid** setting foot in…*	*to don't set foot*

THE KEY IDEA

- ***Para* is not always *for*.**
  - *para* + verb → **to** + verb
  - *para que* + clause → **so that** + clause
- ***for* + bare verb is never possible.**

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- ***para* is translated as *for* by default.** It's the first equivalent most people learn.
- ***para que* and *para no* are translated word by word:** *to they can…*, *to don't….*
- **Explaining tools, apps and procedures.** When you explain what something is *for*, you produce a lot of purpose clauses, so this mistake appears again and again.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"I use this app for organise my tasks."	**to organise**
"This folder is for save the old files."	**for saving / to save**
"I left early to I could catch the train."	**so that** I could catch the train
"I write everything down to don't forget."	**so as not to forget / so that I don't forget**

The apps and cards you'll need in Buenos Aires

Buenos Aires is easy to explore, but you will need a few things to get around comfortably. Here's a short guide to what locals use and what you should use them for.

SUBE: the card for public transport

The SUBE is a plastic card that you use to travel on buses, the underground (the *subte*) and suburban trains. You can buy one at kiosks and some underground stations. You top it up at a kiosk or a ticket machine so that you always have credit. Keep some money on it so as not to get stuck at the turnstile at rush hour. Some lines now accept contactless bank cards, but most locals still carry a SUBE just in case.

Mercado Pago: the app for paying almost anything

Mercado Pago is a payment app. People use it to pay in shops, to send money to friends and to split the bill in restaurants. Many small businesses have a QR code on the counter for paying with your phone. If you open an account, you'll be able to pay without carrying cash. Some visitors use it in order not to change too much money at the airport.

Maps and transport apps

You will need a map app to plan your journeys. Most apps now show the best bus to take and the time it arrives. Locals also use ride apps to get home late at night, and the classic black and yellow taxis are still everywhere. Take a screenshot of your hotel address so that you can show it to the driver.

Cash, still

Despite all the apps, you'll still need some cash for tips, street markets and small kiosks. Many people keep a few notes in a separate pocket so as not to take out their whole wallet in crowded places.

A power bank

This isn't an app, but it's essential. With so much of daily life on your phone, you'll need a power bank for charging it during long days out. A phone with no battery is useless for paying, for finding your way or for calling a taxi.

WhatsApp

Finally, download WhatsApp to communicate with almost everyone: restaurants, tour guides, even doctors. Argentines use it for everything, so that nobody needs to make a phone call.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 You use the SUBE card to travel on buses, the underground and trains. ○ T ○ F

2 You can only buy a SUBE card at the airport. ○ T ○ F

3 People use Mercado Pago to split the bill in restaurants. ○ T ○ F

4 According to the text, you won't need any cash in Buenos Aires. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 Why should you keep money on your SUBE card?

a) So as not to get stuck at the turnstile.
b) To get a discount.
c) To pay in shops.

6 Why should you take a screenshot of your hotel address?

a) So that you can show it to the driver.
b) To send it to your family.
c) So as not to lose your phone.

7 What is a power bank for, according to the text?

a) For paying in shops.
b) For charging your phone during long days out.
c) For calling a taxi.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Find every expression of purpose in the text and sort them into four groups:

- ***to*** + **verb** (*to get around*)
- ***for*** + ***-ing*** **or** ***for*** + **noun** (*for paying, for tips*)
- ***so that*** + **clause**
- ***so as not to / in order not to*** + **verb**

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with *to, for, so that* or *so as not to*.

1 You use the SUBE _____ travel on buses.
2 Top it up _____ you always have credit.
3 Keep some money on it _____ get stuck at the turnstile.
4 People use it _____ pay in shops.
5 Many shops have a QR code _____ paying with your phone.
6 Take a screenshot _____ you can show it to the driver.
7 You'll need a power bank _____ charging your phone.
8 Download WhatsApp _____ communicate with almost everyone.

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 I need a new laptop for work from home.

2 We use this software for send invoices.

3 She called me to I could help her with the report.

4 I set two alarms to don't oversleep.

5 This room is for to have meetings.

6 I'm saving money for buy a car.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five sentences about objects, apps or tools you use, and why. Use *to*, *for* + *-ing*, *so that* and *so as not to*.

> *Example: I use a paper notebook to plan my week.*

1

2

3

4

5

9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Write a short guide (100–150 words) for a new colleague, a new neighbour or a visitor. Explain which tools, apps or objects they'll need in your job or your city, and what each one is for.

Lesson 23 Verb + *-ing* or verb + *to*

LEVELS	○ B1 ○ **B2** ○ **C1**
FOCUS	*verb + -ing (avoid, keep, enjoy) vs verb + to (want, need, decide)*
WATCH FOR	*"Try to avoid to eat late."* · *"I keep to forget my password."* · *"I'm used to work at night."* · *"I started to running last year."*

THE SPANISH PULL

Evitar usar

↓

Avoid using

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

Avoid, keep, enjoy, finish, mind, recommend + -ing. Pick one form, never both.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- How do you say *evitar usar*, *seguir trabajando* and *estar acostumbrado a hacerlo*?
- Which verbs do you know that are followed by *-ing*? Make a quick list.
- What's the difference between *I used to work at night* and *I'm used to working at night*?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

- *avoid, keep, enjoy, finish, mind, suggest, recommend* + ***-ing***.
- *want, need, decide, hope, plan* + ***to***.
- *start / begin / try* + either form.
- ***be used to*** + *-ing* (to be accustomed to something) vs ***used to*** + base (a past habit).

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

Spanish uses the infinitive almost everywhere, so *to* + verb feels like the default.

Spanish	English	Wrong
Evitar ***usar*** *la pasiva*	*Avoid* ***using*** *the passive*	*avoid to use*
Seguir cambiando	*Keep* ***changing***	*keep to change*
Empezar ***a nadar***	*Start* ***swimming*** */* ***to swim***	*start to swimming*
Estar acostumbrado ***a hacerlo***	*Be used to* ***doing*** *it*	*be used to do it*

THE KEY IDEA

- Memorise the ***-ing* group** as a set, because it's the one that breaks your Spanish instinct: *avoid* / *keep* / *enjoy* / *finish* / *mind* / *recommend* / *be used to* + **-ing**.
- **Pick one form, not both.** *Start to swim* or *start swimming*, but never *start to swimming*.

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- **Giving advice or describing a strategy.** *Avoid*, *keep* and *recommend* are typical advice verbs, and they come out with the Spanish infinitive.
- **Describing new habits.** *Start* and *try* produce doubling (*start to swimming*): you know there's a choice, but you try both at once.
- ***used to* and *be used to* look almost the same** and are often taught together, so they collide.
- **Leaving out *to* after *need* or *want*.** *I don't need travel* follows *no necesito viajar*.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"Try to avoid to eat late."	avoid **eating**
"I keep to forget my password."	keep **forgetting**
"I'm used to work at night."	I'm used to **working**
"I started to running last year."	started **running** / started **to run**

4 READ *notice the structure in use*

How to survive your first Argentine asado

So your Argentine friends have invited you to a Sunday asado. Congratulations! It's one of the best ways to understand the country. But if you aren't used to eating for five hours, you might need some advice.

Arrive late, but not too late. If the invitation says one o'clock, avoid arriving at one. Nobody will be ready. Most guests plan to arrive about half an hour later. But don't keep making excuses until three, either: the first things off the grill go fast.

Bring something. You don't need to bring meat; the host has probably decided to buy it all himself. But people expect you to bring wine, a dessert or ice. Many hosts don't mind receiving a bottle of fernet, either.

Don't start eating the main course too fast. An asado has stages. It usually starts with chorizo and morcilla in bread, then the offal, and only later the big cuts of beef. Foreigners who are not used to this system often finish eating before the best part arrives. I always recommend taking small portions at the beginning.

Enjoy talking. An asado is more about the conversation than the food. People enjoy arguing about football, politics and family stories, and they keep talking long after the meat has gone. Try to join in, even if your Spanish isn't perfect. Nobody minds hearing a few mistakes.

Learn to clap. At some point, someone will shout "¡Un aplauso para el asador!" and everyone will start clapping for the person who cooked. Don't forget to clap too. The asador has been standing next to the fire for hours, and he wants to hear it.

Be prepared for a long afternoon. People used to spend the whole of Sunday at the table in Argentina, and many families still do. If you need to leave early, mention it at the beginning so that nobody is surprised.

Help at the end. After the meal, offer to help with the dishes. Most hosts will refuse, but they appreciate the gesture.

Finally, don't refuse the second helping. If you want to make a good impression, keep saying yes. You can stop eating when the sobremesa starts. And then, of course, someone will suggest making some mate.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 You should arrive exactly at the time on the invitation. ○ T ○ F

2 You don't need to bring meat. ○ T ○ F

3 People at an asado enjoy arguing about football, politics and family stories. ○ T ○ F

4 Most hosts accept help with the dishes immediately. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 What does an asado usually start with?

a) The big cuts of beef.
b) Chorizo and morcilla in bread.
c) Salad.

6 What should you do when someone shouts "¡Un aplauso para el asador!"?

a) Clap.
b) Go to the grill.
c) Make a speech.

7 What should you do if you need to leave early?

a) Leave quietly without saying anything.
b) Mention it at the beginning.
c) Offer to help with the dishes first.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Make two lists from the text:

- **verb** + ***-ing*** (*avoid arriving*)
- **verb** + ***to*** (*plan to arrive*)

Then find one example of ***be used to*** + ***-ing*** and one of ***used to*** + **base**. What does each one mean?

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with the *-ing* form or *to* + the verb in brackets.

1 If the invitation says one o'clock, avoid _____ (arrive) at one.
2 Most guests plan _____ (arrive) about half an hour later.
3 Don't keep _____ (make) excuses until three.
4 Many hosts don't mind _____ (receive) a bottle of fernet.
5 I always recommend _____ (take) small portions at the beginning.
6 People enjoy _____ (argue) about football.
7 Try _____ (join) in, even if your Spanish isn't perfect.
8 If you aren't used to _____ (eat) for five hours, you might need some advice.

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 You should avoid to drive in the rush hour.

2 I'm used to get up early.

3 She decided changing jobs.

4 They kept to talk during the whole meeting.

5 I started to learning Italian last year.

6 Do you mind to wait a moment?

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five sentences about your habits and preferences. Use *avoid, enjoy, keep, want* or *decide*, and *be used to*.

> *Example: I avoid checking my email before breakfast.*

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9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Write some advice (100–150 words) for someone who is going to experience something typical of your culture, your city or your workplace for the first time: a family celebration, a meeting with clients, a first day at work, a local festival.

Lesson 24 Verbs and their objects

LEVELS	○ B1 ○ B2 ○ C1
FOCUS	*tell vs say; wait for; ask / want someone to; recommend*
WATCH FOR	*"My boss said me that the meeting was cancelled."* · *"Can you wait me five minutes?"* · *"I'm waiting that the client answers."* · *"She recommended me to see a specialist."*

THE SPANISH PULL

Me dijo que...

↓

He told me that...

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

If me, him or her comes right after the verb, use tell, not say.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- How do you say *me dijo que...*: *he said me* or *he told me*?
- How do you say *esperame*?
- How do you say *me recomendó que practicara*?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

- ***tell*** + person (*she told* ***me***).
- ***say*** + thing (*she said* ***that...***), or *say* ***to*** *someone*.
- ***wait for*** someone or something; ***wait for*** + **someone** + ***to*** do something.
- ***ask / want*** + **someone** + ***to*** do something.
- ***recommend*** + *-ing*, or *recommend* ***that*** + clause.

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

Spanish	English	Wrong
Me ***dijo*** *que...*	*He* ***told me*** *that... / He* ***said*** *that...*	*He said me...*
Esperame dos minutos	***Wait for me*** for two minutes	*Wait me*
Tengo que ***esperar que*** *se seque*	*I have to* ***wait for it to*** *dry*	*wait that it dries*
Me ***recomendó que*** *practicara*	*He* ***recommended that I*** *practise / He* ***recommended practising***	*recommend to me to*
Quiero que *vengas*	*I* ***want you to*** *come*	*I want that you come*

THE KEY IDEA

- ***decir* splits in two:**
  - ***tell*** needs a person: *tell me, tell her, tell the client*.
  - ***say*** doesn't take a person directly (or it uses *to*: *say to me*).
  - If you say *me / him / her* right after the verb, use ***tell***.

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- **Each mistake is a direct translation:** *me dijo* → *said me*; *esperame* → *wait me*; *esperar que* → *wait that*; *recomendarme que* → *recommend to me to*; *quiero que* → *want that*.
- **Reporting verbs appear in stories,** which are already high-pressure moments (see Lesson 10).
- **Quick requests,** like asking someone to wait, are said fast and without planning.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"My boss said me that the meeting was cancelled."	My boss **told me**
"Can you wait me five minutes?"	**wait for me**
"I'm waiting that the client answers."	**waiting for** the client **to answer**
"She recommended me to see a specialist."	She **recommended that I see** a specialist

4 READ *notice the structure in use*

The taxi driver who knew everything

My first night in Buenos Aires, I took a taxi from the airport to my hotel in San Telmo. I told the driver the address, and he said something that I didn't understand at all. I asked him to repeat it more slowly. "I said that you've chosen a very nice neighbourhood," he told me with a smile.

For the next forty minutes, he didn't stop talking. He told me that he had been driving a taxi for twenty years and that he knew every street in the city. He said that the best steak was in a small restaurant near the hotel, and he recommended going there before nine, because after that it gets crowded. He also recommended that I try the provoleta, a grilled cheese that I had never heard of.

When we got stuck in traffic on the motorway, he said it was normal on a Friday night. "Don't worry," he told me. "We'll wait for the traffic to move. It always moves eventually." He asked me where I was from, and when I said Germany, he wanted me to tell him everything about the German national team.

Halfway through the trip, he asked me to wait for him for a moment, stopped at a petrol station and came back with two alfajores. He gave me one and said it was a present. "Every tourist needs to try one on the first day," he said to me.

