

# BEGINNING SPANISH PHRASES

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## TO BEGIN...

- For many of you, this is the first time you have ever studied Spanish, or any foreign language.
- You may feel lost or unsure of how to proceed.
- **DON'T WORRY!**
- This is a year to take a calm pace, and learn not only about language, but also about culture and have fun doing it.
- There may be many things that you don't fully understand, but that doesn't mean you can't still start to *actually use* Spanish in and outside the classroom.

## COMMON PHRASES

- Let's start by looking at some common phrases, and learn how we can build off of them.

# I. **¿Cómo estás?** **How are you?**

How can we respond?

Bien (Well), Mal (Bad), Más o menos (So-so)

And any other feeling word we want to look up...

After this we might say, **¿y tú? (and you?)**

If we are speaking with someone with more respect, we  
might say:

**2. ¿Cómo está usted?**  
**How are you (formal)?**

Who might we be talking to in this case?

**3. ¿Cómo te llamas?**

**What is your name?**

**4. Me llamo...**

**My name is...**

\*Remember that Spanish is not a direct translation of English. When we say “me llamo,” we are literally saying “I call myself.”

**5. ¿De dónde eres?**  
**Where are you from?**

**6. Soy de...**  
**I am from...**

Maybe we want to know what somebody likes to do. In that case we say this:

**7. ¿Qué te gusta hacer?**

**What do you like to do?**

**8. Me gusta...(verbo)**

**I like to...(verb)**



We can choose any verb, and stick it at the end:

Me gusta **correr**

Me gusta **dibujar**

Me gusta **dormir**

Me gusta **comer**

\*These verbs are all in the *infinitive* form, because they in themselves do not have a subject. In English it is when we put 'to' in front of a verb, like 'to jump' or 'to swim.'

We might want to know about somebody's favorites:

**9. ¿Cuál es tu color favorito?**

**What is your favorite color?**

We just replace the ending if we want to ask about something else.

More examples:

¿Cuál es tu...?

comida favorita (favorite food)

clase favorita (favorite class)

animal favorito (favorite animal)

deporte favorito (favorite sport)

Finally, we can add a few more phrases as we see fit to make our conversation a bit more dynamic:

**Buenos días** (Good morning)

**Buenas tardes** (Good afternoon/evening)

**Buenas noches** (Good night)

**El gusto es mío** (The pleasure is mine)

**Mucho gusto** (Nice to meet you)

**Hasta luego** (See you later)

**Nos vemos** (See you later)

**Hasta mañana** (See you tomorrow)

## ACTIVIDAD EN CLASE

- Work with two people sitting near you (don't move seats) to form a dialogue.
- In this dialogue you will pretend that two people are new to school and have just met. What will they say to each other? Make sure you indicate who is saying each line.
- To make your dialogue more personalized, please use your dictionaries.
- You may also refer to page 21 for a review of the vocabulary terms.