



Introduction Giant Steps

06

Formal Spanish	2
Formal English	2
*Informal Spanish	2
Informal English	3
Vocabulary	3
Grammar Points	4
Cultural Insight	5

* Audio Conversation



Formal Spanish

AMANDA	¿Diga?
CÉSAR	Buenos días, Amanda. Soy César.
AMANDA	¡Hola, César! ¿Qué es de su vida?
CÉSAR	Muy bien. Estoy aquí pensando ¿hace cuánto tiempo que no hablamos?
AMANDA	Es verdad. Demasiado tiempo.
CÉSAR	¿Qué va a hacer esta noche?
AMANDA	Bueno, no tengo planes.
CÉSAR	¿Quisiera acompañarme a una exposición de arte?
AMANDA	¡Me encantaría! ¿Dónde queda la galería?
CÉSAR	Queda en el centro. Está un poco lejos.
AMANDA	Ya veo.
CÉSAR	¿A qué hora quisiera que la recoja?
AMANDA	¿A qué hora empieza?
CÉSAR	A las diez.
AMANDA	Estoy lista a un cuarto para las diez.

Formal English

AMANDA	Hello?
CÉSAR	Good morning, Amanda. It's César.
AMANDA	¡Hi, César! What have you been up to?
CÉSAR	Everything is good. I'm here thinking 'it's been so long since we last spoke!'
AMANDA	It's true. Too long.
CÉSAR	What are you doing tonight?
AMANDA	Well, I don't have any plans.
CÉSAR	Would you like to go with me to an art show?
AMANDA	I would love to. Where is the gallery?
CÉSAR	It's downtown. It's a ways away.
AMANDA	I see.
CÉSAR	What time would you like me to pick you up?
AMANDA	What time does it start?
CÉSAR	At ten o'clock.
AMANDA	I'll be ready at a quarter to ten.

Informal Spanish

AMANDA	¿Aló?
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CÉSAR Hola, Amanda. Soy César.
AMANDA ¡Hola, César! ¿Qué es de tu vida?
CÉSAR Todo bien. Estoy aquí pensando ¿hace cuánto tiempo que no hablamos?
AMANDA Es verdad. Demasiado tiempo.
CÉSAR ¿Qué vas a hacer esta noche?
AMANDA Bueno, no tengo planes.
CÉSAR ¿Quisieras acompañarme a una exposición de arte?
AMANDA ¡Me encantaría! ¿Dónde queda la galería?
CÉSAR Queda en el centro. Está un poco lejos.
AMANDA Ya veo.
CÉSAR ¿A qué hora quisieras que te recoja?
AMANDA ¿A qué hora empieza?
CÉSAR A las diez.
AMANDA Estoy lista a un cuarto para las diez.
Click here for entire dialogue.

Informal English

3

AMANDA Hello?
CÉSAR Hi, Amanda. It's César.
AMANDA ¡Hi, César! What have you been up to?
CÉSAR Everything is good. I'm here thinking 'it's been so long since we last spoke!'
AMANDA It's true. Too long.
CÉSAR What are you doing tonight?
AMANDA Well, I don't have any plans.
CÉSAR Would you like to go with me to an art show?
AMANDA I would love to. Where is the gallery?
CÉSAR It's downtown. It's a ways away.
AMANDA I see.
CÉSAR What time would you like me to pick you up?
AMANDA What time does it start?
CÉSAR At ten o'clock.
AMANDA I'll be ready at a quarter to ten.



Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
recoger	to pick up	verb	<i>Medieval Latin, recolligĕre (to gather up)</i>
querer	to want	verb	<i>Latin, quærere (to try to obtain)</i>
galería	gallery	fem. noun	<i>Medieval Latin, galeria (corridor)</i>
exposición	show, exposition	fem. noun	<i>Latin, exponere (to set forth)</i>

Sample Sentences

El chofer nos recogió a las ocho en punto. The driver picked us up at eight on the dot.

¿Cuántos idiomas quisieras aprender? How many languages would you like to learn?

En América Latina hay galerías por todas partes. In Latin America, there are galleries everywhere.

¿Ya fuiste a la nueva exposición de arte? Did you go to the new art show yet?

Grammar Points

In Spanish, we can use the Indicative Mood to express an action as "real". Such is the case, when we say "quiero ir a la exposición de arte" (I want to go to the art show). The act of "wanting" here is expressed as real.

However, when we use this mood to ask a question, it often comes off as very direct, if not outright rude. For example "¿quieres ir a la exposición?" sounds rather frank. I mean, this could be said to a friend, but perhaps to someone whom you don't know that well, it would sound a bit forthcoming.

One of the ways to avoid this undesired frankness is to use the Subjunctive Mood. With the verb "querer", the most common way to do so is with the so called "Imperfect Tense of the Subjunctive Mood". With this mood, we don't express actions as real, but rather as "possible".

For the purposes of our lesson, we're looking at how the subjunctive mood is used to express desire. For example, it would be much more polite to ask "¿quisieras ir a la exposición de arte?" (would you like to go to the art show?).

Let's take a closer look and compare the forms:

4



5

Present Indicative	Imperfect Subjunctive
yo quiero (I want)	yo quisiera (I would like)
tú quieres (you want, inform.)	tú quisieras (you would like, inform.)
él quiere (he wants)	él quisiera (he would like)
ella quiere (she wants)	ella quisiera (she would like)
usted quiere (you want, form.)	usted quisiera (you would like, form.)
nosotros queremos (we want)	nosotros quisiéramos (we would like)
vosotros queréis (you all want, inform.)	vosotros quisierais (you all would like, inform.)
ellos quieren (they want, masc.)	ellos quisieran (they would like, masc.)
ellas quieren (they want, fem.)	ellas quisieran (they would like, fem.)
ustedes quieren (they want, form.)	ustedes quisieran (you all would like, form.)

Cultural Insight

In Latin America, one of the famous arts forms is the mural painting. Perhaps it was Diego Rivera, the Mexican painter, who really brought this medium to the public eye, but in any case, part of this lasting tradition has to do with the fact that the majority of private property in Latin America is surrounded by a dividing wall. These walls mark the landscape of cities, towns and the countryside alike. The architectural aspect has made for a very good place to show artwork. So, when you come to Latin America, be ready to see public art in the form of murals. And, be sure to check out the beautiful works of Diego Rivera to this art form at the professional level.