

## Mansion Ingles Podcast March 2014 - Aprende gramática y vocabulario inglés

Hello and welcome to another Mansion Ingles podcast. This is podcast number 71 recorded for March 2014. How are you? I hope you're well. I feel fantastic! It's spring here in Valencia and the weather is wonderful.

*En el nivel básico este mes practicamos un poco de gramática y hablamos más de los antónimos (opposites).*

*En el nivel intermedio estudiamos más gramática general y practicamos un poco del slang británico - British slang words.*

There are some mixed idioms in the advanced section and we revisit the popular exercise 'What do you say?' where we look at some useful short expressions and comments for everyday situations.

There's also business English vocabulary, as usual, all to help you improve your English and take it to the next level.

*En los podcasts mensuales hablamos de los temas, vocabulario y ejercicios que salen en nuestro cuaderno mensual. Así podéis practicar la pronunciación y repasar el material del cuaderno. Si quieres recibir gratis el cuaderno cada mes, ver la transcripción de este podcast o leer los anteriores, ve a [mansioningles.com](http://mansioningles.com) y sigue los enlaces en la página principal.*

*Ok, vamos a empezar con **el nivel básico** y la gramática.*

*Today is colder than yesterday. No decimos Xmore colderX porque cuando los adjetivos son cortos - uno o dos sílabas (cold, hot, pretty, small, big etc) solo añadimos -er - colder, hotter, bigger, smaller etc. Utilizamos more y less con palabras más largas como expensive - more expensive, beautiful - more beautiful. Repite: colder - colder than yesterday - today is colder - today is colder than yesterday.*

*She didn't answer her phone because she was in a meeting - She didn't answer her phone. Es el pasado. El pasado en negativo con el **did**. El verbo es to answer, y el pasado de answer es answered, es un verbo regular así que solo añademos -ed. Pero cuando ponemos el negativo en el pasado necesitamos el did como verbo auxiliar, y el verbo principal queda en el infinitivo didn't answer - She didn't answer her phone - Ella no contestó su teléfono - repite: She didn't answer her phone - She didn't answer her phone.*

How many people were there at the meeting yesterday? *Aquí elegimos* were there *porque hablamos de la gente* - people - *un nombre plural*. *Decimos* one person - the person was, the man was, the woman was, the girl was - the people were - they were - *plural*. *Nota que decimos* people *y no persons*. *Es muy fácil traducir personas a persons, pero people es más común, más usado*. *Se puede decir persons, pero es más formal y más usado en el inglés escrito, en los contratos legales, por ejemplo, o en un acensor "Maximum 6 persons"*. *Repíte*: How many - How many people - How many people were there - were there - How many people were there?

I think he's going to leave his wife. - going to leave - *Aquí hablamos del futuro con el 'going to' future*. Going to + *infinitivo* - Going to leave, going to buy - going to have - going to study - going to play - going to live etc. *Repíte*: going to - going to leave - *Cuidado con la diferencia entre to live (vivir) y to leave (irse, dejar, marcharse, abandonar etc)*. To live (*vivir*) *tiene el sonido vocal corto /i/* live - I live in Spain - I live in Valencia - I live in a small flat. *Por otro lado el leave tiene el sonido vocal más largo* - leave - Don't leave me! *No me dejas* - Please leave it on the table - *dejalo encima de la mesa por favor*. *Repíte*: live - leave - I live in Madrid - She lives in London - Leave me alone! (*¡dejame en paz!*) Leave me alone! *Muchas veces la pronunciación del going to es gonna*. We're gonna buy, we're gonna have, we're gonna see etc. *Repíte*: He's gonna leave his wife - He's gonna leave her - She's gonna leave him!

What time does the train leave? - *¿A qué hora sale el tren?* - *Aquí empleamos el presente simple para hablar del futuro*. *Estamos hablando del futuro porque el tren va a salir (it's going to leave) en el futuro*. *A veces utilizamos el presente simple para hablar de los horarios y el futuro proximo*. *Repíte*: What time does the train leave? When does it leave?

Moving on! *Vamos a seguir y hablar de los antónimos* - opposites

future - past

adult – child

different – same

strong – weak

tall – short

top – bottom

clean – dirty

fat – thin

warm – cool

east – west

Ok good, now moving on to the **intermediate section**, and in this month's *cuaderno* we looked at a selection of grammar sentences. For example: They **wouldn't** invite them if they didn't want them to come.

Second conditional sentence speaking about an imaginary situation. The real situation is they wanted them to come - they like them - they are happy that they came. They wanted them to come so they invited them. BUT If they didn't want them to come, they wouldn't invite them.

