

Robinson Crusóe

Chapter 1: El Comienzo de la Vida

Start in life



LANGUAGE

Spanish 🇪🇸



TRANSLATION

English 🇬🇧



LEVEL

A1 - Beginner



Spanish

1. **Mi nombre** es Robinson Crusoe. **Nací** en 1632 en York, Inglaterra. Mi padre vino de Alemania. **Era** comerciante. **Ganaba** buen dinero. Después dejó de trabajar. Vivió en York. **Se casó con mi madre** allí. El apellido de **mi madre** **era** Robinson.

English

1. My name is Robinson Crusoe. I was born in 1632 in York, England. My father came from Germany. He was a merchant. He earned good money. Later he stopped working. He lived in York. He married my mother there. My mother's surname was Robinson.

Spanish	English
mi nombre	my name
es	is
robinson crusoe	robinson crusoe
nací	i was born
en	in
1632	1632
york	york
inglaterra	england
mi padre	my father

Spanish	English
vino	came
de	of
alemania	germany
era	was
comerciante	a merchant
ganaba	he earned
buen dinero	good money
después	later
dejó de	he stopped

Spanish	English
trabajar	working
vivió	he lived
se casó con	he married
mi madre	my mother
allí	there
el apellido	the surname
robinson	robinson



Language tips

Subject Pronouns - Often Dropped in Spanish (Related words: **Ganaba, He earned, Era, He was**)

Spanish often omits subject pronouns because the verb ending shows who is doing the action. English always needs them, so 'Ganaba' becomes 'He earned'.

- Trabajo → I work
- Comes → You eat
- Viven → They live

Past Tenses - Pretérito vs Imperfecto (Related words: **Nací, I was born, Era, He was**)

Spanish uses 'pretérito' for completed actions (nací, vino) and 'imperfecto' for ongoing past states (era, ganaba). English uses simple past for both.

- Llegué → I arrived
- Vivía → I lived/was living
- Comí → I ate

Reflexive Verbs - Se casó (Related words: **Se casó con, He married**)

Spanish uses 'se casó con' (literally 'married himself with') where English just says 'he married'. The reflexive pronoun 'se' doesn't translate directly.

- me levanto → I get up
- te llamas → your name is
- se sienta → he sits down

Possessive Adjectives - Mi/My (Related words: **Mi nombre, My name, mi madre, my mother**)

Spanish possessive adjectives (mi, tu, su) must agree in number with the noun. English possessives (my, your, his/her) never change.



- mi casa → my house
- mis libros → my books
- su padre → his/her father

Spanish

2. **Tenía** dos hermanos mayores. Un hermano **era** soldado. **Murió** en una guerra en Flandes. Nunca supe qué **pasó** con mi otro hermano. Mis padres nunca supieron qué **pasó** **conmigo** tampoco. Yo **era** el tercer hijo. Mi padre **no me enseñó** un oficio.

English

2. I had two older brothers. One brother was a soldier. He died in a war in Flanders. I never knew what happened to my other brother. My parents never knew what happened to me either. I was the third son. My father didn't teach me a trade.

Spanish	English
tenía	i had
dos hermanos	two brothers
mayores	older
un hermano	one brother
soldado	a soldier
murió	he died
una guerra	a war
flandes	flanders

Spanish	English
nunca	never
supe	i knew
qué	what
pasó	happened
con	to
mi otro hermano	my other brother
mis padres	my parents
supieron	knew

Spanish	English
conmigo	to me
tampoco	either
yo	i
el tercer hijo	the third son
no me enseñó	didn't teach me
un oficio	a trade



Language tips

Imperfect Past - Tenía vs Had (Related words: **Tenía, I had, era, was**)

Spanish uses the imperfect tense (tenía, era) for ongoing states in the past. English uses 'had' or 'was' for similar meanings.

- tenía diez años → I was ten years old
- era feliz → I was happy
- vivía en España → I lived in Spain

Simple Past - Murió vs Died (Related words: **Murió, He died, pasó, happened**)

The Spanish preterite (murió, pasó, supe) describes completed past actions. English uses simple past forms like 'died', 'happened', 'knew'.

- llegó ayer → he arrived yesterday
- comí pizza → I ate pizza
- escribió un libro → she wrote a book

Conmigo vs To Me (Related words: **conmigo, to me**)

'Conmigo' is a special Spanish form meaning 'with me'. 'Con' (with) + 'mí' (me) becomes one word. English keeps them separate or uses 'to me' in this context.

- contigo → with you
- consigo → with him/her
- con nosotros → with us

Negative Past - No enseñó (Related words: **no me enseñó, didn't teach me**)



Spanish puts 'no' before the verb for negation: 'no enseñó'. English uses 'didn't' + base verb: 'didn't teach'.

- no comí → I didn't eat
- no fue → he didn't go
- no vimos → we didn't see

Spanish 🇪🇸

3. **Empecé a soñar** con aventuras. **Pensaba** en viajar todo el tiempo. Mi padre era viejo. **Me** mandó a la escuela. **Quería que fuera** abogado. Pero yo solo **quería** una cosa. **Quería** ir **al mar**.

English 🇬🇧

3. I started to dream about adventures. I thought about traveling all the time. My father was old. He sent me to school. He wanted me to be a lawyer. But I only wanted one thing. I wanted to go to sea.

Spanish	English
empecé a	i started to
soñar	dream
con	about
aventuras	adventures
pensaba	i thought
en	about
viajar	traveling
todo el tiempo	all the time

Spanish	English
viejo	old
me	he
mandó	sent me
a	to
la escuela	school
quería	i wanted
que	me
fuera	to be

Spanish	English
abogado	a lawyer
pero	but
solo	only
una cosa	one thing
ir	to go
al mar	to sea



Language tips

Empezar a + Infinitive (Related words: **Empecé a, I started to, soñar, dream**)

Spanish uses 'empezar a' + infinitive to mean 'start to' do something. English uses 'started to' + base verb.