As we arrived in San Telmo, he told me to be careful with my phone on busy streets, and he said that on Sunday I should go to the market on Defensa Street. "Tell the man at the antique stall that Rubén sent you," he said. "He'll give you a good price." I said I would.

When I paid, I asked him to give me a receipt. He wrote it by hand on a piece of paper and wrote his phone number underneath. "If you want me to drive you anywhere, call me," he said. "Don't wait for the hotel to call a taxi. They're more expensive."

I did call him, three times that week. Every time, he told me a new story.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 The narrator took a taxi from the airport to San Telmo. ○ T ○ F

2 The driver recommended going to the restaurant after nine. ○ T ○ F

3 The driver gave the narrator an alfajor. ○ T ○ F

4 The narrator never called the driver again. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 What did the driver want the narrator to tell him about?

a) The hotel.

b) The German national team.

c) Life in Germany.

6 Where did the driver say the narrator should go on Sunday?

a) To a football match.
b) To the market on Defensa Street.
c) To a steak restaurant.

7 Why did he say not to wait for the hotel to call a taxi?

a) Because hotel taxis are more expensive.
b) Because they're slow.
c) Because they don't know the city.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Underline every use of *tell, say, ask, want, recommend* and *wait for* in the text. For each one, write what comes right after it: a person? *that*? *to*? *-ing*?

> *Example: told **the driver** the address → tell + person*

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with one word.

1 I _____ the driver the address.
2 He _____ something that I didn't understand.
3 I _____ him to repeat it more slowly.
4 He _____ going there before nine.
5 "We'll wait _____ the traffic to move."
6 He wanted me _____ tell him everything about the German team.
7 "Every tourist needs to try one," he _____ to me.
8 "Don't wait for the hotel _____ call a taxi."

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 She said me that she was tired.

2 Wait me here. I'll be back in a minute.

3 He told that he couldn't come to the meeting.

4 I'm waiting that my visa arrives.

5 My doctor recommended me to rest for a week.

6 I want that you come to the party.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five sentences reporting what people have told you, said to you, asked you to do or recommended recently.

> *Example: My manager asked me to prepare a presentation for next week.*

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9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Tell the story (100–150 words) of a conversation you remember with a stranger, a colleague or a professional (a doctor, a mechanic, a taxi driver). Report what they told you, what they asked you to do and what they recommended.

Lesson 25 Negation in complex sentences

LEVELS	• **B2** *most frequent*
FOCUS	*try not to; one negative per clause; nobody … anything*
WATCH FOR	*"I try to don't eat after ten." · "Nobody said nothing." · "I don't know nobody here." · "We didn't do nothing wrong."*

THE SPANISH PULL

Nadie hizo nada

↓

Nobody did anything

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

One negative per clause: nobody … anything. Before to, use not, never don't.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- How do you say *trato de no discutir*?
- How do you say *nadie hizo nada* and *no conozco a nadie*?
- Where does *not* go when there's an infinitive: *try to not*, *try not to* or *try to don't*?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

- Standard English uses **one negative per clause**.
- *not* goes before *to* and before *-ing*: *try* ***not to***, ***not*** *knowing*.

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

Spanish (double negative obligatory)	English (one negative)	Wrong
Nadie *hizo* ***nada***	***Nobody*** *did* ***anything***	*Nobody did nothing*
No *conozco a* ***nadie***	*I* ***don't*** *know* ***anybody*** */ I know* ***nobody***	*I don't know nobody*
Trato de ***no*** *confrontar*	*I try* ***not to*** *confront*	*I try to don't confront*

THE KEY IDEA

- In Spanish, *no… nada / nadie / nunca* reinforce each other. In English they cancel each other out.
- Choose **one negative**, and use the ***any***- word for the rest: *nobody … anything*, *not … anybody*, *never … anyone*.
- ***Don't* is only for finite verbs.** Before *to*, use ***not***.

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- ***para no* and *tratar de no*** become *to don't* and *try to don't*: *don't* works as an all-purpose "negation" chunk.
- **Echoing.** If someone has just said *don't confront*, the chunk *don't confront* goes straight into your sentence: *I try to don't confront*.
- **Emotional moments.** Complaining about a group or arguing strongly brings out the Spanish double negative, which is obligatory in Spanish.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"I try to don't eat after ten."	I try **not to** eat
"Nobody said nothing."	Nobody said **anything**
"I don't know nobody here."	I don't know **anybody**
"We didn't do nothing wrong."	We didn't do **anything** wrong

How not to look like a tourist in Buenos Aires

You've just arrived, and you want to blend in. Here are a few rules. Follow them carefully, and nobody will notice anything. Well, almost nobody.

Don't have dinner at seven. Porteños rarely eat dinner before nine, and many restaurants are empty until ten. If you want to look local, try not to feel hungry too early. Have a snack at six, so as not to faint before your steak arrives.

Don't ask for a cappuccino with a large croissant. Order a *café con leche* and *medialunas*. And try not to dip them in a way that looks too careful. Locals don't care about crumbs.

Never hurry anybody. Waiters don't bring the bill until you ask for it. That isn't bad service; it's respect. Nobody wants to rush you, so try not to look impatient. If you're in a hurry, ask for the bill when you order the coffee.

Don't stand on the left on the escalators. Not doing this will save you a lot of angry looks during rush hour.

Learn to kiss. People greet each other with one kiss on the right cheek, even men among friends. Not knowing this can lead to some awkward moments. Try not to offer your hand when everyone else is leaning forward.

Don't wear a football shirt without knowing what it means. A Boca shirt in the wrong bar can start a long conversation, and not always a friendly one. If you don't know anything about the local clubs, it's better not to wear any of them.

Don't take mate if you don't know the rules. If someone offers you one, accept it, drink it all and give it back. Don't move the straw. And try not to say "thank you" unless you want it to be your last one.

Don't complain about the noise. Buenos Aires never really goes quiet. Car horns, buses, dogs, neighbours. You won't find anywhere completely silent in the centre, so don't waste time looking.

Finally, don't apologise for your Spanish. Nobody expects anything perfect from you. People here are used to visitors, and most of them will try to help. Not speaking well is fine. Not trying is the only real mistake.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 Porteños usually eat dinner at around seven. ○ T ○ F

2 Waiters don't bring the bill until you ask for it. ○ T ○ F

3 People greet each other with two kisses. ○ T ○ F

4 You shouldn't move the mate straw. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 Why should you have a snack at six?

a) Because restaurants close early.
b) So as not to faint before your steak arrives.
c) Because it's a local tradition.

6 What does the text say about saying "thank you" with mate?

a) You should always say it.
b) Try not to say it unless you want it to be your last one.
c) Say it after the first one only.

7 According to the text, what is the only real mistake?

a) Not speaking well.
b) Not trying.
c) Not eating late.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Find and copy:

- every *try not to* and *so as not to*
- every sentence that starts with *Not* + *-ing*
- every sentence with *nobody*, *never* or *don't* that also has an *any-* word (*anything*, *anybody*, *anywhere*)

Check: does any clause have two negative words?

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with *not*, *not to*, *so as not to*, *never*, *anything*, *anybody* or *anywhere*.

1 Follow them carefully, and nobody will notice _____.
2 If you want to look local, try _____ feel hungry too early.
3 Have a snack at six, _____ faint before your steak arrives.
4 _____ hurry anybody.
5 Nobody wants to rush you, so try _____ look impatient.
6 _____ knowing this can lead to some awkward moments.
7 If you don't know _____ about the local clubs, don't wear their shirts.
8 You won't find _____ completely silent in the centre.

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 I always try to don't interrupt people.

2 Nobody in my team did nothing to help.

3 I didn't see nobody in the office this morning.

4 She left early for not miss the train.

5 We never say nothing in the weekly meetings.

6 It's important to don't lose the receipt.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five of your personal rules for work, study or daily life. Use *try not to, so as not to, never … anything / anyone* and *not + -ing*.

> *Example: I try not to look at my phone during meals.*

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9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Write a humorous guide (100–150 words) called "How not to look like a beginner" for your job, your gym, your city or one of your hobbies. Use *try not to, never, nobody … anything* and *not + -ing*.

7 Complex structures

26 Indirect questions

○ B2 ● C1 *most frequent*

27 Reported speech and the future in the past

○ B1 ○ B2

28 The passive

○ B1 ● C1 *most frequent*

29 Real conditionals (zero and first)

○ B2

30 Unreal conditionals and hypotheticals

○ B2 ● C1 *most frequent*

Lesson 26 Indirect questions

LEVELS	○ B2 ● C1 *most frequent*
FOCUS	*statement order after I don't know, I wonder, Can you tell me, It depends*
WATCH FOR	*"I don't know what is the problem." · "Can you tell me where is the station?" · "It depends what do you need." · "I don't know how can I access the file."*

THE SPANISH PULL

No sé cuál es la diferencia

↓

I don't know what the difference is

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

After I don't know or I wonder, use statement order: what the difference is.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- How do you say *No sé cuál es la diferencia* in English? Write it exactly as you would say it.
- How do you say *Depende de qué querés*?
- After *Can you tell me...*, do you use question order or statement order?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

After *I don't know / I wonder / Can you tell me / Do you know / It depends (on)*, the word order is a **statement**: subject + verb, with no *do* and no inversion. For yes/no questions, use ***if*** or ***whether***.

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

Spanish (same order in both)	English direct	English indirect
*¿Cuál es la diferencia? / No sé **cuál es** la diferencia*	*What **is** the difference?*	*I don't know what the difference **is***
*¿Cómo puedo compartir? / No sé **cómo puedo** compartir*	*How **can I** share?*	*I don't know how **I can** share*
*Depende de **qué querés***	*What **do you** want?*	*It depends (on) what **you want***

THE KEY IDEA

- **Only one question mark, only one inversion.**
- If the sentence starts with *I don't know* / *I wonder* / *it depends*, the question has already been "asked", so what follows is **statement order**: *...what* ***the difference is***, *...what* ***this word means***, *...where* ***the key is***.

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- ***I don't know* + direct question is a fixed frame.** You say *I don't know*, and then you ask the real question in its normal question form.
- **Spanish uses the same word order** in direct and indirect questions, so there's no reason to change it.
- **These questions appear when you talk about the lesson itself:** saying you don't understand, asking for help with technology, asking what a word means. That's why this mistake actually *increases* at higher levels, where people talk more about language.
- **Hedging an answer.** *It depends...* is followed by a direct question.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"I don't know what is the problem."	what **the problem is**
"Can you tell me where is the station?"	where **the station is**
"It depends what do you need."	what **you need**
"I don't know how can I access the file."	how **I can** access the file

4 READ *notice the structure in use*

Lunfardo for beginners: the questions I didn't dare ask

When I arrived in Buenos Aires as an exchange student, I thought my Spanish was good. Then I sat in a café with my new classmates, and I didn't understand half of what they said. I didn't know what "laburo" meant, I had no idea why everyone said "che" every two seconds, and I couldn't work out whether "boludo" was an insult or a sign of friendship.

So I started a list of questions. Here are some of them, with the answers my friends gave me.

I wonder where lunfardo comes from. Lunfardo is the slang of Buenos Aires. It started in the late nineteenth century, when millions of immigrants arrived, many of them from Italy. My friend Tomás explained that a lot of words came from Italian dialects. "Laburo", for example, comes from the Italian *lavoro*, "work".

Can you tell me what "che" means? It's hard to translate. It's a way to call someone's attention, like "hey". My teacher told me that it's so typical of Argentina that Ernesto Guevara got the nickname "Che" because of it.

I don't understand whether "boludo" is rude. It depends on who says it and how. Between friends it's almost affectionate. With a stranger, in an angry voice, it's definitely an insult. I still don't know exactly where the line is, so I don't use it.

Do you know what a "bondi" is? It's a city bus. Nobody seems to know where the word comes from, and every person I asked gave me a different theory.

I'd like to know why "quilombo" means a mess. My landlady told me that the word originally came from Africa, and that today it means any kind of chaos. She also asked me if I had seen the state of my room. I understood the hint.

I wonder if I'll ever sound like a porteño. My friends say it depends on how long I stay. They also say that what really gives me away isn't my vocabulary but my intonation. I don't know what I can do about that.

Could someone explain what "fiaca" is? It's the feeling of not wanting to do anything. I know exactly what that is: Sunday afternoon after an asado.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 The writer understood her classmates perfectly from the first day. ○ T ○ F

2 "Laburo" comes from the Italian word *lavoro*. ○ T ○ F

3 "Boludo" is always an insult. ○ T ○ F

4 Nobody seems to know where the word "bondi" comes from. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 What is lunfardo?

- a) A type of tango.
- b) The slang of Buenos Aires.
- c) An Italian dialect.

6 What does "fiaca" mean?

- a) A city bus.
- b) A mess.
- c) The feeling of not wanting to do anything.

7 According to her friends, what really gives the writer away?

- a) Her vocabulary.
- b) Her intonation.
- c) Her clothes.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Underline every indirect question in the text (*what "laburo" meant, where lunfardo comes from...*). Then write the **direct** question for five of them.

> *Example: I wonder where lunfardo comes from. → Where does lunfardo come from?*

B REWRITE THE DIRECT QUESTIONS

Rewrite the direct questions as indirect questions, starting with the words given.

1 What does "laburo" mean? → I didn't know _____.

2 Where does lunfardo come from? → I wonder _____.

3 What does "che" mean? → Can you tell me _____?

4 Is "boludo" rude? → I don't understand _____.

5 Where is the line? → I still don't know _____.

6 What is a "bondi"? → Do you know _____?

7 Why does "quilombo" mean a mess? → I'd like to know _____.

8 What can I do about that? → I don't know _____.

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 I don't know what does this word mean.

