

September 2011

Hello everyone! How are you? Welcome to another *Mansión Inglés* podcast, recorded for September 2011.

En el nivel básico este mes hemos practicado un poco de pronunciación con los sonidos vocales. No voy a repetir lo mismo porque los sonidos están en el cuaderno de septiembre.

Pero si podemos practicar los plurales. Yo voy a decir los sustantivos en singular, y tú dices el plural antes que lo digo yo. Ready? ¿Listos?

One photo - two photos
One glass – two glasses
One city – two cities
One key (*una llave*) – two keys
One man – two men
One party – two parties
One baby – two babies
One week – two weeks
One child – two children

Very good! *¡Muy bien!*

In the intermediate section this month we practised the past continuous tense.

The past continuous, sometimes called the past progressive, is used to say that something was happening around a particular time in the past

Repeat the examples: **I was having** lunch at 2 o'clock.

What **were you doing** when I phoned?

They weren't sitting in the restaurant when we arrived.

We can use the past continuous and past simple together. When this happens, the past continuous is used for the longer action and to provide background. The past simple is used for the shorter action.

Listen to the examples: We **were driving** along when suddenly a dog **ran** out in front of the car.

The driving was the long action and the dog ran out was the short action in the middle.

She **sent** me a text message while **I was waiting** for her.

Listen and repeat the following examples of the past continuous:

Sofia **broke** her arm while she **was skiing**.

When I **arrived**, they **were talking** about football.

This time last week we **were walking** along 5th Avenue in New York **eating** a hot dog.

When I left home the sun **was shining**, the birds **were singing**. It **felt** good to be alive.

I **looked** out of the car window and I **saw** that we **were driving** past Big Ben.

When I **saw** Sandra she **was drinking** Guinness!

I **met** my girlfriend while I **was travelling** around Australia.

When I got home my son **was drinking** my whisky.

He **told** me that his wife **was having** an affair.

While I **was waiting** for the train, someone **stole** my iPod.

Next we practiced **So am I** and **Neither am I**

So am I significa *yo también*. We can also say "I am too".

So does she means "she does too". **So has he** means "he has too" etc.

Neither am I and **nor am I** significan *yo tampoco*. We can also say "I'm not either".

Listen and repeat the examples:

He's Spanish, and **so am I**.

She's from Buenos Aires, and **so am I**.

I was angry, and **so was my wife**.

I can't speak French, **and neither can he**.

I hate swimming, and **so does she**.

'I've forgotten his name.' – '**So have I!**'

She's learning Chinese, and **so is** her husband.

'I've decided to lose weight, and **so has** my wife.'

I can't drive, and **neither can** my wife.

'I love travelling.' – '**So do I.**'

Julie won't be at the meeting, and **nor will** Stuart.

'I bought an iPhone.' – '**So did** Gary'.

'He's tall and really attractive.' – '**So is** his brother.'

'You look tired.' – '**So do** you.'

'We weren't surprised.' – '**Neither were** we.'

The hotel was terrible, and **so was** the food.

In the advanced section this month we practised some more phrasal nouns.

Many people say that if you take enough vitamin C at the **onset** of a cold, you'll often recover faster. Onset here means at the beginning. – *el comienzo* – You sometimes hear people speaking about the onset of an illness, when the illness first started.

Outbreak can be translated as *brote* - The World Health Organization website is a useful resource for tracking the **outbreak** of diseases worldwide. You should take precautions against the outbreak of flu.

Page **layout** is the part of graphic design that deals with the arrangement and style treatment of elements (or content) on a page. Layout often means *diseño* and it's common when talking about web page design, the page layout. It can also be used when talking about the inside of a house, for example. What's the layout of the living room? I like the way the flat is laid out. – *Me gusta la distribución del piso*.

The word **outlet** can mean *salida, mercado, punto de venta and válvula de escape*. - An **outlet** store is a brick and mortar or online retail store in which manufacturers sell their stock directly to the public. Playing tennis was a good outlet for her. - *Jugar al tenis le servía para relajarse*

Take-off is the phase of flight in which an aircraft goes through a transition from moving along the ground, or taxiing, to flying in the air, usually starting on a runway. To **take off** is the phrasal verb – What time does the flight **take off**? And also the phrasal noun – Please get ready for take-off.

Warm up is another example of phrasal verb and phrasal noun. Don't forget to warm up before the match. A good **warm up** before exercise can help prevent injury.

Now I'm going to read the Student Banking text from the monthly newsletter, *el cuaderno mensual*, and I want you to guess the word when I pause. Now, this is quite difficult so you may want to do the gap fill exercise in the newsletter before you listen, read it again now or just listen to the text two or three times. Try to remember the vocabulary and repeat it after me. Ready? Here we go!

Nowadays there is a wide..... **choice** of financial packages on offer for students, and it is..... **advisable** to talk to someone about the best..... **deals** available.

Many banks have employees who specialize in student finances, they are called..... **consultants**, and they can advise you on how to make provisions for your needs during your.... **course**. Now is the time to work out your probable... **spending** on food, accommodation and.... **books**; and if you have any... **savings**, you should decide whether to draw them out. Credits cards are a mixed.... **blessing**. It's easy to misuse them and find yourself unable to keep up with.... **payments**.

However, don't be disheartened with all this. Your earnings as a.... **graduate** should enable you to clear your.... **debts** with in a few years.

In the Business English section, we practised vocabulary of office stationary and equipment. Listen to the words in Spanish and try to say the English translation before I do. Then repeat the words to practise pronunciation.

sujetapapeles - paper clips
papelera - wastepaper basket
tijeras - scissors
archivos/carpetas - files/folders
maletín - briefcase
goma - rubber (uk) / eraser (us)
perforadora - hole punch
archivador - filing cabinet
grapadora - stapler
sacapuntos - pencil sharpener

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Well, that's it for this month. Thanks to all of you for listening. If you want to contact us you can find us on Facebook. Just search Facebook for **La Mansión del Inglés** and join our growing community of fans. Or send an email to mansionteachers@yahoo.es. And you can also follow us on Twitter. Our Twitter name is MansionTwit.

Until next month then, take care and keep practising English! Bye!

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