- comenzó a llover → it started to rain
- empiezo a trabajar → I start to work
- empezaron a cantar → they started to sing

Imperfect for Habits - Pensaba (Related words: **Pensaba, I thought, quería, wanted**)

The imperfect tense (pensaba, quería) describes repeated or habitual actions in the past. English often adds 'used to' or uses past continuous.

- jugaba fútbol → I used to play soccer
- leía mucho → I read a lot
- visitábamos → we used to visit

Al = a + el (Related words: **al mar, to sea**)

'Al' is a contraction of 'a' (to) + 'el' (the). English doesn't contract these words and just says 'to the'.

- voy al parque → I go to the park
- del (de + el) → from the
- al cine → to the movies

Subjunctive After Querer que (Related words: **Quería, He wanted, que, me, fuera, to be**)

After 'quería que' (wanted that), Spanish uses subjunctive mood (fuera). English simplifies this to 'wanted me to be'.



- quiero que vengas → I want you to come
- esperaba que llegara → I hoped he would arrive
- pedí que ayudara → I asked him to help

Spanish

4. Mi padre **estaba** **enojado** por esto. Mi madre **estaba** **enojada** también. Todos mis amigos me dijeron que me quedara en casa. Pero algo dentro de mí quería ir. **No podía dejar de pensar** en barcos y el océano. No sabía que este deseo me **traería** problemas terribles.

English

4. My father was angry about this. My mother was angry too. All my friends told me to stay home. But something inside me wanted to go. I couldn't stop thinking about ships and the ocean. I didn't know that this desire would bring me terrible problems.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
estaba	was	dijeron	told	el océano	the ocean
enojado	angry	que me quedara	to stay	no sabía	i didn't know
por	about	en casa	home	que	that
esto	this	algo	something	este deseo	this desire
enojada	angry	dentro de	inside	traería	would bring
también	too	mí	me	problemas	problems
todos	all	no podía dejar de pensar	i couldn't stop thinking	terribles	terrible
mis amigos	my friends	barcos	ships		
me	me	y	and		



Language tips

Estar + Adjective for States (Related words: **estaba, was, enojado, angry**)

Spanish uses 'estar' + adjective (estaba enojado) for temporary states or emotions. English just uses 'was angry'.

- está feliz → she is happy
- estoy cansado → I am tired
- estaban preocupados → they were worried

Gender Agreement - Enojado/Enojada (Related words: **enojado, enojada, angry**)

Spanish adjectives change based on gender: 'enojado' (masculine), 'enojada' (feminine). English 'angry' stays the same.

- el niño alto → the tall boy
- la niña alta → the tall girl
- contentos/contentas → happy

No poder + Infinitive (Related words: **No podía dejar de pensar, I couldn't stop thinking**)

'No podía dejar de' means 'couldn't stop'. Spanish uses 'no poder' + infinitive, while English uses 'couldn't' + base verb.

- no puedo dormir → I can't sleep
- no podemos ir → we can't go
- no podía ver → I couldn't see

Conditional Tense - Traería (Related words: **traería, would bring**)



The conditional tense (traería) expresses 'would' actions. Spanish adds endings to the infinitive, English uses 'would' + verb.

- hablaría → I would speak
- comerías → you would eat
- vivirían → they would live

Spanish

5. Un día mi padre **me llamó** a su cuarto. **Estaba** enfermo con gota. **No podía caminar.** Quería hablar seriamente conmigo. "¿Por qué quieres **irte?**" **me preguntó.** "Tienes todo aquí. **Puedes** tener una buena vida. **Puedes** ganar dinero."

English

5. One day my father called me to his room. He was sick with gout. He couldn't walk. He wanted to talk seriously with me. "Why do you want to leave?" he asked me. "You have everything here. You can have a good life. You can earn money."

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
un día	one day	hablar	to talk	todo	everything
me llamó	called me	seriamente	seriously	aquí	here
a su cuarto	to his room	conmigo	with me	puedes	you can
estaba	he was	¿por qué	why	tener	have
enfermo	sick	quieres	do you want	una buena vida	a good life
con	with	irte	to leave	ganar	earn
gota	gout	me preguntó	he asked me	dinero	money
no podía caminar	he couldn't walk	tienes	you have		



Language tips

Past Tense - Pretérito vs Imperfecto (Related words: **llamó, called, Estaba, He was**)

Spanish has two main past tenses. 'Llamó' (simple past) is for completed actions. 'Estaba' (imperfect) describes ongoing states in the past.

- llamó → called (one-time action)
- estaba → was (ongoing state)
- comió → ate vs comía → was eating

Reflexive Verb - Irte (Related words: **irte, to leave**)

'Irte' means 'to leave/go away' (literally 'to go yourself'). The '-te' shows the action affects yourself.

- irte → to leave
- sentarte → to sit down
- levantarte → to get up

Object Pronouns - Me (Related words: **me llamó, called me, me preguntó, he asked me**)

Spanish 'me' can mean 'me' or 'to me'. It goes before the verb: 'me llamó' (called me), 'me preguntó' (asked me).

- me dio → gave me
- te veo → I see you
- lo tiene → has it

Modal Verb - Poder (Related words: **No podía caminar, He couldn't walk, Puedes, You can**)



'Poder' means 'can/to be able to'. 'No podía' means 'couldn't' - combining negation with the imperfect past.

- puedo ir → I can go
- no puede → can't
- podía hacer → could do

Spanish

6. **Se sentó** en su cama. Su cara estaba seria.
"Escúchame, hijo. Los hombres pobres van **al mar.**
Tienen que comer. Los hombres ricos van **al mar**
 para ser famosos. Pero tú no eres pobre. No eres rico.
 Estás en el medio."

English

6. He sat on his bed. His face was serious. "Listen to me, son. Poor men go to sea. They have to eat. Rich men go to sea to be famous. But you are not poor. You are not rich. You are in the middle."