A hard drive is a thing **which** you use to store data and computer programs. WHICH here is a relative pronoun. - A hard drive is a thing which you use to store data. A remote control is a thing which you use to control the TV. Use **which** for things and **who** for people. You can also use **that** instead of which. A hard drive is a thing that you use to store data. A remote is a thing that you use to control the TV.

This church **was built** in 1759. This is a passive sentence. An active sentence would be The French built this church in 1759, or The Italians built this church in 1759. But it's not important to the speaker who built the church, so the passive is used. Repeat: The church was built in 1759.

We don't have **much** money in the bank. Do you remember when we use **much** and when we use **many**? Much for uncountable nouns - much money, much traffic, much beer, much coffee and many for countable nouns: many euros, many cars, many bottles of beer and many cups of coffee. We could also use **a lot of**. Repeat: We don't have much money - We don't have a lot of money. There's isn't much traffic - There isn't a lot of traffic. It doesn't cost much money - It doesn't cost a lot of money.

He **told** me not to tell anyone. It's a secret. - Remember that we say told me and said to me not Xsaid meX or Xtold to meX. Repeat: He told me a story - They told me a lie - He told me not to tell anyone.

Let's go out for dinner tonight. We don't have **anything** to cook for dinner. Anything is often used for negative sentences. - We don't have anything - She didn't say anything - They're not doing anything. Of course, if the sentence is positive, we can use the negative **nothing**. We have nothing for dinner - she said nothing - They are doing nothing. Repeat: We don't have anything - We don't have anything for dinner - She didn't say anything - They're not doing anything.

My parents have lived in the same flat **for** forty years. - **for** here is a time expression with the present perfect. I have lived in Valencia for 16 years. I have lived in Valencia since 1998. Repeat: They've lived here for 30 years. I've been waiting for half an hour. I've loved you for ages.

You can practise the present perfect, something/anything, conditional sentences, countable and uncountable nouns and much much more by listening to the podcast **Aprender inglés con Reza y Craig**. Available on iTunes, Stitcher and at [inglespodcast.com](http://inglespodcast.com).

In the vocabulary part of the intermediate level in our cuaderno this month we looked at some British English slang words. I'm going to say the slang word and I want you to tell me the more common word if you can remember.

For example, **dosh**. What's dosh more commonly know as? - money - How much dosh have you got on you? Have you got any dosh? Lend me some dosh, will you?

**Fag?** - cigarette. Have you got a fag on you? I need to buy some fags. But be careful because fag in American English is an offensive word for homosexual. I made a terrible mistake when I first went to New York many years ago. I walked into a bar and asked the barman (or 'bartender' in American English) I said "Have you got any fags in here?" I will never forget the look he gave me. And, I'll never forget that fag means something completely different in the US.

If someone calls you **guv** or **guv'nor** what do they mean? Thanks guv, or cheers guv. Well, guv means boss. I pint of Guinness please guv. How much is that, guv? In Spanish, I think you'd say 'jefe'. - '¿Cuanto te debo, jefe?' How much do I owe you, guv?

**Mate** is colloquial British and Australian English for friend. In Spanish, you might say *tío* and in American English, **man**. Hey man, how's it going? Alright mate, how's it going? There are also some compound nouns with the word mate. There's flatmate=

*compañero de piso/apartamento*, there's roommate=*compañero/a de habitación o cuarto* and classmate=*compañero/a de clase* and workmate=*compañero/a de trabajo*. You can also say colleague for workmate, but workmate is more informal. My mate John is a great bloke.

**Bloke** means man. He's a great bloke=*es un gran tipo, es un tío muy legal*. Repeat: He's a great bloke - He's a really nice bloke. - Is he the bloke you met in the boozier?

What's **boozier**? Boozier is slang for pub. I'm going to the boozier, I'm going to the pub. To booze is slang for to drink, often to drink too much. *Ponerse hasta las chanclas o empinar el codo*. He's boozing again. Booze is also a noun. You can say 'He's on the booze', 'He loves the booze'. A person can go on the booze (*darse a la bebida*) and a person can be off the booze (*haber dejado la bebida*). Repeat: I'm off the booze. I'll have a Coke. He's on the booze again. He's wife's left him. He's in the boozier.

*Ahora tenemos un anuncio, así que si quieres, puedes **go to the boozier**. Pero no recomiendo eso por que voy hablar de algo que tal vez puede mejorar tu inglés muchísimo. Estoy hablando de los videos de ABA English.*

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Moving on! and in the **advanced section** this month, we had some mixed idioms. Let's see if you remember them if I say the beginning. For example, As quiet as a .....mouse. As deaf as a .....post. As good as .....gold. As cool as a .....cucumber. As fit as a .....fiddle. As mad as a.....hatter. As pretty as a ....picture. As ugly as.....sin.