2 Can you tell me where is the meeting room?

3 It depends how much do you want to spend.

4 I wonder why did she leave so early.

5 Do you know what time does the shop open?

6 I don't know if is it possible to change the date.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five sentences about things you don't know, wonder about or would like to ask someone. Start with *I don't know..., I wonder..., I'd like to know..., Can you tell me...?* or *It depends on....*

> *Example: I wonder how my job will change in the next ten years.*

1

2

3

4

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9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Write an email (100–150 words) to an organisation (a school, a hotel, a gym, a company or a public office) asking for information. Use indirect questions: *I'd like to know..., Could you tell me..., I was wondering if..., I'm not sure whether....*

Lesson 27 Reported speech and the future in the past

LEVELS	○ B1 ○ **B2**
FOCUS	*backshift after a past reporting verb: would, was going to, could*
WATCH FOR	*"He told me he calls me on Monday."* · *"I was sure I will pass the exam."* · *"They knew what is going to happen."* · *"She said she can help us."*

THE SPANISH PULL

Me dijo que me llama el lunes

↓

He said he would call me on Monday

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

Would is the past of will: he said he would call.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- How do you say *Me dijo que me llama el lunes* in English?
- How do you say *Estaba segura de que iba a terminar a tiempo*?
- Is *would* only for conditionals?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

- After a **past** reporting verb, *will* → *would*, *is going to* → *was going to*, *can* → *could*.
- In the same way: *I was sure I* ***would****..., I thought it* ***was going to****...*

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

Colloquial Spanish (no backshift)	English (backshift)	Wrong
Me dijo que me ***contacta*** *el lunes*	*He told me he* ***would*** *contact me on Monday*	*he contacts me*
Estaba segura de que ***iba a*** *terminar*	*I was sure I* ***would*** *finish / I* ***was going to*** *finish*	*I was sure I will finish*
Sabían lo que ***iba a*** *pasar*	*They knew what* ***was going to*** *happen*	*what's going to happen*

THE KEY IDEA

- ***Would* is the past of *will*,** not only "conditional".
- When the frame is past (*told me, was sure, thought, knew, promised*), the future inside it moves back: ***would* / *was going to***.

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- **Colloquial Spanish doesn't backshift.** *Me dijo que me contacta el lunes* sounds completely natural, so you report the words exactly as they were said.
- ***would* is learned mainly as "conditional",** so it doesn't come to mind as the past of *will*.
- **Telling what someone promised, or what you expected,** usually happens inside a longer story, when attention is on the events.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"He told me he calls me on Monday."	he **would call** me
"I was sure I will pass the exam."	I **would pass**
"They knew what is going to happen."	what **was going to** happen
"She said she can help us."	she **could** help us

4 READ *notice the structure in use*

Waiting for the ice bridge to fall

Every few years, the Perito Moreno Glacier advances across a narrow channel of Lago Argentino and touches the land on the other side. It forms a natural dam. The water rises on one side until it digs a tunnel under the ice, and eventually the bridge above the tunnel collapses. It's one of the most spectacular events in Patagonia, and it's almost impossible to predict.

A few years ago, I was in El Calafate when the news came out. A friend sent me a message saying that the tunnel had opened and that the bridge was going to fall any day. I was sure I would see it. I told my boss I would be back at work on Monday, and I took the first bus to the glacier.

When I arrived, a park ranger told us that the bridge would probably fall within a week, but that nobody could say exactly when. She said it might happen in a few hours or in a few days. I asked her if she had ever seen it. She said she had, twice, and that both times it had happened at night, when the footbridges were closed.

I didn't listen. I was convinced that I was going to be the lucky one. I stayed on the footbridges from morning until closing time, staring at the arch of ice. Every time a small piece fell, the crowd screamed, because everyone thought the big moment was going to happen.

At the end of the day, a guide told me that he would call me if anything changed. I said I would come back the next morning. A Brazilian couple next to me said they were going to sleep in their car so that they wouldn't miss it.

That night, at about two in the morning, the bridge collapsed. Only a few people saw it. The next day the news showed videos taken by a park employee. I watched them on my phone at breakfast.

I had promised my friends that I would send them the best photo of my life. Instead, I sent them a link to a news website. My boss asked me if it had been worth the trip. I said it had, but I didn't sound very convincing.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 The collapse of the ice bridge is easy to predict. ○ T ○ F

2 The ranger said the bridge would probably fall within a week. ○ T ○ F

3 The narrator saw the bridge collapse. ○ T ○ F

4 The Brazilian couple said they were going to sleep in their car. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 How many times had the ranger seen the bridge fall?

a) Never.

b) Twice, both times at night.

c) Many times, during the day.

6 When did the bridge collapse?

a) At about two in the morning.
b) At closing time.
c) A week later.

7 What did the narrator send to their friends?

a) The best photo of their life.
b) A video from the footbridges.
c) A link to a news website.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Underline every reporting or thinking verb in the past (*said, told, asked, was sure, thought, promised…*) and the verb that follows. Then write the **original words** for three of them.

> *Example: She said it might happen in a few hours. → "It might happen in a few hours."*

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets.

1 A friend said that the bridge _____ (be going to) fall any day.

2 I was sure I _____ (see) it.

3 I told my boss I _____ (be) back at work on Monday.

4 She said it _____ (might) happen in a few hours.

5 I asked her if she _____ (ever / see) it.

6 A guide told me that he _____ (call) me if anything changed.

7 They said they _____ (be going to) sleep in their car.

8 I had promised my friends that I _____ (send) them the best photo of my life.

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 The technician said he will come on Tuesday.

2 I was sure that we are going to win.

3 She told me she can't come to the party.

4 They promised they will finish the work by Friday.

5 I thought the meeting is at ten, but it was at nine.

6 He asked me if I want a coffee.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five sentences about promises, predictions or expectations in your past: what people told you would happen, what you thought was going to happen, and what really happened.

> *Example: My first boss told me I would love the job, and he was right.*

1

2

3

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9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Tell the story (100–150 words) of a time when things didn't go as expected: a delivery, a promise, a plan, a prediction or a trip. Report what people said would happen and what you thought was going to happen.

Lesson 28 The passive

LEVELS	○ B1 ● C1 *most frequent*
FOCUS	*be + past participle in every tense; modal passives*
WATCH FOR	*"Everything is record automatically." · "This material is can be recycled." · "The meeting was cancel." · "The new bridge is building now."*

THE SPANISH PULL

Se graba todo

↓

Everything is recorded

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

The participle is obligatory: is recorded, not is record. One modal, one be.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- How do you say *Se graba todo* in English?
- How do you say *El vidrio se puede romper fácilmente*?
- When you describe how a product is made or how a building was built, do you use the passive?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

be (in any tense) + **past participle**, including modal passives (*can be broken, must be booked*).

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

Spanish (se construction)	English (passive)	Wrong
Se graba *todo acá*	*Everything* ***is recorded*** *here*	*It's all record here*
El vidrio ***se puede romper*** *fácilmente*	*Glass* ***can easily be broken***	*glass is easily can be crushed*
Empresas ***vinculadas*** *al banco*	*Companies (that are)* ***linked*** *to the bank*	*companies that is vinculate*

THE KEY IDEA

- Spanish often uses ***se*** where English uses the **passive**.
- In English the **participle is obligatory**: *is recorded*, not *is record*.
- **One modal, one *be*:** *can be broken*, not *is can be*.

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- **The participle is dropped.** Endings like *-ed* are hard to pronounce in fast speech, and the meaning seems clear without them.
- **Two structures get mixed.** *is easily broken* + *can easily be broken* → *is easily can be broken*.
- **There's no Spanish habit of *ser* + participle in speech.** Spanish speakers mostly use *se*, so the passive doesn't come automatically.
- **Describing materials, systems, tools and processes** is where the passive is most needed, and where these mistakes appear.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"Everything is record automatically."	is **recorded**
"This material is can be recycled."	This material **can be** recycled
"The meeting was cancel."	was **cancelled**
"The new bridge is building now."	is **being built**

The Teatro Colón: a building that was made for sound

The Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires is considered one of the best opera houses in the world, and its acoustics are often compared with those of the great concert halls of Europe. It was opened in 1908, but the building had been under construction for almost twenty years.

The project was started by the Italian architect Francesco Tamburini, who died in 1891, shortly after the plans were drawn. The work was then continued by his assistant, Vittorio Meano, who was murdered in 1904. Finally, the building was completed by the Belgian architect Jules Dormal. Each architect left his mark, so several styles can be recognised in the final design.

The main hall is shaped like a horseshoe, a design that was typical of Italian opera houses. It is surrounded by seven levels of boxes and galleries. About 2,500 people can be seated, and several hundred more can be accommodated standing. Much of the decoration was brought from Europe: marble, stained glass, mosaics and furniture were shipped across the Atlantic during the construction.

The sound is the building's greatest treasure. Musicians say that even a quiet note can be heard clearly from the highest gallery. The reasons are still discussed by experts, but the shape of the hall, the materials and the upholstered seats are usually mentioned.

Over the decades, the building was damaged by time and by changes that were made without much care. In the early 2000s, a major restoration was planned. The theatre was closed in 2006, and the work was carried out for almost four years. Original colours were uncovered, damaged surfaces were repaired, and the stage machinery was modernised. The theatre was reopened in 2010, in time for the bicentenary of the May Revolution.

Today, the Colón is visited by thousands of tourists every year. Guided tours are offered in several languages, and they must be booked in advance in the high season. Some of the workshops where costumes and sets are made can also be seen on special tours.

New productions are being prepared all the time, and every year the season is followed closely by opera lovers. For many Argentines, the Colón isn't just a theatre. It is seen as a symbol of the city's golden age.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 The Teatro Colón was opened in 1908. ○ T ○ F

2 The building was designed and completed by one architect. ○ T ○ F

3 About 2,500 people can be seated in the main hall. ○ T ○ F

4 The theatre was closed for restoration in 2006. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 What shape is the main hall?

a) Round.
b) A horseshoe.
c) Rectangular.

6 When was the theatre reopened?

a) In 2006.
b) In 2008.
c) In 2010.

7 What must be booked in advance in the high season?

a) Opera tickets.
b) Guided tours.
c) Workshop visits.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Underline every passive in the text. Sort them by form:

- present simple passive (*is considered*)
- past simple passive (*was opened*)
- modal passive (*can be recognised*)
- present continuous passive (*are being prepared*)

Then find four sentences with ***by*** + the person or thing that does the action.

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with the passive form of the verb in brackets.

1 The Teatro Colón _____ (consider) one of the best opera houses in the world.
2 It _____ (open) in 1908.
3 The project _____ (start) by Francesco Tamburini.
4 The building _____ (complete) by Jules Dormal.
5 About 2,500 people _____ (can / seat).
6 Much of the decoration _____ (bring) from Europe.
7 Guided tours _____ (must / book) in advance in the high season.
8 New productions _____ (prepare) all the time. (*present continuous*)

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 The office is clean every night.

2 The results will announce tomorrow.

3 This software is can be installed on any computer.

4 The bridge was build in 1950.

5 My car is repairing at the moment.

6 Our products are make in Brazil.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five passive sentences about your workplace, your city, your home or a product you know: when it was built, how it is made, what is being done now, what can or must be done.

> *Example: My building was built in the 1970s.*

1

2

3

4

5

9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Describe a building, a product, a process or a service you know well (100–150 words): how it was created, how it is made or used, and what is being done to improve it now.

Lesson 29 Real conditionals (zero and first)

LEVELS	○ B2
FOCUS	*if* + present → present (zero); *if* + present → *will* (first)
WATCH FOR	*"If I said this in a meeting, it's OK?"* · *"If it will rain tomorrow, we'll stay at home."* · *"If you press this button, the machine stopped."* · *"If I'll have time, I'll call you."*

THE SPANISH PULL

Si digo esto, ¿está bien?

↓

If I say this, is it OK?

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

Real situation → present after if. Never will after if.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- How do you say *Si digo esto, ¿está bien?* in English?
- Can you use *will* after *if*?
- What's the difference between *If you heat ice, it melts* and *If it rains tomorrow, we'll stay at home*?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

- **Zero conditional:** *if* + present → present. For general truths and rules: *If you heat ice, it melts.*
- **First conditional:** *if* + present → *will* / modal / imperative. For real future situations: *If it rains, we'll stay at home.*
- **No *will* in the *if*-clause.**

THE KEY IDEA

- **Real situation → present in the *if*-clause:** *If I **say** this sentence, **is** it OK?*
- The past (*if I said*) belongs to Lesson 30: imagined situations.

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

In the data there were few mistakes with real conditionals. This lesson is short, and it's mainly a bridge to Lesson 30.

- **Checking a rule with someone.** *If I said this, is it OK?* The past may come from wanting to sound polite or tentative, but it changes the meaning to "imagined".
- ***will* in the *if*-clause,** because the meaning is future: *If it will rain…*
- **Mixing tenses** in a general truth: *If you press this, it stopped.*

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"If I said this in a meeting, it's OK?"	If I **say** this in a meeting, **is it** OK?
"If it will rain tomorrow, we'll stay at home."	If it **rains**
"If you press this button, the machine stopped."	the machine **stops**
"If I'll have time, I'll call you."	If I **have** time

4 READ *notice the structure in use*

The unwritten rules of mate

Mate is more than a drink in Argentina. It's a social ritual, and like every ritual, it has rules. Nobody writes them down, but everyone knows them. If you're a visitor, here's what you need to know.

The person who prepares it is the *cebador*. If you're in a group, one person prepares the mate and serves everyone. The *cebador* fills the gourd with hot water, drinks the first one or two, and then passes it around the circle. If the first mate tastes bitter, that's normal. That's why the cebador drinks it.

You drink it all. If someone hands you a mate, you drink all the water, until the straw makes a noise. Then you give it back to the cebador. If you keep it for too long, someone will say *"¡No es un micrófono!"* ("It isn't a microphone!"). You're expected to drink, not to give a speech.

Don't move the straw. If you move the *bombilla*, the yerba gets blocked, and the cebador won't be happy. People will forgive a foreigner once, but if you do it twice, they'll start teaching you.

"Thank you" means "no more". This is the most famous rule. If you say *"gracias"* when you hand back the mate, it means you don't want another one. If you want to keep drinking, just give it back with a smile. Many visitors say "thank you" politely, and then they wonder why nobody offers them another.