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
se sentó	he sat	los hombres	the men	ser	be
en	on	pobres	poor	famosos	famous
su cama	his bed	van	go	tú	you
su cara	his face	tienen que	they have to	no eres pobre	are not poor
seria	serious	comer	eat	no eres rico	you are not rich
escúchame	listen to me	ricos	rich	estás	you are
hijo	son	para	to	el medio	the middle



Language tips

Reflexive Verbs - Se sentó (Related words: **Se sentó, He sat**)

'Sentarse' (to sit down) is reflexive. 'Se sentó' literally means 'he sat himself' but translates to 'he sat down'.

- se levantó → got up
- me visto → I get dressed
- te lavas → you wash yourself

Imperative Mood - Escúchame (Related words: **Escúchame, Listen to me**)

'Escúchame' combines the command 'escucha' (listen) with 'me' (to me). Commands attach pronouns to the end.

- dime → tell me
- ayúdalo → help him
- siéntate → sit down

Contraction - Al (Related words: **al mar, to sea**)

'Al' is a contraction of 'a + el' (to + the). Spanish always contracts these two words together.

- al parque → to the park
- del niño → of the boy
- al cine → to the cinema

Tener que - Obligation (Related words: **Tienen que, They have to**)

'Tener que' means 'to have to' or 'must'. It expresses obligation or necessity.

- tengo que ir → I have to go
- tienes que estudiar → you must study



• tenemos que comer → we have to eat

Spanish

7. "La vida del medio es perfecta," continuó mi padre.
"La gente pobre trabaja muy duro. Sus cuerpos se rompen. Nunca tienen suficiente comida. La gente rica tiene otros problemas. Se preocupan por su dinero. Tienen enemigos."

English

7. "The middle life is perfect," my father continued.
"Poor people work very hard. Their bodies break. They never have enough food. Rich people have other problems. They worry about their money. They have enemies."

Spanish	English
la vida	the life
del medio	of the middle
perfecta	perfect
continuó	continued
la gente	the people
pobre	poor
trabaja	work

Spanish	English
muy	very
duro	hard
sus cuerpos	their bodies
se rompen	break
nunca tienen suficiente comida	they never have enough food
rica	rich
tiene	have

Spanish	English
otros	other
se preocupan	they worry
su dinero	their money
tienen	they have
enemigos	enemies



Language tips

La gente - Collective Noun (Related words: La gente, The people, trabaja, work)

'La gente' (the people) is singular in Spanish but often translates to plural in English. The verb stays singular: 'trabaja' not 'trabajan'.

- la gente come → people eat
- la familia vive → the family lives
- el grupo canta → the group sings

Double Negation - Nunca tienen (Related words: Nunca tienen suficiente comida, They never have enough food)

Spanish uses 'nunca' (never) with the verb directly. English says 'never have' while Spanish says 'nunca tienen'.

- nunca voy → I never go
- no tengo nada → I don't have anything
- no veo a nadie → I don't see anyone

Reflexive - Se preocupan (Related words: Se preocupan, They worry)

'Preocuparse' (to worry) is reflexive in Spanish. 'Se preocupan' literally means 'they worry themselves' but translates as 'they worry'.

- me preocupo → I worry
- te diviertes → you have fun
- nos cansamos → we get tired

Adjective Position - Gente pobre vs Poor people (Related words: gente, pobre, people, poor)

Spanish often places adjectives after nouns: 'gente pobre' (people poor). English always puts them before: 'poor people'.



- casa grande → big house
- coche nuevo → new car
- día feliz → happy day

Spanish

8. "¿Pero **la gente** del medio? **Tienen** suficiente. Están sanos. Duermen bien por la noche. Hasta los reyes desean haber nacido en la clase media. Los hombres sabios de antes lo **dijeron** también. Solo querían lo suficiente. **Eso** es lo que tienes, mi hijo."

English

8. "But the middle people? They have enough. They are healthy. They sleep well at night. Even kings wish they had been born in the middle class. The wise men of before said it too. They only wanted enough. That's what you have, my son."

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
¿pero	but	hasta	even	lo	it
suficiente	enough	los reyes	kings	dijeron	said
están	they are	desean	wish	querían	wanted
sanos	healthy	haber nacido	they had been born	lo suficiente	enough
duermen	they sleep	la clase media	the middle class	eso	that
bien	well	los hombres sabios	the wise men	lo que	what
por la noche	at night	de antes	of before	mi hijo	my son



Language tips

Subject Pronoun Dropping - Tienen vs They have (Related words: **Tienen, They have**)

Spanish often drops subject pronouns because the verb ending shows who's doing the action. 'Tienen' already means 'they have' without needing 'ellos'. English always needs the pronoun 'they'.

- duermen → they sleep
- comen → they eat
- viven → they live

Article + Noun - La gente vs The people (Related words: **la gente, the people**)

Spanish uses articles with general concepts like 'la gente' (the people). Both languages use articles similarly here, but Spanish articles show gender (la = feminine).

- el tiempo → the time
- la vida → the life
- los niños → the children

Past Tense - Dijeron vs Said (Related words: **dijeron, said**)

Spanish 'dijeron' is the simple past tense, showing a completed action in the past. It translates directly to English 'said', which also shows completed past action.

- hablaron → they spoke
- comieron → they ate
- vivieron → they lived



Demonstrative Pronouns - Eso vs That (Related words: **Eso, That**)

Spanish 'eso' means 'that' when referring to an idea or situation. It's neutral gender. English 'that' works the same way but doesn't have gender.

- esto → this
- eso → that
- aquello → that (over there)

Spanish

9. Mi padre **siguió hablando**. "En la clase media **puedes tener** paz. **Puedes tener** amigos. **Puedes** disfrutar placeres simples. **Trabajas** pero no muy duro. **Tienes** dinero pero no demasiado. **No necesitas** pelear por pan. **Puedes** vivir honestamente y morir en paz."