Do you remember the sentences from the *cuaderno*? I'll read them to you. Try to complete them with an appropriate idiom.

I've been going to the gym every day for the last two months and I've also started a really healthy diet. I feel ..... as fit as a fiddle.

Thanks for agreeing to babysit for us. Don't worry about the children, you won't have any trouble with them. They're both ..... as good as gold.

You'll have to shout when you talk to dad. He's ..... as deaf as a post.

It's half past 3 in the morning, so when we get home you'll have to be ..... as quiet as a mouse so that you don't my wake mum and dad up.

Look at you all dressed up for the wedding! You look ..... as pretty as a picture.

Also in the advanced section this month, we practised some things that you can say in certain situations in English. These expressions are not always taught in text books and language courses and sometimes even advanced students get caught out and tongue-tied (*sin saber que decir*) in some social situations in English, I know that happens to me in Spanish sometimes.

Listen to these examples:

-Thank you so much for dinner. It was very kind of you to invite us.  
**-Not at all.**

Not at all means *de nada* and you can say it whenever someone thanks you for something, although it is a bit more formal than just saying 'you're welcome'. Thank you for dinner - Not at all. Thanks

so much for your time - not at all. My pleasure. We really appreciate the work you've done - not at all.

- What do you think of the new managing director? Do you think he's a decent bloke?

- **Don't like the look of him.**

If you don't like the look of something or someone, you don't like it, or him, or her. I don't like the look of him very much. I really don't like the look of our new neighbours.

- Why are you taking so much money with you? We're only going to do a bit of food shopping.

- **Just in case.** - *Sólo por si acaso.*

Do it just in case. Take an umbrella, just in case - Don't forget your credit card, just in case.

- Darling, I've finished! I've just put up those shelves in the spare room.

- **About time, too!** - *¡Ya era hora!*

Here's that 50 euros you lent me - About time, too!

I've decided to buy a new computer - About time, too!

I'm going to paint the flat next weekend - About time, too!

- I'm afraid I've just finished your glass of wine.

- **You would!**

This means 'that's typical of you', 'that's the kind of thing I would expect you to do. That's the kind of person you are.' This usually has a negative connotation.

- Pepito took my camera without even asking me.

- He would!

- I'm taking our Christmas bonus and spending it on my motorbike.

- You would!

- It must have been difficult for you to sit through that meeting without falling asleep.

- **It took some doing alright.**

It took some doing means it was difficult, but I managed to do it. It needed a lot of effort, but I managed it.

- Was it easy to set up a new website by yourself?
- It took some doing.
  
- Will it be hard to finish the triathlon next week?
- It'll take some doing, I haven't been training very hard.

In the **Business English** section this month we looked at some more business English vocabulary. For example, to **step down** (to resign or *dejar el cargo, ceder el puesto*)

The chairman has decided to step down because of ill health. Bill Gates has stepped down from the board at Microsoft to spend more time with his money.

To **team up** means to join forces (*unirse*). The US teamed up with Britain to defeat Germany in World War II

We should team up in order to defeat the competition.

I **wouldn't worry** about that if I were you. - I wouldn't worry - *Yo no me preocuparía* - You can use this phrase on its own as a reply to something like:

I think more people are going to lose their jobs next month.  
I wouldn't worry - I wouldn't worry, you're much too valuable to be fired. - I wouldn't worry

The car engine is making a very strange noise.  
I wouldn't worry we're nearly there. Just turn the music up.

'I wouldn't worry' is part of a 2nd conditional sentence:  
I wouldn't worry if I were you.  
You can also say, If I were you, I wouldn't worry.

I'm not sure if they will be able **to recover** from such a bad year. Recover means *recuperar*. Do you remember the phrasal verb we can use for recover. To recover from an illness or recover from a bad situation - **get over**. Will they recover from it? Will they get over it? Has she recovered from the divorce? Has she got over the divorce? Have you recovered from that terrible cold you had last week? Have you got over it yet?

Well, I hope you've got over or recovered from my terrible Spanish pronunciation during the podcast.



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Thank you very much for listening to this podcast, and for being part of the community of *La Mansión del Inglés*. We will of course be back next month with another podcast based on our monthly newsletter, our *cuaderno de inglés mensual*.

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Until next month then, keep practising and taking your English to the next level! Take care and bye for now!

*The music in this month's podcast is by **Revolution Void**, the album is *The Politics of Desire* and the track is called *Outer Orbit*.*