Water temperature matters. If the water boils, it burns the yerba and the taste becomes bitter. If you're preparing mate at home, take the kettle off before it boils.

Everyone shares the same straw. If that makes you uncomfortable, you can politely say no. Nobody will be offended. But if you accept, you'll probably feel like part of the group.

Sweet or bitter? In the north and in some families, people add sugar. If you ask for sugar in some groups, they'll tease you a little. But if you prefer it sweet, ask anyway.

If you spend a weekend with Argentine friends, someone will prepare mate within the first hour. If you follow these rules, you'll be invited again. And if you break one, don't worry. That's how everyone learns.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 The cebador prepares the mate and serves everyone. ○ T ○ F

2 If the first mate tastes bitter, something is wrong. ○ T ○ F

3 If you say "gracias", it means you want another one. ○ T ○ F

4 If you prefer it sweet, you can ask for sugar. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 What will someone say if you keep the mate for too long?

a) "It isn't a microphone!"

b) "Thank you."

c) "Move the straw!"

6 What happens if the water boils?

a) The mate gets cold too fast.

b) It burns the yerba and the taste becomes bitter.

c) The straw gets blocked.

7 What will happen if you follow these rules?

a) You'll become the cebador.

b) You'll be invited again.

c) Nobody will offer you sugar.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Copy every *if*-sentence in the text and sort them into two groups:

- **zero conditional** (*if* + present → present): general truths and rules
- **first conditional** (*if* + present → *will* / modal / imperative): real future possibilities

Check: is there *will* in any *if*-clause?

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1 If you _____ (be) in a group, one person prepares the mate.

2 If the first mate _____ (taste) bitter, that's normal.

3 If you keep it for too long, someone _____ (say) "It isn't a microphone!"

4 If you _____ (move) the bombilla, the yerba gets blocked.

5 If you do it twice, they _____ (start) teaching you.

6 If you _____ (say) "gracias", it means you don't want another one.

7 If the water _____ (boil), it burns the yerba.

8 If you follow these rules, you _____ (be) invited again.

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 If I will finish early, I'll go to the gym.

2 If you heat ice, it melted.

3 If I sent this email now, is it OK?

4 If she calls, I tell her you're busy.

5 What happens if I will press this button?

6 If you don't water plants, they died.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five conditional sentences: two zero conditionals about general truths in your job or your life, and three first conditionals about real possibilities in the near future.

> *Example: If I drink coffee after six, I can't sleep.*

1

2

3

4

5

9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Write the "unwritten rules" (100–150 words) of a place or a situation you know well: your office, your family's Sunday lunch, your sports club, public transport in your city, a WhatsApp group. Use *if*-sentences.

Lesson 30 Unreal conditionals and hypotheticals

LEVELS	○ B2 ● C1 *most frequent*
FOCUS	*second, third and mixed conditionals; hypothetical would*
WATCH FOR	*"If I had more time, I will learn the piano." · "I don't know if I will call it a problem." · "If you would live here, you'd understand." · "If I have known, I would have come."*

THE SPANISH PULL

Si tengo plata, me hago una casa

↓

If I had the money, I'd build a house

THE KEY IDEA IN ONE LINE

Mark the unreal in both halves: past after if, would in the result.

1 THINK ABOUT *before you start*

- How do you say *Si tuviera plata, me haría una casa*? And the colloquial *Si tengo plata, me hago una casa*?
- Can you use *will* in an imagined situation?
- How do you say *Si lo hubiera sabido, habría venido*?

2 YOU ALREADY KNOW *the rule in one look*

- **Second conditional:** *if* + past → *would* (unreal now or in the future).
- **Third conditional:** *if* + past perfect → *would have* + participle (unreal past).
- **Mixed conditionals:** *If I had studied medicine, I would be a doctor now.*
- **Hypothetical *would* without *if*:** *I'd build..., I wouldn't call it...*

SPANISH VS ENGLISH

Spanish	English	Wrong
*Si **tuviera** plata, **tendría** un jardín* (formal) / *si **tengo** plata **me hago**...* (colloquial)	*If I **had** the money, I **would** have a garden*	*...I will have a garden*

Spanish	English	Wrong
*No sé si lo **llamaría** / lo **voy a llamar** adicción*	*I don't know if I **would** call it an addiction*	*if I will call it*
*Si **hubieras tenido que** hacerlo de cero…*	*If you **had had to** do it from scratch, it **would have**…*	*If you have had to…*
*Si **vivieras** en un edificio, **no tendrías**…*	*If you **lived** in a building, you **wouldn't** have…*	*If you would be living…, you don't have…*

THE KEY IDEA

- Colloquial Spanish often treats an imagined situation as a real plan (*si tengo plata, me hago una casa*). English **always marks the unreal**, and it marks it **in both halves**:
  - **past** in the *if*-clause
  - **would** in the result
- If you started with *If I had…*, finish with *I'd…*, even when the fantasy starts to feel like a plan.
- **Never *would* in the *if*-clause.**

3 WHY IT GOES WRONG *when and why it breaks*

- **Colloquial Spanish doesn't mark the unreal.** In casual speech, *si tengo* and *voy a* are used for imagined situations, so *will* comes out.
- **The fantasy becomes a plan.** You start with a correct *if I had…*, but as you imagine more details, the result changes to a real future: *I will have…*
- ***would* in the *if*-clause** mirrors the Spanish conditional, which some people use in both halves in casual speech.
- **This is one of the few areas where C1 learners make more mistakes than B2.** Higher-level speakers attempt more hypothetical reasoning, so they meet more chances to go wrong.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

× YOU MIGHT HEAR	✓ BETTER
"If I had more time, I will learn the piano."	I **would** learn
"I don't know if I will call it a problem."	if I **would** call it
"If you would live here, you'd understand."	If you **lived** here
"If I have known, I would have come."	If I **had** known

What if…? Three Argentine stories that could have been different

History is full of moments when one small change would have changed everything. Argentines love to play this game, especially with football. Here are three "what ifs".

What if Maradona hadn't used his hand?

In the 1986 World Cup quarter-final against England, Diego Maradona scored two goals in four minutes. The first was the famous "Hand of God". The second, a run past half the English team, was later voted the goal of the century. If the referee had seen the handball, the first goal wouldn't have counted. Would Argentina still have won the match? Probably. But if the "Hand of God" hadn't existed, Maradona's story would be less complicated, and English fans wouldn't still talk about it with so much anger.

What if Messi had stayed in Rosario?

When Messi was a child, his family couldn't afford his growth hormone treatment. If Barcelona hadn't offered to pay for it, he would have stayed in Argentina. Maybe a local club would have found the money. Maybe not. If he had stayed, he might not be the player we know today. And if he weren't the player we know, Argentina might not have won the World Cup in 2022. That's a thought most Argentines prefer not to have.

What if I lived in Patagonia?

The third "what if" is personal. People often ask me where I would live if I could choose any place in the country. My answer never changes: El Chaltén, at the foot of Mount Fitz Roy. If I lived there, I would walk in the mountains every morning. I'd have a small wooden house with a big window facing the peaks, and I'd run a little café for hikers. I wouldn't need a car. I'd grow vegetables in a greenhouse, because nothing grows outside in that wind.

Would I be happy? I think so. I don't know if I would call it a perfect life, though. If I lived there, I would miss my friends, the theatres on Corrientes and the noise of Buenos Aires. If the winters weren't so long and dark, I'd move tomorrow.

Maybe that's the point of "what if" questions. If we didn't imagine other lives, we wouldn't value the one we have. And if Maradona hadn't scored that goal, we would have one story less to argue about.

5 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING *true or false, multiple choice*

TRUE OR FALSE?

1 Maradona scored two goals in four minutes against England in 1986. ○ T ○ F

2 The second goal was the "Hand of God". ○ T ○ F

3 The writer would live in El Chaltén if they could choose. ○ T ○ F

4 The writer is sure that life in El Chaltén would be perfect. ○ T ○ F

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

5 What would have happened if the referee had seen the handball?

a) Argentina would have lost.
b) The first goal wouldn't have counted.
c) Maradona wouldn't have played again.

6 What would the writer do every morning in El Chaltén?

a) Run a café.
b) Walk in the mountains.
c) Grow vegetables outside.

7 What would the writer miss?

a) Their friends, the theatres and the noise of Buenos Aires.
b) Their car.
c) The wind.

6 FOCUS ON FORM *find it, then fill the gaps*

A FIND IT

Find every conditional sentence in the text and sort them into three groups:

- **second conditional** (*if* + past → *would*)
- **third conditional** (*if* + past perfect → *would have*)
- **mixed** (*if* + past perfect → *would* / *might* + base, or *if* + past → *would have*)

Then find two sentences with hypothetical *would* and no *if*.

B COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

1 If the referee _____ (see) the handball, the first goal _____ (not / count).
2 If Barcelona _____ (not / offer) to pay, he _____ (stay) in Argentina.
3 If he had stayed, he _____ (might / not / be) the player we know today.
4 If I _____ (live) there, I _____ (walk) in the mountains every morning.
5 I _____ (have) a small wooden house with a big window.
6 I don't know if I _____ (call) it a perfect life.
7 If the winters _____ (not / be) so long and dark, I'd move tomorrow.
8 If we _____ (not / imagine) other lives, we _____ (not / value) the one we have.

7 CORRECT THE MISTAKES *one mistake in each sentence*

1 If I won the lottery, I will travel around the world.

2 If I would have more money, I'd buy a house.

3 If she had studied harder, she would pass the exam last year.

4 I don't know if I will call it a mistake.

5 If I have known about the traffic, I would have left earlier.

6 If you lived closer, we will see each other more often.

8 WRITE ABOUT YOURSELF *five sentences*

Write five hypothetical sentences about your life: two second conditionals, two third conditionals and one mixed conditional.

> *Example: If I didn't have to work tomorrow, I'd stay up late tonight.*

1

2

3

4

5

9 WRITE A TEXT *100–150 words*

YOUR TASK

Choose one of these titles and write a short text (100–150 words): *"If I could change one decision in my life..."* or *"If I could live anywhere in the world..."*. Write about what would happen, and what would have been different. If you start with *If I had...*, remember to keep *would* until the end, even when the fantasy starts to feel like a plan.

TO FINISH

A final word

If you've reached this point, you've worked through 30 lessons on structures you already knew. I hope that now you also know *when* they break, and why. That's the part no grammar book teaches.

The work doesn't end here. Mistakes like these don't disappear because you understand them. They disappear slowly, as you notice them again and again in your own speech. So if you have the chance, go back to the lessons that were hardest for you, write the texts again, and if you can, record yourself telling a story or explaining something you know well. Then listen to it with this workbook next to you.

Good luck, and enjoy the process.

— Jerónimo Visñovezky

Answer key

Check your answers only after you've finished each exercise. The model sentences and texts are examples, not the only correct answers: yours can be different and still be right.

UNIT 1

Lesson 1

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 True
2 False. It's in the hills, about an hour away, in the Punilla valley.
3 True
4 False. There are special buses and a shuttle.
5 b
6 b
7 b

6A. FIND IT

- **Future forms:** *there will be several stages, there will be bands, there will be even more, there won't be much shade, there will also be thousands of people. There wouldn't be* (in the first paragraph) is the future seen from the past.
- ***it will be:*** *It will be an experience either way* and *it will be hot during the day*. In the first, *it* means "trying fernet", something already mentioned. In the second, *it* is the weather. Neither sentence introduces something new, so the subject is *it*, not *there*.

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 there were
2 There is
3 there will be
4 There won't be
5 were
6 There was
7 were
8 There are

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 There **are** a lot of people at the festival.
2 Tomorrow **there will be** a meeting with the whole team.
3 There **were** many problems with the new system.
4 You **were** right about the traffic.
5 I think next year **there will be** more jobs in that sector.
6 There **are** some good restaurants near the office.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- There is a small café on the ground floor of my building.
- There are three people in my team, including me.
- There was a power cut at the office last Tuesday.
- There were more than fifty people at our last training session.
- There will be a new manager in our department from January.

9. MODEL TEXT

> Hi Anna,
>
> I'm so glad you're coming to the conference next month. There's a lot to see in the city, and there are some great restaurants near the venue. There is also a lovely park a short walk away, so there will be time for a walk between sessions.
>
> As for the conference, there will be about three hundred participants and there will be talks in English and Spanish. Last year there were some problems with the Wi-Fi, but I'm told there won't be any this time. There was also a fantastic dinner on the last night, and I think there will be one again.
>
> One piece of advice: there are usually long queues for taxis in the evening, so it will be easier to use an app.
>
> See you soon!
>
> Carla

Lesson 2

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 False. He started it while he was studying in the United States.
2 True
3 False. It holds the money until the product arrives.
4 True
5 b
6 b
7 b

6A. FIND IT *(examples)*

- **Companies, systems and things:** *Mercado Libre connects, the platform takes, that commission pays, the company does, the site uses, a colour bar that goes, the system pushes, Mercado Pago holds, the platform steps in / returns, Mercado Pago does, it lets, Mercado Libre runs, a warehouse receives / stores / sends, the company has, a parcel arrives, it feels, it depends, a parcel that takes, an app that changes, the platform does, that explains*
- **Indefinite pronouns:** *almost everyone has, someone buys, someone else sells, everybody has,*

nobody wants, each seller has, each user has, almost everyone uses

- **People in relative clauses:** *a seller who has, a buyer who searches, a person who never sees … needs, every buyer who completes … leaves, a seller who doesn't answer*

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 has
2 searches
3 takes
4 has
5 wants
6 holds
7 does
8 uses

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 My boss always **asks** for the reports on Friday.
2 Everyone in my team **says** the new software is slow.
3 I have a friend who **works** in a hospital.
4 The bank **uses** your data to offer you loans.
5 This app **has** a dark mode.
6 Each person **needs** a password to enter the building.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- My company has offices in three cities.
- The system sends an automatic reminder the day before every deadline.
- Everyone in my department starts at nine.
- Nobody likes the new booking software.
- I work with a colleague who knows everything about spreadsheets.