English

9. My father kept talking. "In the middle class you can have peace. You can have friends. You can enjoy simple pleasures. You work but not too hard. You have money but not too much. You don't need to fight for bread. You can live honestly and die in peace."

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
siguió	kept	trabajas	you work	por	for
hablando	talking	no	not	pan	bread
paz	peace	muy	too	vivir	live
amigos	friends	demasiado	too much	honestamente	honestly
disfrutar	enjoy	no necesitas	you don't need	morir	die
placeres simples	simple pleasures	pelear	to fight		



Language tips

Seguir + Gerund - Kept Doing (Related words: **siguió, hablando, kept, talking**)

Spanish uses 'seguir' + gerund (-ando/-iendo) to express 'keep doing something'. English uses 'kept' + -ing form.

- siguió comiendo → kept eating
- sigo estudiando → I keep studying
- siguen trabajando → they keep working

Modal Verb Poder - Can (Related words: **puedes, tener, you can, have**)

Spanish 'poder' means 'can' or 'to be able to'. It's followed by an infinitive verb, just like in English.

- puedo ir → I can go
- puede hablar → he/she can speak
- podemos comer → we can eat

Subject Pronoun Dropping (Related words: **Trabajas, You work, Tienes, You have**)

Spanish often drops the subject pronoun 'tú' because the verb ending shows who's doing the action. English always needs 'you'.

- Comes → You eat
- Vives → You live
- Estudias → You study



Negative with No - Simple Negation (Related words: **No necesitas, You don't need**)

Spanish uses 'no' before the verb for negation. English uses 'don't/doesn't' or 'not' depending on the structure.

- no quiero → I don't want
- no viene → he/she doesn't come
- no tenemos → we don't have

Spanish

10. Entonces su voz **se volvió** más dura. "¿Pero si vas **al mar?** Solo **encontrarás** miseria. Te aviso ahora. Si te vas, **sufrirás.** Estarás solo. **Tendrás hambre.** Enfrentarás tormentas y enfermedad."

English

10. Then his voice became harder. "But if you go to sea? You will only find misery. I warn you now. If you leave, you will suffer. You will be alone. You will be hungry. You will face storms and illness."

Spanish	English
entonces	then
su voz	his voice
se volvió	became
más	more
dura	harder
si	if
vas	you go

Spanish	English
solo	alone
encontrarás	find
miseria	misery
te	you
aviso	i warn
ahora	now
te vas	you leave

Spanish	English
sufrirás	you will suffer
estarás	you will be
tendrás	you will be
hambre	hungry
enfrentarás	you will face
tormentas	storms
enfermedad	illness



Language tips

Reflexive Verb - Se Volvió (Related words: **se volvió, became**)

Spanish reflexive verb 'volverse' means 'to become'. The 'se' shows the action affects the subject itself.

- me volví triste → I became sad
- se vuelve difícil → it becomes difficult
- nos volvemos amigos → we become friends

Future Tense - Will (Related words: **encontrarás, will find, sufrirás, will suffer**)

Spanish future tense adds endings to the infinitive: -é, -ás, -á, -emos, -éis, -án. English uses 'will' + verb.

- hablaré → I will speak
- comerás → you will eat
- vivirán → they will live

Contraction Al - To The (Related words: **al mar, to sea**)

Spanish combines 'a + el' into 'al' (to the). English keeps them separate as 'to the' or sometimes just 'to'.

- al parque → to the park
- al médico → to the doctor
- al cine → to the cinema

Tener Hambre - To Be Hungry (Related words: **Tendrás, hambre, You will be, hungry**)

Spanish uses 'tener' (to have) + noun for feelings. English uses 'to be' + adjective. 'Tener hambre' literally means 'to have hunger'.



- tengo sed → I am thirsty
- tiene miedo → he/she is afraid
- tenemos frío → we are cold

Spanish

11. **Empezó a llorar** cuando habló de mi hermano que murió. "Tu hermano **tampoco** me escuchó. **Quería** ser soldado. **Quería** gloria. Ahora **está muerto** en un país extranjero. ¿Quieres morir lejos de casa también?" Mi padre no pudo hablar más.

English

11. He started to cry when he spoke about my brother who died. "Your brother didn't listen to me either. He wanted to be a soldier. He wanted glory. Now he is dead in a foreign country. Do you want to die far from home too?" My father couldn't speak anymore.

Spanish	English
empezó a	he started to
llorar	cry
cuando	when
habló	he spoke
de	about
mi hermano	my brother
que	who
murió	died

Spanish	English
tu hermano	your brother
me	to me
escuchó	didn't listen
ser	to be
gloria	glory
está	he is
muerto	dead
un país extranjero	a foreign country

Spanish	English
¿quieres	do you want
morir	to die
lejos de	far from
casa	home
no pudo	couldn't
hablar	speak
más	anymore



Language tips

Empezar a + Infinitive (Related words: **Empezó a, llorar, started to, cry**)

Spanish uses 'empezar a' + infinitive to mean 'to start doing something'. English uses 'start to' or 'start' + -ing.

- empiezo a estudiar → I start to study
- empezaron a correr → they started to run
- empieza a llover → it starts to rain

Tampoco - Negative Either (Related words: **tampoco, either**)

Spanish 'tampoco' means 'either' or 'neither' in negative sentences. It reinforces the negative idea without using 'no'.

- yo tampoco → me neither
- no come tampoco → he doesn't eat either
- tampoco quiero → I don't want to either

Imperfect Past - Quería (Related words: **Quería, He wanted**)

Spanish imperfect tense describes ongoing or habitual past actions. 'Quería' shows a continued desire in the past.

- vivía → I/he/she lived
- trabajábamos → we worked
- comían → they ate/were eating

Estar + Adjective for States (Related words: **está, muerto, is, dead**)

Spanish uses 'estar' + adjective for temporary states or conditions. 'Está muerto' describes the state of being dead.

- está cansado → he is tired
- están felices → they are happy



• estoy enfermo → I am sick

Spanish

12. **Me conmovió** lo que dijo. ¿Qué hijo no se conmovió? **Decidí quedarme** en casa. **Olvidaría** el mar. **Haría** feliz **a mi padre**. Pero mi decisión no duró. Después de unos días quería irme otra vez.

English

12. I was moved by what he said. What son wouldn't be moved? I decided to stay at home. I would forget the sea. I would make my father happy. But my decision didn't last. After a few days I wanted to leave again.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
me conmovió	i was moved	en casa	at home	mi decisión	my decision
dijo	he said	olvidaría	i would forget	no duró	didn't last
¿qué	what	el mar	the sea	después de	after
no se conmovió	wouldn't be moved	haría	i would make	unos días	a few days
decidí	i decided	feliz	happy	irme	to leave
quedarme	to stay	a mi padre	my father	otra vez	again



Language tips

Reflexive Verbs - Me conmovió (Related words: **Me conmovió, I was moved**)

Spanish 'me conmovió' means 'it moved me' or 'I was moved'. The 'me' shows who was affected. English uses passive voice 'I was moved' instead.

- me gustó → I liked it
- me sorprendió → I was surprised
- te asustó → you were scared

Conditional Tense - Would (Related words: **Olvidaría, I would forget, Haría, I would make**)

Spanish conditional ending -ía/-ías/-ía expresses 'would' in English. Used for hypothetical situations or polite requests.

- comería → I would eat
- viviría → I would live
- escribiría → I would write

Infinitives after Verbs - Decidí quedarme (Related words: **Decidí, I decided, quedarme, to stay**)

After 'decidir' (to decide), Spanish uses infinitive 'quedarme'. English uses 'to stay'. The -me ending shows it's reflexive.

- quiero ir → I want to go
- necesito comer → I need to eat
- prefiero dormir → I prefer to sleep

Personal 'a' with People (Related words: **a mi padre, my father**)

Spanish uses 'a' before people as direct objects: 'Haría feliz a mi padre'. English doesn't need this preposition.

- veo a Juan → I see Juan
- llamo a mi madre → I call my mother
- ayudo a mis amigos → I help my friends

Spanish

English



13. Esperé unas semanas. Entonces **hablé con** mi madre. Pensé que sería más fácil convencerla que a mi padre. "Madre," le dije, **"tengo dieciocho años"** ahora. No puedo **dejar de pensar** en viajar. Si me quedo aquí **seré** infeliz para siempre."

13. I waited a few weeks. Then I talked to my mother. I thought it would be easier to convince her than my father. "Mother," I said to her, "I'm eighteen years old now. I can't stop thinking about traveling. If I stay here I'll be unhappy forever."

Spanish	English
esperé	i waited
unas semanas	a few weeks
hablé	i talked
pensé	i thought
sería	it would be
más fácil	easier
convencerla	to convince her

Spanish	English
que	than
madre	mother
le dije	i said to her
tengo	i'm
dieciocho años	eighteen years old
no puedo	i can't
dejar de	stop

Spanish	English
pensar	thinking
me quedo	i stay
seré	i'll be
infeliz	unhappy
para siempre	forever



Language tips

Hablar con vs Talk to (Related words: **hablé, i talked, con, to**)

Spanish uses 'hablar con' (literally 'talk with'). English uses 'talk to'. Both mean the same thing.

- hablar con ella → talk to her
- discutir con → argue with
- conversar con → chat with

Age Expression - Tener años (Related words: **tengo, i'm, dieciocho años, eighteen years old**)

Spanish uses 'tener' (to have) with age: 'tengo dieciocho años'. English uses 'to be': 'I'm eighteen years old'.

- tienes veinte años → you're twenty years old
- tiene cinco años → he's five years old
- tenemos treinta años → we're thirty years old

Dejar de + Infinitive (Related words: **dejar de, stop, pensar, thinking**)

Spanish 'dejar de' + infinitive means 'to stop' doing something. English uses 'stop' + -ing form.

- dejar de fumar → stop smoking
- dejar de llorar → stop crying
- dejar de trabajar → stop working

Future Tense - Seré (Related words: **seré, i'll be**)

Spanish future tense adds endings to the infinitive: ser + é = seré. English uses 'will' or contractions like 'I'll'.

- hablaré → I'll speak
- comerás → you'll eat
- vivirá → he'll live

Spanish 🇪🇸

English 🇬🇧



14. "Por favor **habla** con Padre," continué. "**Pídele** que me deje ir en solo un viaje. Si **no me gusta** regresaré a casa. Lo prometo. Trabajaré **dos veces más duro** para compensar el tiempo perdido." Pero mi madre **se puso muy enojada**.

14. "Please talk to Father," I continued. "Ask him to let me go on just one trip. If I don't like it, I'll return home. I promise. I'll work twice as hard to make up for the lost time." But my mother got very angry.

Spanish	English
por favor	please
habla	talk
padre	father
continué	i continued
pídele	ask him
que	to
me deje	let me

Spanish	English
ir	go
solo	just
un viaje	one trip
no me gusta	i don't like it
regresaré	i'll return
a casa	home
lo prometo	i promise

Spanish	English
trabajaré	i'll work
dos veces	twice
más duro	as hard
compensar	make up for
el tiempo perdido	the lost time
se puso	got
muy enojada	very angry



Language tips

Imperative Commands - Habla, Pídele (Related words: **habla, talk, Pídele, Ask him**)

Spanish imperatives give direct commands. 'Habla' (talk!) and 'pídele' (ask him!) are informal commands. The -le ending means 'to him/her'.

- come → eat!
- escribe → write!
- dile → tell him/her!

Gustar - Reverse Structure (Related words: **no me gusta, I don't like it**)

Spanish 'no me gusta' literally means 'it doesn't please me'. English simply says 'I don't like it'. The structure is reversed.