9. MODEL TEXT

> Our city's bike-sharing service is very easy to use. First, you download the app, which asks for your name and a payment card. The app shows a map with all the stations, and each station has between ten and twenty bikes. When someone wants a bike, they scan the QR code on it, and the lock opens automatically.
>
> The service charges a small fee every month, and each trip costs nothing for the first thirty minutes. If a user keeps the bike longer, the app charges extra. When the trip ends, the user leaves the bike at any station, and the system records the time.
>
> The city maintains the bikes, and a team checks every station each morning. Nobody needs to carry cash, and everyone who lives near a station finds it extremely practical.

Lesson 3

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 True
2 False. That's River. Boca's roots are in La Boca, the old port neighbourhood.
3 True
4 False. River won 3–1.
5 b
6 b
7 b

6A. FIND IT

- *people don't, most people belong, people say, Boca fans are, River fans are associated, there are people, people love, most of the city's attention is, a lot of people don't work, fans who travel … arrive, away fans haven't been allowed, most of the supporters … were, the prices of almost everything … are, the number of fans … has fallen, a lot of families … watch, children learn, grandparents who remember … tell, fans who never miss … call, people here don't support*
- ***attention*** is uncountable, so *most of the city's attention* is singular. ***Supporters*** is plural, so *most of the supporters* takes a plural verb. After *most of*, the noun decides.

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 don't just watch
2 belong
3 don't work
4 arrive
5 were
6 are
7 has fallen
8 tell

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 People in my city **are** always in a hurry.
2 Most of my colleagues **work** from home on Fridays.
3 A lot of people **haven't** heard about the new law.
4 The prices of everything **are** going up.
5 My clients **don't** answer emails at the weekend.
6 Young people today **use** their phones for everything.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- People in my city don't usually have dinner before nine.
- Most of my colleagues commute by bus.
- A lot of people in my profession work freelance.
- The number of people who work from home has grown a lot.
- People who work in my office are very friendly.

9. MODEL TEXT

> Working habits in my country have changed a lot in the last few years. Before the pandemic, most people went to the office every day. Today a lot of companies offer hybrid work, and many people only go in two or three days a week. People who have small children say this is a huge improvement, because they don't waste hours in traffic.
>
> However, not everyone is happy. Some managers think that teams aren't as close as before, and a lot of young people say they don't learn as much when they work alone. The number of people who feel isolated has also grown.
>
> In my opinion, most of the changes are positive. People are more flexible now, and the prices of transport and lunch are so high that working from home saves a lot of

money.

Lesson 4

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 True
2 False. Most people arrive alone or with friends.
3 True
4 False. It often means you'd like to stop.
5 b
6 a
7 b

6A. FIND IT

- **Questions:** *What does "milonga" mean? Do I need a partner? How does someone invite you to dance? Does the man always lead? Does tango have fixed steps? What does "tanda" mean? Where do people dance in Buenos Aires? Does it matter what I wear? Do I need lessons first?* The main verb (*mean, need, invite, lead, have, dance, matter*) is always in the base form, never with *-s*.
- **Negatives** (any five): *they don't mean a song, No, you don't, people don't walk across the room, it doesn't work that way, it doesn't follow a fixed routine, a beginner doesn't need, don't say anything, it doesn't matter much, it doesn't usually cost much*

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 does / mean
2 Do / need
3 does / invite
4 Does / lead
5 doesn't follow
6 doesn't need
7 Does / matter
8 doesn't usually cost

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 What **does** "deadline" **mean**?
2 Does your company **have** a gym?
3 My manager **doesn't like** long emails.
4 Where **do you buy** your coffee in the morning?
5 **Does** she work on Saturdays?
6 This tool doesn't **work** offline.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- Does your team have a weekly meeting?
- What does your typical day look like?
- How often do you travel for work?
- I don't check my emails after seven in the evening.
- My job doesn't involve much travelling.

9. MODEL TEXT

Welcome to the team: frequently asked questions

What time does the working day start?

Most people start at nine, but it doesn't really matter if you arrive at half past nine.

Do I need a parking permit?

Yes, you do. Ask at reception. It doesn't cost anything.

What does "WFH Friday" mean?

It means that on Fridays most people work from home. The office doesn't close, but it's usually quiet.

Does the company pay for lunch?

No, it doesn't, but there's a cheap canteen on the ground floor.

Who do I ask if my laptop doesn't work?

Write to the IT team. They don't answer phone calls, but they reply to messages quickly.

Lesson 5

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 True
2 False. She says it's a legend, not evidence.
3 True
4 False. They agree that it isn't a dessert for a small spoon. You eat it straight from the jar.
5 b
6 a
7 a

6A. FIND IT

- ***agree*:** *do you agree, I don't agree at all, I agree that, I agree with that, do you agree that, you don't agree on anything, we agree on one thing, something you agree on, do you agree with Martín*
- **Negatives of *be*:** *I'm not saying, it isn't charming, a legend isn't evidence, they aren't the same thing, isn't as thick, I'm not, a birthday cake isn't complete, in Uruguay it isn't, it isn't a dessert, "both" isn't an option*
- **Negatives with *don't* / *doesn't*:** *I don't agree, doesn't exist, we don't need, the question doesn't matter, UNESCO doesn't list, I don't think, they don't need passports, No, I don't, you don't agree*

Agree never appears after *am* / *is* / *are*, and *be* never appears after *don't*.

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 agree
2 don't agree
3 isn't
4 aren't
5 doesn't exist
6 don't need
7 Are
8 'm not

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 **I agree** with your proposal.
2 The results **aren't** very good this month.
3 This kind of problem **has never existed** before. (or: This kind of problem **never existed** before.)

4 **Do you agree** with the new rules?
5 She **isn't** in the office today.
6 We **don't need** a new printer.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- I agree that meetings should be shorter, but they aren't always a waste of time.
- I don't agree with people who say that technology makes us lazy.
- Public transport in my city isn't perfect, but it's cheap.
- My manager doesn't agree with flexible hours.
- My colleagues and I don't need a bigger office. We need a quieter one.

9. MODEL TEXT

I partly agree with you. Working from home has real advantages. I don't spend two hours a day on the bus, and I'm not as tired in the evening. I also agree that it's easier to concentrate without the noise of the office.

But I don't agree that it's better in every way. Home and the office aren't the same thing. At home I don't see my colleagues, and some problems are solved much faster with a five-minute conversation than with ten emails. New employees especially don't learn as much when they're alone.

So I don't think one option is better than the other. The best solution isn't to choose one. It's to combine them: two or three days at home, and the rest in the office.

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 **I'm** still waiting for an answer from the bank.
2 My sister **is living** in Spain at the moment.
3 What **are you** doing this weekend?
4 They **aren't** working today because it's a holiday.
5 **I'm** thinking about taking an online course.
6 He's **working** from home this week.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- I'm learning to cook Thai food at the moment.
- My company is changing its accounting software, so I'm working longer hours.
- We're redecorating the living room.
- My son is studying for his final exams.
- I'm not going to the gym much these days.

9. MODEL TEXT

Hi Marta! I'm sitting in a café near my office, and it's really busy today. A group of students is working at the big table by the window, and they're all looking at the same laptop. The waiter is running from one table to another, and he isn't smiling much. Poor guy! Outside, it's raining, so people are coming in with wet umbrellas and the floor is getting slippery.

I'm drinking a huge coffee because I'm preparing a presentation for tomorrow, and I'm not making much progress. My phone is buzzing every two minutes. Someone's calling me right now, actually. Oh, it's my boss. What are you doing this afternoon? Are you still working on that report? Call me later!

UNIT 2

Lesson 6

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 True
2 False. It has just finished.
3 True
4 False. Many of them are still open.
5 a
6 b
7 c

6A. FIND IT

- **Negatives:** *the city isn't sleeping, he isn't having much success, We're not going home until three, The traffic isn't moving much.* (*Nobody is complaining* is also negative in meaning.)
- **Questions:** *What's happening in the bookshops? Are things getting quieter?*

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 'm standing
2 are coming
3 is trying
4 isn't having
5 are waiting
6 're celebrating
7 isn't moving
8 Are / getting

Lesson 7

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 False. She normally works in an office in Palermo.
2 True
3 False. She doesn't like sweet wine.
4 True
5 b
6 a
7 b

6A. FIND IT *(examples)*

- **Habits and facts:** *I work in an office, I take the subway, I spend eight hours, I usually eat lunch, life here moves slowly, the shops close, people greet each other, everybody knows everybody, the town sits, it smells of flowers, he knows, he believes*
- **Only for now:** *I'm spending, I'm helping, I'm getting up, I'm working outside, I'm eating lunch under a tree, we're picking, we're starting on, Don Ramón is teaching me, he's watching, he isn't sleeping, I'm exploring, we're going, I'm learning, I'm thinking*
- **State verbs:** *know, love, need, like, believe, want*. None of them is in the continuous. (*I'm thinking about* is fine, because here *think* means "consider", an activity.)

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 'm spending

2 work
3 'm getting up
4 close
5 don't like
6 're picking
7 knows
8 's watching

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 This week **I'm driving** to work because there's a train strike.
2 **I need** a new laptop.
3 Usually **I take** the train to work.
4 Look outside! **It's raining**.
5 **I don't know** the answer.
6 She can't come to the phone. **She's having** a shower.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- I usually drive to work, but this week I'm taking the train because my car is at the mechanic's.
- Normally I have lunch at home, but this month I'm eating at the office because of a big project.
- I don't usually work at weekends, but I'm working this Saturday.
- My partner normally cooks, but I'm cooking this week because she's away.
- I usually read novels, but at the moment I'm reading a book about history.

9. MODEL TEXT

> Hi Leo,
>
> Life is a bit different this month. Normally I work from nine to six, I go to the gym after work and I cook dinner at home. But this month I'm doing an intensive course in project management, so everything has changed.
>
> I'm getting up at six to study before work, and I'm going to classes three evenings a week. I'm not going to the gym at all, and I'm eating a lot of sandwiches, unfortunately. My partner is being very patient. She's doing most of the shopping and cooking.
>
> The course is hard, but I like it. The teacher knows a lot, and I'm learning things I need for my job. It finishes at the end of the month, and then I want a holiday!
>
> Talk soon,
>
> Pablo

UNIT 3

Lesson 8

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 True
2 False. His first club was Grandoli.
3 True
4 False. He chose Argentina.
5 b
6 a
7 b

6A. FIND IT

- **Irregular past forms:** *was (be), grew (grow), took (take), did (do), found (find), cost (cost), couldn't (can), wrote (write), became (become), chose (choose), made (make), said (say), won (win), came (come), lost (lose), sang (sing), gave (give), forgot (forget)*
- ***founded*:** the verb is *to found* (*fundar*), which is regular: *found – founded – founded*. *Found* is the past of *find* (*encontrar*), as in *doctors found that...*
- ***verb + to + verb*:** *didn't want to lose, agreed to pay, decided to move, chose to stay, wanted him to play*. Only the first verb shows the past.

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 grew
2 took
3 found
4 wrote
5 chose
6 founded
7 won
8 gave

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 Our company **grew** a lot after the pandemic.
2 My parents **founded** their business in 1995.
3 I tried to **finish** the report on time.
4 Last year we **sold** our old car.
5 She **chose** the cheapest option.
6 Yesterday I **woke** up at five because of the noise.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- I chose my career when I was eighteen.
- My parents sold their house in the city and moved to the coast.
- My brother lent me some money when I bought my first car.
- I began my first job in 2012.
- Last night I tried to finish a book, but I fell asleep.

9. MODEL TEXT

> My grandmother, Rosa, was born in a small village in Galicia in 1935. She grew up on a farm and left school at twelve to help her parents. In 1955 she took a ship to Buenos Aires with her sister. She didn't speak to anyone during the whole trip, because she was terrified.
>
> In Buenos Aires she found a job in a textile factory and met my grandfather. They saved money for years, and in 1968 they founded a small clothes shop in Flores. She chose the fabrics, drew the designs and sold everything herself.
>
> The shop grew slowly, and she gave work to many people from her village. She never became rich, but she sent her three children to university. When she retired, she said she never regretted the trip.

Lesson 9

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 True
2 False. She says: "I didn't know it was so big."
3 False. It didn't go very close, but it went close enough.
4 True
5 b
6 a
7 a

6A. FIND IT

- **Questions:** *How did you get there? What did you see first? Did you see any ice fall? Did you go on the boat trip? Did you walk on the glacier? Did you feel cold? Why did you choose El Calafate? Did anything go wrong? Did you learn anything? What did you do in the evening?*
- **Negatives:** *It didn't take long, I didn't know, I didn't expect, The boat didn't go, I didn't fall, I didn't wear, didn't stop talking, I didn't believe, I didn't bring, I didn't know, I didn't want*
- The main verb is always in the base form after *did / didn't*.

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 did / get
2 didn't take
3 didn't know
4 Did / see
5 didn't expect
6 Did / walk
7 didn't bring
8 did / do

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 Did you **go** to the party on Saturday?
2 I didn't **know** about the change of schedule.
3 Did he **say** anything about the budget?
4 We didn't **have** time for lunch.
5 Why did you **choose** that hotel?
6 She didn't **find** her keys.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- Did you take many photos?
- Where did you stay?
- Did you try the local food?
- I didn't go out at all last weekend.
- I didn't finish the book I started on Friday.

9. MODEL TEXT

Me: Did you enjoy the conference?

Laura: Yes, I did. It was much better than last year.

Me: Did you give your presentation?

Laura: Yes, on the second day. I was nervous, but it went well.

Me: Did many people come?

Laura: About eighty. I didn't expect so many.

Me: Did anybody ask difficult questions?

Laura: One man did. I didn't know the answer, so I promised to send him an email.

Me: What did you do in the evenings?

Laura: We went to a different restaurant every night. On the last night we didn't go to bed until two.

Me: Did you have time to see the city?

Laura: Not really. I didn't see anything except the hotel and the conference centre!

Lesson 10

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 False. They woke up at seven, and the final started at noon.
2 True
3 True ("we thought it was over")
4 False. They didn't watch.
5 a
6 b
7 b

6A. FIND IT

- **Verbs inside other clauses** (any five): *where the whole family met, When I arrived, because it was part of the ritual, food that nobody ate, the same chair he used, because he couldn't listen, because I couldn't breathe, the save that everyone ... still remembers* (the present is correct here, because people still remember it now), *a rosary that he found, When Montiel took, before I saw, a flag that I didn't even ask for, which took us nearly three hours*
- ***had to*:** *He had to see the pre-match show* and *I had to go out to the balcony*
- **Back to now:** *Now, every time I watch the video of that final, I still feel the same knot in my stomach.* The words *Now* and *still* mark the change.

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 woke up
2 put on
3 had to
4 ate
5 scored
6 had to
7 found
8 didn't even ask

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 Last week my boss **called** me into his office.
2 On Friday I **had to** stay late because the system crashed.
3 We arrived at the hotel, but the room **wasn't** ready.
4 She showed me the photos that she **took** on holiday.
5 Yesterday I **went** to the dentist after work.
6 A month ago we **had** a big problem with a supplier.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- On Saturday morning I had to take my car to the mechanic's.

- After lunch I met some friends at a café near the river.
- Later we went to see a film that a colleague recommended.
- That night I didn't sleep well because the neighbours had a party.
- On Sunday I stayed at home and cooked for the whole family.

9. MODEL TEXT

> Last March I had the worst day of my working life. I got up late because my alarm didn't go off, and I had to take a taxi to the office. When I arrived, my manager told me that our biggest client wanted a meeting at ten. I opened my laptop to prepare the presentation, but it didn't turn on. I tried everything. In the end I had to borrow a colleague's computer and rewrite the whole presentation in forty minutes.
>
> The meeting started badly, because the projector didn't work either. So I showed the slides on my phone. Surprisingly, the client loved the ideas and signed the contract that afternoon.
>
> Now, whenever something goes wrong in the morning, I remember that day and I stay calm.

Lesson 11

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 True
2 False. The first show was sold out when the class finished.
3 True
4 True
5 b
6 b
7 a

6A. FIND IT

- **was / were + -ing:** *I was studying, I was sitting, My phone was vibrating, the teacher was watching me, it was raining, we were waiting, people were singing / sharing / taking, fans were wearing, a man ... was telling, he was crying, the rain was still falling, people were screaming, I was holding, they were just standing, I was singing, Cerati was playing, strangers were hugging, couples were kissing, a girl ... was filming, I was thinking*
- **Background + event** (examples): *I was sitting in a class → the tickets went on sale; the rain was still falling → the lights went out; Cerati was playing a solo → I looked around*
- ***I was thinking...*** at the end isn't about the past. It's a polite way to make a suggestion.

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 was studying
2 was sitting
3 was vibrating
4 were waiting
5 was telling
6 went
7 was playing
8 was thinking

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 **I was thinking** you could help me with this report.
2 When the power went off, we **were watching** a film.
3 While I was **driving** to work, I heard the news on the radio.
4 They **were** talking when the manager came in.
5 She was cutting vegetables when she **cut** her finger.
6 **While he was talking** on the phone, he told me the news.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- At eight o'clock this morning I was having breakfast with my family.
- When I heard about the job offer, I was waiting for a bus.
- At midnight last New Year's Eve, we were standing on the roof watching the fireworks.
- When my sister called yesterday, I was cooking dinner.
- At this time last year I was living in another city.

9. MODEL TEXT

> Last summer I went to my cousin's wedding in the countryside. It was a hot evening, and the sun was going down behind the trees. The guests were standing in the garden, drinking wine and chatting, and a small band was playing old songs. Some children were running around the tables, and my aunt was trying to stop them.
>
> I was talking to an old friend when suddenly the music stopped. Everyone turned around. The bride was walking towards us, but she wasn't wearing her shoes. She was carrying them in her hand and laughing. She told us her shoes were too painful, and the whole party took off their shoes too.
>
> We danced barefoot on the grass until three in the morning.

Lesson 12

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 False. She says it's the most expensive month.
2 True
3 True
4 False. She suggests the end of July.
5 a
6 b
7 b

6A. FIND IT

- **Phrases that introduce a point:** *The thing is (×3), What happens is, here's the problem, What usually happens with groups is, The point is, Here's my idea*
- ***What happened? / What happened after that:*** both ask about or describe a real event in the past (Ana's trip two years ago), so the past is correct.
- **every time / usually:** *Every time I leave it until June, I end up paying twice as much* and *the snow is*

usually still good. All the verbs are in the present, because they're general statements.

6B. COMPLETE THE DIALOGUE

1 The thing is
2 What happens is
3 What happened
4 end up
5 What happened
6 happens
7 want
8 here's the problem

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 Yes, but **the thing is**, this flat is too far from my office.
2 **What happens is** that nobody reads the terms and conditions.
3 Every time I travel, I **forget** something important.
4 What **happened** at the meeting yesterday?
5 **What happens** with online shopping is that you can't touch the product.
6 I **take** the bus every time I go downtown.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- The thing is, my commute takes over an hour.
- What happens is that everyone sends emails late on Friday afternoon.
- The problem is that our office doesn't have enough meeting rooms.
- Every time I try to call the bank, I wait for twenty minutes.
- What happened with your car? You said it broke down last week.

9. MODEL TEXT

Hi Dani,

I know you're excited about opening a café, and I love the idea. But the thing is, it's much harder than it looks. What happens is that you work every day, including weekends, and you rarely take a holiday. The problem is also money: rents are very high, and it usually takes years to make a profit.

My friend Julia opened a bakery three years ago. What happened was that she spent all her savings in the first six months. She worked fourteen hours a day, and in the end she had to close it.

I'm not saying don't do it. But the thing is, you need a good plan first. Why don't we meet and look at the numbers together?

Pablo

Lesson 13

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 False. She grew up in Tucumán.
2 True
3 False. She does eight.
4 True
5 b
6 b
7 b

6A. FIND IT

- **Subject questions:** *Who gave you your first role? What happened when you got your first role? Who taught you the most?* There's no auxiliary, because *who / what* is the subject.
- All the other questions have an auxiliary before the subject: *Where **did you**...? What **were you**...? How many shows **do you**...? **Does it**...? Which theatre **do you**...? What **were you**...? Why **do people**...? What **are you**...?*

6B. WRITE THE QUESTIONS

1 Where did you grow up?
2 Why did you choose acting?
3 Who gave you your first role?
4 What were you doing before that call?
5 How many shows do you do a week?
6 Does it get tiring?
7 Who taught you the most?
8 What were you thinking about when we arrived?

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 Why **didn't you** call me?
2 What **were you** doing at ten o'clock last night?
3 Where **does she work** now?
4 Who **sent** you this email?
5 Why **do I need** to fill in this form again?
6 How long **does it take** to get there by car?

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- What were you doing when you got your big opportunity?
- Why did you decide to start your own company?
- What do you do when you feel unmotivated?
- Who helped you most at the beginning of your career?
- What are you working on at the moment?

9. MODEL TEXT

Interview with Tomás, a ship's engineer

How long do you spend at sea? Usually two months, then one month at home.

Why did you choose this job? My father was a sailor. I grew up listening to his stories.

What happened on your first trip? I was seasick for a week!

What do you do in your free time on board? I read, and I play cards with the crew.

Where were you working when the pandemic started? In the middle of the Atlantic. We didn't see land for three months.

Who taught you the most? An old engineer from Uruguay. He knew every sound the engine made.

Do you miss your family? All the time. But we talk every evening.

What are you doing after this contract? Taking a long holiday, on land!

Lesson 14

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 True
2 False. Swimming isn't allowed anywhere in the park.
3 True
4 False. They shouldn't take it.
5 b
6 b
7 a

6A. FIND IT

- **Modal + verb** (examples): *can visit, should plan, can stay, won't regret, must bring, must carry, should bring, might be, will get, can't (swim), mustn't feed, can bite, will steal, mustn't leave, might look, should put, shouldn't take, could (do), would see, can take, might be, can change, might be, could be, should check, will remember, can't hear, will feel*
- **Questions:** *How long should you stay? What must you bring? Can you swim? What mustn't you do? Should you take the boat? Could you do it all in one day? When should you go? What will you remember most?* None of them has *do*, and no verb after a modal has *-s*, *-ed* or *to*.

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 can visit
2 should plan
3 must / bring
4 Can / swim
5 mustn't feed
6 will steal
7 Could / do
8 can change

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 What **must you** do before the inspection? (or: What **do you have to** do...?)
2 He can **play** the guitar very well.
3 You should **call** the bank today.
4 Will you **come** to the meeting tomorrow?
5 I must **finish** this report today.
6 **Can you** help me with this?

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- In my office we must wear an ID card at all times.
- You mustn't eat at your desk, but you can eat in the kitchen.
- New employees should ask questions in their first weeks.
- In my building you can't use the lift after midnight.
- Visitors to my city should try the street food.

9. MODEL TEXT

Visiting the botanical garden in my city

The botanical garden is a wonderful place to spend a morning. You can walk along more than five kilometres of paths, and you can visit the glass greenhouse, which has plants from all over the world.

There are a few rules. You mustn't pick flowers or leaves, and you mustn't walk on the grass in the marked areas. You can't bring dogs, but you can bring a picnic if you eat it in the picnic area.

You should arrive early, because the garden gets crowded at weekends. You should also bring water and a hat in summer, because there isn't much shade near the lake. If you're interested in the plants, you should join a free guided tour. They start every hour, and you don't have to book.

Lesson 15

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 True
2 False. She has already booked the first one.
3 True
4 True
5 b
6 b
7 b

6A. FIND IT

- **Present continuous:** *We're flying, What are we doing, We're checking into, We're renting bikes and visiting, we're taking a minibus, What time are we coming back, I'm meeting my cousin*
- ***going to*:** *we're going to have lunch, I'm going to walk, I'm going to sleep, Are we going to cycle, That's going to be interesting, we're going to eat, it's going to be very hot, it's going to be the best part, Are we going to buy, I'm not going to pay*
- ***will*:** *I won't, I'll set, we'll start, I'll bring sun cream, I'll bring water, I'll bring my good mood, You'll join us, I'll take a taxi, I'll only buy five*
- **Present simple:** *The tour starts at 10* and *Our flight leaves at 9:40*. They're timetables.

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 're flying
2 'll set
3 'm going to walk
4 's going to be
5 'll start
6 'll bring
7 leaves
8 'm meeting

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 This weekend **I'm visiting** my parents in the country.
2 The phone is ringing. **I'll answer** it!
3 **We're having** dinner with some clients tonight. It's in my calendar.
4 Look at the traffic! **We're going to be** late.
5 Don't worry about the report. **I'll send** it to you right now.
6 Tomorrow **I'm going** to the dentist at four.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- I'm having lunch with my sister on Saturday.
- I'm going to start running again next month.
- My manager is going to be very busy next week, because the budget is due.
- I think prices will go up again soon.
- If you need help with the move, I'll lend you my car.

9. MODEL TEXT

> Hi team,
>
> Here's the plan for our end-of-year dinner. We're meeting at the restaurant on Friday the 15th at 8:30. I've already booked a table for twelve, and the owner is preparing a special menu for us.
>
> I'm going to collect money for the gift for Marta, who's retiring. I think we're going to need about 20 euros each. Please send it to me before Wednesday.
>
> It's going to be busy that night, because it's the last Friday before the holidays, so don't be late! I'll send everyone the address tomorrow.
>
> If anyone needs a lift, tell me and I'll pick you up. I'm driving there from the office, and I've got four free seats.
>
> See you on Friday!
>
> Laura

Lesson 16

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1. True
2. False. Start looking when the tank is half empty.
3. True
4. False. They don't move out of the way.
5. b
6. b
7. c

6A. FIND IT

- *Before you set off, after it rains, until you have, Once you leave, as soon as you see, When the tank is, until the warning light comes on, When you reach, when you get out, until they feel, After you come down, When a truck passes, until it calms down, When you arrive, before it gets dark, Once you've found, As soon as you see, When you plan, when you stop, after you've driven it, as soon as they can*
- The verb after the time word is always in the **present** (or the present perfect: *once you've found, after you've driven*). The other half has an imperative (*check, fill up, slow down*), *will / won't*, a modal (*may feel*) or the present for general truths (*the symptoms usually disappear*).

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1. set
2. have
3. leave
4. see
5. reach
6. come
7. 've found
8. can

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1. When I **get** home, I'll call you.
2. I'll wait here until you **finish** (or **'ve finished**).
3. As soon as the meeting **ends**, I'll send you the notes.
4. Before you **sign**, read the contract carefully.
5. When you **lose** your passport abroad, you need to go to the embassy.
6. We'll start after everybody **arrives**.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- As soon as I get home tonight, I'll have a shower.
- When I finish this course, I'll look for a new job.
- I'm going to check the prices before I book the flights.
- After I've had lunch, I'll call the bank.
- I'm not going to buy a new phone until this one stops working.

9. MODEL TEXT

> **Your first day at our office**
>
> When you arrive, go to reception and ask for Ana. She'll give you your ID card and show you your desk. Before you turn on your computer, wait for someone from IT. They'll set up your accounts.
>
> As soon as you have your password, check your email. You'll find a welcome message with a list of people to meet. Don't worry if you don't remember everyone's name until the second or third week.
>
> At one o'clock, the team usually has lunch together. After you've eaten, your manager will explain the projects you're going to work on.
>
> When you leave at the end of the day, remember to return your temporary card at reception. Once you get your permanent card, you won't need to do this any more.

UNIT 5

Lesson 17

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1. True
2. True
3. False. The writer hasn't chosen a team yet.
4. True
5. b
6. a
7. a

6A. FIND IT

- **Participles:** *lived, been*, taught*, become*, walked, seen*, taken*, climbed, surprised, stopped, chosen*, discovered, heard*, changed, got*, started, noticed, picked up, made*, found*, decided* (* = irregular)
- **How long:** *I've lived in Rosario for two years now* (present perfect simple) and *I've been living here for*

only two years (present perfect continuous). Both are correct, and the meaning is almost the same. The continuous gives a bit more emphasis to the experience going on.