- te gusta → you like it
- le gustan los libros → he/she likes books
- nos gusta viajar → we like traveling

Ponerse + Adjective (Related words: **se puso, got, muy enojada, very angry**)

Spanish 'ponerse' + adjective means 'to become/get'. 'Se puso enojada' = 'she got angry'. English uses 'get' or 'become'.

- me pongo nervioso → I get nervous
- te pones triste → you get sad
- se pone feliz → he/she gets happy

Double the Amount - Dos veces (Related words: **dos veces, twice, más duro, as hard**)

Spanish uses 'dos veces' (two times) where English says 'twice'. 'Más duro' means 'harder' - together they mean 'twice as hard'.

- tres veces → three times
- una vez → once
- muchas veces → many times



Spanish

15. "¿Cómo **puedes pedir** esto?" dijo. "Tu padre **te ama**. Quiere lo mejor para ti. Nunca **estará** de acuerdo con este plan tonto. Y no le **preguntaré**. **¡No te ayudaré** a destruir tu vida!"

English

15. "How can you ask for this?" he said. "Your father loves you. He wants the best for you. He will never agree with this foolish plan. And I will not ask him. I will not help you destroy your life!"

Spanish	English
¿cómo	how
puedes	can you
pedir	ask for
tu padre	your father
ama	loves
quiere	he wants

Spanish	English
lo mejor	the best
para	for
ti	you
estará	will he be
de acuerdo	in agreement
este plan	this plan

Spanish	English
tonto	foolish
le	him
preguntaré	will i ask
¡no te ayudaré	i will not help you
destruir	destroy
tu vida	your life



Language tips

Modal Verb + Infinitive - Puedes Pedir (Related words: **puedes, pedir, can you, ask for**)

Spanish uses 'poder' (can) + infinitive just like English uses 'can' + base verb. The modal verb is conjugated, but the following verb stays in infinitive form.

- puedo ir → I can go
- quiero comer → I want to eat
- debes estudiar → you must study

Object Pronouns - Te vs You (Related words: **te, ama, loves, you**)

Spanish 'te' means 'you' as an object. It comes before the verb in Spanish, but after in English: 'te ama' becomes 'loves you'.

- me ve → he sees me
- nos llama → she calls us
- los busco → I look for them

Future Tense - Will (Related words: **estará, will he be, preguntaré, will I ask**)

Spanish future tense uses one word 'estará' while English uses two words 'will be'. Spanish adds endings to the infinitive to show future.

- hablaré → I will speak
- comerás → you will eat
- vivirá → he will live

Double Negative - No...Ayudaré (Related words: **¡No te ayudaré, I will not help you**)

Spanish uses 'no' before the verb to make it negative. English combines this into 'will not' or 'won't'. The structure changes between languages.

- no comeré → I will not eat
- no irás → you will not go
- no veremos → we will not see

Spanish

English



16. Pero mi madre sí **le contó** a mi padre sobre nuestra conversación. Después escuché lo que él dijo. Suspiró profundamente. **Le dijo**, "Si ese muchacho **se queda** en casa **podría** ser feliz. Pero si va al mar **será** la persona más miserable en la tierra. No puedo dar mi permiso."

16. But my mother did tell my father about our conversation. Later I heard what he said. He sighed deeply. He said to her, "If that boy stays home he could be happy. But if he goes to sea he will be the most miserable person on earth. I cannot give my permission."

Spanish	English
sí	did
le contó	tell
sobre	about
nuestra conversación	our conversation
escuché	i heard
él	he
dijo	said

Spanish	English
suspiró	he sighed
profundamente	deeply
le dijo	he said to her
ese muchacho	that boy
se queda	stays
podría	he could
va	he goes

Spanish	English
será	he will be
la persona	the person
más miserable	most miserable
en la tierra	on earth
no puedo dar mi permiso	i cannot give my permission



Language tips

Indirect Object Pronouns - Le (Related words: **le contó, tell, Le dijo, He said to her**)

Spanish 'le' means 'to him/her'. It comes before the verb: 'le contó' (told to him). English puts it after: 'told him'.

- le doy → I give to him/her
- te escribo → I write to you
- nos dicen → they tell us

Reflexive Verbs - Se Queda (Related words: **se queda, stays**)

Spanish 'quedarse' (to stay) is reflexive. 'Se queda' means 'he stays'. English doesn't use a reflexive form here.

- me levanto → I get up
- te acuestas → you go to bed
- se sienta → he/she sits down

Conditional Mood - Podría (Related words: **podría, he could**)

Spanish 'podría' expresses possibility (could/would be able to). It's formed differently than English 'could'.

- haría → I would do
- dirías → you would say
- vendríamos → we would come

Future Tense - Será (Related words: **será, he will be**)

Spanish future 'será' (will be) is one word. English uses two words: 'will' + verb.

- hablaré → I will speak
- comerás → you will eat
- vivirán → they will live



17. Esperé casi un año. Durante este tiempo mis padres trataron todo. **Querían** que **aprendiera** un oficio. **Querían** que **trabajara** en una tienda. Pero **me negué**. Solo podía pensar en barcos y aventura. **Nada más me interesaba**.

17. I waited almost a year. During this time my parents tried everything. They wanted me to learn a trade. They wanted me to work in a shop. But I refused. I could only think about ships and adventure. Nothing else interested me.

Spanish	English
casi	almost
un año	a year
durante	during
este tiempo	this time
trataron	tried

Spanish	English
querían	they wanted
aprendiera	to learn
trabajara	to work
en una tienda	in a shop
me negué	i refused

Spanish	English
podía	i could
pensar	think
aventura	adventure
nada más me interesaba	nothing else interested me



Language tips

Imperfect Tense - Querían (Related words: **Querían, They wanted**)

Spanish imperfect 'querían' describes ongoing past actions. English uses 'wanted' or 'were wanting'.