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 've lived
2 've never lived
3 've walked
4 've been
5 has taken
6 haven't chosen
7 've heard
8 've made / 've found

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 **I've never seen** so much snow.
2 He has **written** three books about history.
3 We have been **working** here since March. (or: We **have worked** here since March.)
4 Have you ever **eaten** empanadas?
5 She's never **driven** a car.
6 They **have** moved to a new office.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- I've worked in three different companies since I finished university.
- I've learned a lot about project management in this job.
- I've lived in this flat for five years.
- I've never had a problem with my neighbours.
- I've been studying English for about two years.

9. MODEL TEXT

Five years in my small town

I've lived in this town for five years now. When I arrived, I didn't know anyone, but I've made some very good friends. I've joined the local running club, and I've taken part in three half marathons.

The town has changed a lot. They've opened a new library, and the old train station has become a cultural centre. Unfortunately, the prices of houses have gone up, and some of my friends have moved to the city.

I've learned many things here. I've learned to grow vegetables, I've learned the names of all the shop owners, and I've learned that you don't need a car for everything. I've never regretted moving here. I've been happy since the first week.

Lesson 18

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 False. They haven't unpacked yet.
2 True
3 True
4 False. They haven't seen Iruya yet.
5 b
6 a
7 b

6A. FIND IT

- ***the first time I've...:*** *It's the first time I've seen mountains in so many colours, the first time I've felt the altitude, It's the first time I've danced a zamba*
- ***the ... I've ever...:*** *the strangest landscape I've ever visited, the best humitas I've ever tasted, the highest place I've ever been, the best trip we've ever taken together*
- ***already / yet / just:*** *We've just arrived, I already understand, We haven't unpacked yet, Marcos has already taken, he's already been to Bolivia, We've just come back, We haven't decided yet, We haven't seen Iruya yet, I've already started*
- ***Have you ever...?:*** *Have you ever stood somewhere completely white...?*
- The past simple sentences have a **finished time**: *today* (a finished trip during the day), *this afternoon*, *in the evening*.

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 've just arrived
2 've seen
3 haven't unpacked
4 've ever visited
5 Have / stood
6 've ever been
7 haven't seen
8 've already started

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 This is the first time **I've visited** this city.
2 That's the worst meal **I've ever had**.
3 **Have you finished** the report yet?
4 I **haven't finished** my homework yet.
5 **Have you ever tried** sushi?
6 It's the first time **she's driven** on the left.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- This is the first time I've taken an online course.
- That's the best concert I've ever been to.
- I've never been to a music festival.
- I've already paid all the bills this month.
- I haven't started my holiday shopping yet.

9. MODEL TEXT

The best restaurant I've ever been to

Last month I went to a small fish restaurant on the coast, and I think it's the best restaurant I've ever been to. I've eaten fish all my life, but I've never tasted anything so fresh. The owner catches it himself every morning.

I also tried sea urchin, which I'd never eaten before. I was nervous, but it was delicious. My partner has already booked a table for next month, because we want to try the rest of the menu. We haven't tried the desserts yet, but the waiter told us they're famous.

Have you ever eaten somewhere with no menu? There isn't one here. The owner just tells you what he's caught that day. It's the most honest restaurant I've ever found.

Lesson 19

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 True
2 False. He hated every day.
3 True
4 True
5 b
6 b
7 b

6A. FIND IT

- *has been selling ... since 1987, has worked ... for almost forty years, has known ... for most of that time, have you been coming, has been famous ... for decades, have been walking ... since long before, worked in a bank for ten years* (past simple), *did that for ten years* (past simple), *'ve been doing this for nearly forty years, have been going up for years, have closed since the pandemic, has had the same landlord since 1995, have been coming in* (since the platforms became popular), *has been helping ... for the past two years, has been teaching me since last summer, has had the same habit since his first day, 've been doing it for thirty-nine years, 've been asking myself ... for years*
- *I did that for ten years* is about the bank job, which is finished. *I've been doing this for nearly forty years* is about the bookshop, which he still runs.

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 has been selling
2 has worked
3 have / been coming
4 worked
5 have been going
6 has had
7 has been helping
8 've been asking

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 **I've been studying** English since 2020.
2 She **has been working** here for six months.
3 How long **have you known** your best friend?
4 We **have lived** in this house since 2015.
5 **I worked** there for ten years, but I left in 2019.
6 They **have been waiting** for the results since Monday.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- I've been using the same laptop for six years.
- I've worked for this company since 2019.
- My best friend and I have known each other since primary school.
- I've been learning to play the piano for about a year.
- We've lived in this neighbourhood for ten years.
- (Finished period) I worked as a waiter for two years when I was a student.

9. MODEL TEXT

> My uncle Raúl has been fixing bicycles in the same garage for thirty years. Before that, he worked in a car factory for twelve years, but he left when the factory closed in 1994.
>
> He has had the same tools since his first day, and he still keeps them in the same wooden box. Many of his customers have been coming to him since they were children. Now they bring their own children's bikes.
>
> A lot has changed since he started. Electric bikes have become popular, and he has been taking online courses to learn how to repair them. "I've been learning new things for the past three years," he says. "My grandson has been helping me with the videos."
>
> He says he's going to retire next year. He's been saying that for ten years.

Lesson 20

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 True
2 False. It won three years after democracy returned.
3 True
4 False. It received a nomination.
5 b
6 a
7 b

6A. FIND IT

- **Present perfect:** *has produced, has won, have been nominated, has become, has worked, has starred, have travelled, have come close, have watched, have reached, have paid, has been*
- **Past simple + time:** *came (in 1986), told, won (in March of that year), returned (three years before), came (more than two decades later), won (in 2010), became, saw (in 2009), remained (for years), was back (in 2023), won (in January that year), lost (in March), received (in 2015), cut (in 2024), led*
- The first paragraph is a summary of the news up to now, with no specific time, so it uses the present perfect. The details that follow have dates, so they're in the past simple.

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 has won
2 came
3 won
4 saw
5 has worked
6 won
7 have reached
8 has been

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 **I met** my partner in 2015.
2 That **happens** to me every time I fly.
3 **Have you ever worked** abroad?
4 **I finished** the report yesterday.

5 She **has worked** here since 2018.
6 Last week the company **announced** new prices.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- I've changed jobs. I started at a new company in March.
- My sister has had a baby. She was born last Tuesday.
- I've passed my driving test. I took it on Friday.
- We've bought a new car. We got it last weekend.
- My city has opened a new metro line. It opened two weeks ago.

9. MODEL TEXT

> Hi everyone,
>
> Some news from here: I've moved to a new flat! I signed the contract at the beginning of October and moved in on the 20th. My brother and two friends helped me with the boxes, and we finished in one day.
>
> The flat is smaller than the old one, but it's much closer to work. I've already started walking to the office, which has saved me a lot of time. Last week I walked there every day.
>
> There's also some news at work: our team has grown. Two new colleagues joined us in September, and the company opened a new office downtown last month.
>
> I've organised a small party next Saturday to celebrate. I hope you can come!
>
> Love,
>
> Inés

Lesson 21

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 True
2 False. It happened in 1974.
3 True
4 False. He had been keeping him in a cell.
5 b
6 b
7 b

6A. FIND IT

- **had + participle:** *had worked, had never left, had been murdered, had investigated, had passed, had loved, had done, had discovered, had realised, had decided, had failed, had lived, had killed, had not killed, had never told*
- **had been + -ing:** *had been waiting, had been looking for, had been keeping*. (*had been in love* is past perfect simple of *be*.)
- **Order of events** (examples): *Espósito had investigated the crime* (first) → *he decides to write a novel* (later); *a corrupt official had decided to use him* (first) → *Gómez was released* (later); *Morales had been keeping Gómez in a cell* (first, for 25 years) → *Espósito discovers the truth* (later)

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 had worked
2 had never left
3 had passed
4 had been waiting
5 had done
6 had decided
7 had been keeping
8 had never told

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 When we got to the station, the train **had** already **left**.
2 I didn't recognise him because he **had changed** a lot.
3 She **had been living** in Paris for five years when she met him.
4 Before that day, I **had never seen** the sea.
5 They were exhausted because they **had worked** (or **had been working**) all night.
6 When we met again, it **had been** a year since we (had) last spoken.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- When I started my first job, I had never used a spreadsheet.
- By the time I got to the airport, my flight had already left.
- Before I moved here, I had never lived on my own.
- When the manager arrived, we had been waiting for an hour.
- I was nervous at my wedding because I hadn't slept the night before.

9. MODEL TEXT

> Last year I organised a surprise party for my father's 70th birthday. For weeks I had been calling his old friends secretly, and I had booked a room in his favourite restaurant. Some of the guests hadn't seen him for more than twenty years.
>
> On the day of the party, I told him we were going for a quiet dinner. When we arrived, the room was dark. Everyone had hidden behind the tables. When the lights went on, my father didn't say anything for a few seconds.
>
> Then he started laughing. It turned out that my mother had told him about the party a week before, because she was afraid he would have a heart attack! He had been pretending for seven days, and he had even practised his surprised face in the mirror.

UNIT 6

Lesson 22

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 True
2 False. You can buy one at kiosks and some underground stations.
3 True
4 False. You'll still need some cash.
5 a
6 a

7 b

6A. FIND IT

- ***to* + verb:** *to get around, to travel, to pay, to send, to split, to plan, to take, to get home, to communicate* (also *use them for* in the introduction)
- ***for* + *-ing* / noun:** *for public transport, for paying (×2), for tips, street markets and small kiosks, for charging, for finding, for calling, for everything*
- ***so that*:** *so that you always have credit, so that you can show it to the driver, so that nobody needs to make a phone call*
- ***so as not to* / *in order not to*:** *so as not to get stuck, in order not to change too much money, so as not to take out their whole wallet*

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 to
2 so that
3 so as not to
4 to
5 for
6 so that
7 for
8 to

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 I need a new laptop **to work** from home.
2 We use this software **to send** (or **for sending**) invoices.
3 She called me **so that I could** help her with the report.
4 I set two alarms **so as not to oversleep** (or **so that I don't oversleep**).
5 This room is **for meetings** (or **for having meetings**).
6 I'm saving money **to buy** a car.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- I use a paper notebook to plan my week.
- I keep a spreadsheet for tracking my expenses.
- I always leave home early so that I can find a parking space.
- I turn off notifications in the evening so as not to think about work.
- I use a translation app to check new words.

9. MODEL TEXT

What you'll need in our office

Welcome to the team! Here are a few things you'll need. First, you'll get an ID card to open the doors and to use the printers. Keep it with you all the time so as not to get locked out of the building.

We use a messaging app to communicate with each other, and a shared calendar for booking meeting rooms. Please check the calendar before you book, so that two people don't book the same room.

You'll also need a pair of headphones for joining online meetings, because the office is open plan. And bring a mug for coffee: we're trying to reduce plastic, so there are no disposable cups.

Finally, I recommend a small notebook to write down passwords and names in your first week. There's a lot to remember!

Lesson 23

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 False. Avoid arriving at the exact time.
2 True
3 True
4 False. Most hosts will refuse.
5 b
6 a
7 b

6A. FIND IT

- **verb + *-ing*:** *avoid arriving, keep making, don't mind receiving, start eating, finish eating, recommend taking, enjoy talking, enjoy arguing, keep talking, start clapping, minds hearing, keep saying, stop eating, suggest making*
- **verb + *to*:** *plan to arrive, need to bring, decided to buy, expect you to bring, try to join in, learn to clap, forget to clap, wants to hear, need to leave, offer to help, want to make*
- ***be used to* + *-ing*:** *if you aren't used to eating for five hours* (= accustomed to). ***used to* + base:** *People used to spend the whole of Sunday at the table* (= a habit in the past).

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 arriving
2 to arrive
3 making
4 receiving
5 taking
6 arguing
7 to join
8 eating

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 You should avoid **driving** in the rush hour.
2 I'm used to **getting up** early.
3 She decided **to change** jobs.
4 They kept **talking** during the whole meeting.
5 I started **learning** (or **to learn**) Italian last year.
6 Do you mind **waiting** a moment?

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- I avoid checking my email before breakfast.
- I enjoy cooking for friends at the weekend.
- I keep forgetting to call my aunt.
- I've decided to take a long holiday next year.
- I'm used to working with people from other countries.

9. MODEL TEXT

Your first meeting with our clients

Our clients are friendly, but they have their own rules. First, avoid arriving early. They like to start exactly on time, and they don't enjoy waiting with visitors in

reception.

When the meeting starts, they'll want to talk about family and holidays for ten minutes. Don't try to start the presentation too soon. They're used to building a relationship first.

During the presentation, keep looking at the director, even if other people ask the questions. And I recommend bringing printed copies. They prefer reading on paper.

Finally, if they invite you to lunch, don't refuse. Most of the real decisions happen at the table. If you need to leave early, mention it at the beginning. They don't mind hearing it then, but they hate surprises.

Lesson 24

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 True
2 False. He recommended going before nine.
3 True
4 False. They called him three times that week.
5 b
6 b
7 a

6A. FIND IT *(examples)*

- *told the driver the address* (tell + person), *said something* (say + thing), *asked him to repeat* (ask + person + to), *"I said that..."* (say + that), *he told me* (tell + person), *He told me that...* (tell + person + that), *He said that...* (say + that), *recommended going* (recommend + -ing), *recommended that I try* (recommend + that), *he said it was normal* (say + clause), *wait for the traffic to move* (wait for + thing + to), *He asked me where...* (ask + person + question), *he wanted me to tell him* (want + person + to), *asked me to wait for him* (ask + person + to; wait for + person), *said it was a present*, *he said to me* (say + to + person), *told me to be careful* (tell + person + to), *"Tell the man..."* (tell + person), *I asked him to give me* (ask + person + to), *"If you want me to drive you..."* (want + person + to), *"Don't wait for the hotel to call..."* (wait for + thing + to), *he told me a new story* (tell + person + thing)

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 told
2 said
3 asked
4 recommended
5 for
6 to
7 said
8 to

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 She **told me** that she was tired. (or: She **said** that she was tired.)
2 **Wait for me** here. I'll be back in a minute.
3 He **said** that he couldn't come to the meeting. (or: He **told me** that...)
4 I'm **waiting for** my visa **to arrive**.
5 My doctor **recommended that I rest** (or **recommended resting**) for a week.
6 I **want you to come** to the party.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- My manager asked me to prepare a presentation for next week.
- A colleague told me that the office will close early on Friday.
- My dentist recommended using a softer toothbrush.
- My mother said that she wanted to visit us in December.
- My neighbour asked me to wait for the plumber to arrive.

9. MODEL TEXT

Last winter my car broke down on the motorway, and I called a mechanic. When he arrived, he asked me to start the engine. He listened for a moment and said that the battery was dead.

He told me that he could take the car to his garage, but he wanted me to wait for the tow truck to arrive. While we were waiting, he told me about his family and said that he had been a mechanic for thirty years.

At the garage, he recommended changing the tyres too, because they were very old. I said I would think about it. Then he asked me to call him the next day. When I called, he told me the car was ready and that he hadn't charged me for the coffee!

Lesson 25

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 False. They rarely eat before nine.
2 True
3 False. They greet each other with one kiss.
4 True
5 b
6 b
7 b

6A. FIND IT

- ***try not to / so as not to:*** *try not to feel hungry, so as not to faint, try not to dip them, try not to look impatient, Try not to offer your hand, try not to say "thank you"* (also *it's better not to wear*)
- ***Not* + *-ing*:** *Not doing this will save you..., Not knowing this can lead to..., Not speaking well is fine. Not trying is the only real mistake.*
- **One negative + *any-*:** *nobody will notice anything, Never hurry anybody, If you don't know anything about the local clubs, You won't find anywhere completely silent, Nobody expects anything perfect*

No clause has two negative words.

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 anything

2 not to
3 so as not to
4 Never
5 not to
6 Not
7 anything
8 anywhere

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 I always try **not to** interrupt people.
2 Nobody in my team did **anything** to help.
3 I didn't see **anybody** in the office this morning.
4 She left early **so as not to miss** the train.
5 We never say **anything** in the weekly meetings.
6 It's important **not to** lose the receipt.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- I try not to look at my phone during meals.
- I always write a list so as not to forget anything at the supermarket.
- I never lend anyone my car.
- Not having breakfast makes me tired all morning.
- I try not to answer work emails at the weekend.

9. MODEL TEXT

How not to look like a beginner at the gym

First, never ask anybody how much they can lift. Nobody wants to tell you, and you don't want to know.

Try not to spend more time taking selfies than exercising. Not looking at your phone between exercises is the best way to look like a professional.

Always bring a towel so as not to leave the machines wet. And never sit on a machine without doing anything. Other people are waiting.

Try not to make noise when you lift, unless the weight is really heavy. Nobody needs to hear anything from you.

Finally, don't buy expensive clothes on your first day. Not knowing what you need is normal. Wait a month, then decide.

UNIT 7

Lesson 26

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 False. She didn't understand half of what they said.
2 True
3 False. Between friends it's almost affectionate.
4 True
5 b
6 c
7 b

6A. FIND IT

- **Indirect questions:** *what "laburo" meant, why everyone said "che", whether "boludo" was an insult, where lunfardo comes from, what "che" means, whether "boludo" is rude, (depends on) who says it and how, where the line is, what a "bondi" is, where the word comes from, why "quilombo" means a mess, if I had seen the state of my room, if I'll ever sound like a porteño, (depends on) how long I stay, what I can do about that, what "fiaca" is*
- **Direct questions** (examples): *What did "laburo" mean? / Why did everyone say "che"? / What does "che" mean? / Where is the line? / Have you seen the state of your room?*

6B. REWRITE THE DIRECT QUESTIONS

1 I didn't know what "laburo" meant.
2 I wonder where lunfardo comes from.
3 Can you tell me what "che" means?
4 I don't understand whether (or if) "boludo" is rude.
5 I still don't know where the line is.
6 Do you know what a "bondi" is?
7 I'd like to know why "quilombo" means a mess.
8 I don't know what I can do about that.

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 I don't know what **this word means**.
2 Can you tell me where **the meeting room is**?
3 It depends **on** how much **you want** to spend.
4 I wonder why **she left** so early.
5 Do you know what time **the shop opens**?
6 I don't know if **it is** possible to change the date.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- I wonder how my job will change in the next ten years.
- I don't know why my internet connection is so slow in the evenings.
- I'd like to know how much a flight to Japan costs in spring.
- Can you tell me where I can buy a good second-hand bike?
- Whether I go on holiday in January depends on how much work I have.

9. MODEL TEXT

Dear Sir or Madam,

I'm interested in the evening Italian course that I saw on your website, and I'd like to ask for some more information.

First, could you tell me when the next course starts and how long it lasts? I'd also like to know how many students there are in each group. I'm not sure whether I should join the beginners' group or the elementary one, because I studied a little Italian many years ago. Do you know if there is a placement test?

I was also wondering if it is possible to pay in instalments, and whether there's a discount for early registration.

Finally, could you let me know what materials I need to buy?

Thank you very much in advance.

Kind regards,

Martín López

Lesson 27

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 False. It's almost impossible to predict.
2 True
3 False. It collapsed at night, and the narrator watched the videos the next morning.
4 True
5 b
6 a
7 c

6A. FIND IT

- *saying that the tunnel had opened and that the bridge was going to fall, I was sure I would see, I told my boss I would be back, told us that the bridge would probably fall ... but that nobody could say, She said it might happen, I asked her if she had ever seen it, She said she had ... and that both times it had happened, I was convinced that I was going to be, everyone thought the big moment was going to happen, told me that he would call me, I said I would come back, said they were going to sleep ... so that they wouldn't miss it, I had promised ... that I would send, asked me if it had been worth it, I said it had*
- **Original words** (examples): *"The bridge is going to fall any day." / "I'll be back at work on Monday." / "Have you ever seen it?" / "I'll call you if anything changes." / "We're going to sleep in our car."*

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 was going to
2 would see
3 would be
4 might
5 had ever seen
6 would call
7 were going to
8 would send

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 The technician said he **would** come on Tuesday.
2 I was sure that we **were** going to win.
3 She told me she **couldn't** come to the party.
4 They promised they **would** finish the work by Friday.
5 I thought the meeting **was** at ten, but it was at nine.
6 He asked me if I **wanted** a coffee.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- My first boss told me I would love the job, and he was right.
- The weather forecast said it would be sunny, but it rained all weekend.
- I thought my brother was going to study law, but he became a chef.
- My bank promised they would solve the problem in 48 hours.
- When I moved to this city, I was sure I would miss my hometown.

9. MODEL TEXT

> Last year I ordered a new sofa online. The website said it would arrive in two weeks, and I was sure it would be here before my birthday party. When I called the shop, the woman told me that the sofa was going to leave the warehouse the next day.
>
> Two weeks later, nothing had arrived. I called again, and a different person said the delivery company would contact me soon. I asked him if he could give me a date, but he said he couldn't.
>
> On the day of the party, my friends sat on the floor. Everyone thought it was very funny. The sofa finally arrived a month later. The delivery man told me it was the fastest delivery of the week!

Lesson 28

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1 True
2 False. It was started by Tamburini, continued by Meano and completed by Dormal.
3 True
4 True
5 b
6 c
7 b

6A. FIND IT

- **Present simple passive:** *is considered, are compared, is shaped, is surrounded, are discussed, are mentioned, is visited, are offered, are made, is followed, is seen*
- **Past simple passive:** *was opened, was started, were drawn, was continued, was murdered, was completed, was brought, were shipped, was damaged, were made, was planned, was closed, was carried out, were uncovered, were repaired, was modernised, was reopened*
- **Modal passive:** *can be recognised, can be seated, can be accommodated, can be heard, must be booked, can be seen*
- **Present continuous passive:** *are being prepared*
- **by + agent:** *was started by the Italian architect Francesco Tamburini, was continued by his assistant, was completed by the Belgian architect Jules Dormal, are still discussed by experts, was damaged by time, is visited by thousands of tourists, is followed closely by opera lovers*

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 is considered
2 was opened
3 was started
4 was completed
5 can be seated
6 was brought
7 must be booked
8 are being prepared

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1. The office is **cleaned** every night.
2. The results will **be announced** tomorrow.
3. This software **can be** installed on any computer.
4. The bridge was **built** in 1950.
5. My car is **being repaired** at the moment.
6. Our products are **made** in Brazil.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- My building was built in the 1970s.
- In my company, all invoices are checked by two people.
- The main square in my city is being renovated at the moment.
- Most of the vegetables in our market are grown locally.
- Visitors' cars must be parked outside the building.

9. MODEL TEXT

Our local bakery's bread

The bakery on my street was opened in 1962 by an Italian family, and it is still run by the grandchildren. The bread is made in the traditional way. The dough is prepared at four in the morning, it is left to rest for several hours, and then it is baked in a wood oven that was built by the founder himself.

Every day about five hundred loaves are sold, and some of them are delivered to restaurants in the area. Nothing is wasted: the bread that isn't sold is given to a local charity.

At the moment, the shop is being renovated, so the bread is being sold from a small van outside. The old oven can't be moved, so it will be kept exactly where it is.

Lesson 29

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1. True
2. False. That's normal.
3. False. It means you don't want another one.
4. True
5. a
6. b
7. b

6A. FIND IT

- **Zero conditional:** *If you're in a group, one person prepares...; If the first mate tastes bitter, that's normal; If someone hands you a mate, you drink...; If you move the bombilla, the yerba gets blocked; If you say "gracias", it means...; If the water boils, it burns the yerba*
- **First conditional:** *If you're a visitor, here's what you need to know; If you keep it for too long, someone will say...; the cebador won't be happy; if you do it twice, they'll start teaching you; If you want to keep drinking, just give it back; If you're preparing mate at home, take the kettle off; If that makes you uncomfortable, you can politely say no; if you accept, you'll probably feel...; If you ask for sugar, they'll tease you; if you prefer it sweet, ask anyway; If you spend a weekend..., someone will prepare mate; If you follow these rules, you'll be invited again; if you break one, don't worry*
- There's no *will* in any *if*-clause.

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1. 're
2. tastes
3. will say
4. move
5. 'll start
6. say
7. boils
8. 'll be

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1. If I **finish** early, I'll go to the gym.
2. If you heat ice, it **melts**.
3. If I **send** this email now, is it OK?
4. If she calls, I**'ll tell** her you're busy.
5. What happens if I **press** this button?
6. If you don't water plants, they **die**.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- If I drink coffee after six, I can't sleep.
- If a client calls after five, the call goes to voicemail.
- If I finish this project on time, I'll take a few days off.
- If it's sunny on Saturday, we'll go to the beach.
- If you need the report today, I'll send it before lunch.

9. MODEL TEXT

The unwritten rules of our family WhatsApp group

If someone has a birthday, everyone sends a message before nine in the morning. If you send it after lunch, my aunt will notice, and she'll mention it at the next family dinner.

If you share a photo, you must also share it with Grandma, because she isn't in the group. If someone asks a question, it's polite to answer, even if you only send a thumbs-up.

Political messages are forbidden. If someone starts a political discussion, my mother deletes it immediately. If it happens twice, she'll call you.

If you leave the group, everyone will ask you why for weeks. So if you need a break, just mute it. Nobody will know, and nobody will be offended.

Lesson 30

5. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1. True
2. False. The first goal was the "Hand of God".
3. True
4. False. They don't know if they would call it a perfect life.
5. b
6. b

7 a

6A. FIND IT

- **Second conditional:** *where I would live if I could choose; If I lived there, I would walk…; If I lived there, I would miss…; If the winters weren't so long and dark, I'd move tomorrow; If we didn't imagine other lives, we wouldn't value the one we have*
- **Third conditional:** *If the referee had seen the handball, the first goal wouldn't have counted; If Barcelona hadn't offered to pay for it, he would have stayed in Argentina* (also *Would Argentina still have won the match?* and *Maybe a local club would have found the money*)
- **Mixed:** *if the "Hand of God" hadn't existed, Maradona's story would be less complicated; If he had stayed, he might not be the player we know today; if he weren't the player we know, Argentina might not have won the World Cup; if Maradona hadn't scored that goal, we would have one story less*
- **Hypothetical *would* without *if*:** *I'd have a small wooden house…, I'd run a little café, I wouldn't need a car, I'd grow vegetables, Would I be happy?, I don't know if I would call it a perfect life*

6B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1 had seen / wouldn't have counted
2 hadn't offered / would have stayed
3 might not be
4 lived / would walk
5 'd have
6 would call
7 weren't
8 didn't imagine / wouldn't value

7. CORRECT THE MISTAKES

1 If I won the lottery, I **would** travel around the world.
2 If I **had** more money, I'd buy a house.
3 If she had studied harder, she **would have passed** the exam last year.
4 I don't know if I **would** call it a mistake.
5 If I **had** known about the traffic, I would have left earlier.
6 If you lived closer, we **would** see each other more often.

8. MODEL SENTENCES

- If I didn't have to work tomorrow, I'd stay up late tonight.
- If I spoke Portuguese, I'd look for a job in Brazil.
- If I had saved more money in my twenties, I would have bought a flat.
- If we hadn't missed the train, we wouldn't have met.
- If I had studied engineering, I would earn more money now.

9. MODEL TEXT

If I could change one decision in my life…

When I was eighteen, I had the chance to study in Canada for a year, but I said no. I was afraid of leaving my family and my friends. If I had gone, I would have learned English much faster, and I would probably have met people from all over the world.

Sometimes I wonder how different my life would be now. If I had spent that year abroad, I might be working for an international company today. I would probably feel more confident when I travel.

But if I hadn't stayed, I wouldn't have met my partner, who was in my first class at university. And I don't know if I would call my decision a mistake. If I could go back, I think I would make the same choice. Well, almost.