- hablaba → I was speaking
- comías → you were eating
- vivíamos → we used to live

Subjunctive After Querer - Aprendiera (Related words: **aprendiera, to learn, trabajara, to work**)

After 'querían que' (they wanted that), Spanish uses subjunctive 'aprendiera'. English just uses infinitive 'to learn'.

- quiero que vengas → I want you to come
- espera que llueva → he hopes it rains
- dudo que sepa → I doubt he knows

Reflexive Past - Me Negué (Related words: **me negué, I refused**)

Spanish 'negarse' (to refuse) is reflexive: 'me negué'. English 'refused' isn't reflexive.

- te caíste → you fell
- se durmió → he/she fell asleep
- nos perdimos → we got lost

Double Negative - Nada Más (Related words: **Nada más me interesaba, Nothing else interested me**)

Spanish 'nada más' (nothing more) uses double negative structure. English says 'nothing else' with single negative.

- no veo nada → I don't see anything
- nunca come nada → he never eats anything
- nadie sabe nada → nobody knows anything

Spanish

18. Entonces un día fui a Hull. **No tenía plan de escaparme**. Solo **estaba visitando**. Pero en Hull **conocí a un amigo**. Su padre tenía un barco que iba a Londres. "¡Ven conmigo!" dijo mi amigo.

English

18. Then one day I went to Hull. I had no plan to escape. I was just visiting. But in Hull I met a friend. His father had a ship that was going to London. "Come with me!" said my friend.



Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
fui	i went	en hull	in hull	un barco	a ship
a hull	to hull	conocí	i met	iba	was going
no tenía plan de escaparme	i had no plan to escape	a un amigo	a friend	a londres	to london
estaba	i was	su padre	his father	¡ven	come
visitando	visiting	tenía	had	mi amigo	my friend



Language tips

Past Progressive - Estaba Visitando (Related words: **estaba, I was, visitando, visiting**)

Spanish uses imperfect 'estaba' + gerund 'visitando' for ongoing past actions. English uses 'was visiting'.

- estaba leyendo → I was reading
- estaban comiendo → they were eating
- estábamos durmiendo → we were sleeping

Imperative Commands - Ven (Related words: **Ven, Come**)

Spanish command 'ven' (come) is shorter than the regular form. English uses the same form as infinitive.

- habla → speak
- come → eat
- escribe → write

Double Negative with Tener - No Tenía (Related words: **No tenía plan de escaparme, I had no plan to escape**)

Spanish 'no tenía plan' uses double negative structure. English says 'had no plan' with single negative.

- no tengo tiempo → I have no time
- no había nadie → there was nobody
- no quiero nada → I want nothing

Personal 'a' with People - Conocí a (Related words: **conocí, I met, a un amigo, a friend**)

Spanish uses 'a' before a person as direct object: 'conocí a un amigo'. English doesn't: 'I met a friend'.

- veo a Juan → I see Juan
- llamó a su madre → he called his mother
- buscan a la profesora → they look for the teacher

Spanish

19. "No te costará nada," continuó. "El barco **de mi padre** tiene espacio. Londres es emocionante. ¡Te encantará!" **Debería haber dicho** que no. Debería haber ido a casa. Pero no pensé. No recé.

English

19. "It won't cost you anything," he continued. "My father's ship has space. London is exciting. You'll love it!" I should have said no. I should have gone home. But I didn't think. I didn't pray.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
no te costará nada	it won't cost you anything	espacio	space	que no	no
continuó	he continued	londres	london	debería haber ido	i should have gone



el barco	the ship	emocionante	exciting	no pensé	i didn't think
de mi padre	of my father	¡te encantará	you'll love it	no recé	i didn't pray
tiene	has	debería haber dicho	i should have said		



Language tips

Future Tense - Te costará (Related words: **No te costará, It won't cost you**)

Spanish 'costará' is future tense meaning 'will cost'. The pronoun 'te' shows it affects 'you'. English uses 'will' + verb for future.

- llegará → will arrive
- vendrá → will come
- será → will be

Gustar Verbs - Te encantará (Related words: **Te encantará, You'll love it**)

'Encantar' works like 'gustar' - literally 'it will enchant you'. English says 'you will love it' with different structure.

- me gusta → I like
- te molesta → it bothers you
- nos importa → it matters to us

Should Have - Debería haber (Related words: **Debería haber dicho, I should have said**)

Spanish uses 'debería haber' + past participle for regrets about the past. English uses 'should have' + past participle.

- podría haber ido → could have gone
- habría hecho → would have done
- tendría que haber visto → should have seen

Possession - de mi padre (Related words: **de mi padre, of my father**)

Spanish shows possession with 'de' (of): 'el barco de mi padre'. English uses 's' or 'of': 'my father's ship'.

- la casa de María → María's house
- el libro del niño → the boy's book
- los amigos de Juan → Juan's friends

Spanish

20. El 1 de septiembre de 1651, **subí** a ese barco. **No les escribí** a mis padres. No pedí la bendición de mi padre. Fue el comienzo de todos mis problemas. El barco **salió** de Hull y entró **al mar abierto**.

English

20. On September 1st, 1651, I boarded that ship. I didn't write to my parents. I didn't ask for my father's blessing. It was the beginning of all my problems. The ship left Hull and entered the open sea.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
el 1 de septiembre de 1651	on september 1st, 1651	no pedí	i didn't ask for	mis problemas	my problems
subí	i boarded	la bendición	the blessing	salió	left
a ese barco	that ship	fue	it was	de hull	from hull
no les escribí	i didn't write	el comienzo	the beginning	entró	entered
a mis padres	to my parents	de todos	of all	al mar abierto	the open sea



Language tips

Date Format - El 1 de septiembre (Related words: **El 1 de septiembre, On September 1st**)

Spanish uses 'el' + day + 'de' + month. English uses 'on' + month + day with ordinal numbers (1st, 2nd).

- el 5 de mayo → on May 5th
- el 25 de diciembre → on December 25th
- el 10 de enero → on January 10th

Indirect Object - Les escribí (Related words: **No les escribí, I didn't write**)

Spanish 'les' means 'to them'. 'No les escribí' = 'I didn't write to them'. English often needs the preposition 'to'.

- le dije → I told him/her
- les mandé → I sent them
- me llamó → he/she called me

Simple Past - Subí, Salió (Related words: **subí, I boarded, salió, left**)

Spanish past tense shows completed actions. 'Subí' = 'I boarded', 'salió' = 'left'. Notice the accent marks on some forms.

- comí → I ate
- bebió → he/she drank
- vivimos → we lived

Contraction - al (Related words: **al mar abierto, the open sea**)

'Al' is a contraction of 'a + el' (to + the). English doesn't contract these words: 'to the'.

- voy al parque → I go to the park
- del niño → of the boy
- al final → at the end

Spanish

21. Inmediatamente el viento **empezó a soplar**. Las olas se volvieron más y más grandes. **Nunca había estado** en un barco antes. **Me enfermé** terriblemente. Mi estómago se revolvió. Mi cabeza **daba vueltas**. Pero peor que la enfermedad **era** el miedo.

English

21. Immediately the wind began to blow. The waves became bigger and bigger. I had never been on a ship before. I got terribly sick. My stomach churned. My head was spinning. But worse than the sickness was the fear.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
inmediatamente	immediately	grandes	bigger	se revolvió	churned
el viento	the wind	nunca había estado	i had never been	mi cabeza	my head
empezó	began	en un barco	on a ship	daba vueltas	was spinning
a soplar	to blow	antes	before	peor	worse
las olas	the waves	me enfermé	i got sick	la enfermedad	the sickness
se volvieron	became	terriblemente	terribly	el miedo	the fear
más y más	bigger and bigger	mi estómago	my stomach		



Language tips

Empezar a - Begin to (Related words: **empezó, began, a soplar, to blow**)

Spanish uses 'empezar a' + infinitive for 'begin to' do something. The 'a' is required in Spanish but not in English.

- comenzó a llover → it began to rain
- empiezo a trabajar → I begin to work
- terminó de comer → he finished eating

Past Perfect - Había estado (Related words: **Nunca había estado, I had never been**)

'Había estado' means 'had been' - an action before another past action. Spanish and English structure is similar here.

- había comido → had eaten
- habías visto → you had seen
- habían llegado → they had arrived

Reflexive Verbs - Me enfermé (Related words: **Me enfermé, I got sick**)

Spanish 'enfermarse' is reflexive (me enfermé). English just says 'got sick' without a reflexive pronoun.

- me levanté → I got up
- se cayó → he/she fell
- nos perdimos → we got lost

Imperfect vs Simple Past (Related words: **daba vueltas, was spinning, era, was**)

'Daba vueltas' (imperfect) shows ongoing action in the past. 'Era' describes a past state. English uses 'was/were + -ing' or simple past.

- hablaba → was speaking
- vivían → they lived/were living
- tenía frío → I was cold

Spanish

22. La tormenta **se volvió** más fuerte. El barco **subía** **olas gigantes**. Entonces se estrellaba en valles profundos de agua. Cada vez que bajábamos **pensé** que nunca **subiríamos** otra vez. Estaba seguro de que todos **moriríamos**. Las olas serían mi tumba.

English

22. The storm became stronger. The ship climbed giant waves. Then it crashed into deep valleys of water. Every time we went down I thought we would never go up again. I was sure that we would all die. The waves would be my grave.

Spanish	English
la tormenta	the storm
fuerte	stronger
subía	climbed
olas	waves
gigantes	giant
se estrellaba	it crashed

Spanish	English
en	into
valles	valleys
profundos	deep
de agua	of water
cada vez que	every time
bajábamos	we went down

Spanish	English
subiríamos	we would go up
seguro	sure
de que	that
moriríamos	we would die
serían	would be
mi tumba	my grave



Language tips

Reflexive Verbs - Se volvió (Related words: **se volvió, became**)

Spanish uses reflexive verbs like 'se volvió' (became) where English uses simple verbs. The 'se' shows the action affects the subject itself.

- se volvió fuerte → it became strong
- me volví loco → I became crazy
- te volviste rico → you became rich

Past Tenses - Imperfect vs Simple Past (Related words: **subía, climbed, pensé, I thought**)

Spanish uses imperfect (subía, bajábamos) for repeated actions in the past, and simple past (pensé) for completed actions. English often uses simple past for both.

- comía → I was eating/I used to eat
- comí → I ate
- hablaba → I was speaking/I used to speak

Conditional Tense - Would (Related words: **subiríamos, we would go up, moriríamos, we would die**)

Spanish conditional (subiríamos, moriríamos) expresses 'would' + verb in English. It's formed by adding endings to the infinitive.

- hablaría → I would speak
- comerías → you would eat
- vivirían → they would live

Adjective Position - After Nouns (Related words: **olas, gigantes, waves, giant**)

Spanish typically places descriptive adjectives after nouns: 'olas gigantes' (waves giant). English puts them before: 'giant waves'.

- casa blanca → white house
- valles profundos → deep valleys
- libro interesante → interesting book

Spanish

23. "¡Oh Dios!" **recé.** "¡Sálvame! Si me dejas vivir **iré** a casa. **Escucharé** a mi padre. **Nunca iré al mar otra vez.** ¡Lo prometo! Veo ahora que él tenía razón. ¡La vida del medio es la mejor!"

English

23. "Oh God!" I prayed. "Save me! If you let me live I will go home. I will listen to my father. I will never go to sea again. I promise! I see now that he was right. The middle life is the best!"

Spanish	English
¡oh dios	oh god
recé	i prayed
¡sálvame	save me
dejas	you let
iré	i will go

Spanish	English
escucharé	i will listen
a mi padre	to my father
nunca iré al mar otra vez	i will never go to sea again
¡lo prometo	i promise
veo	i see

Spanish	English
razón	right
¡la vida	the life
la mejor	the best



Language tips

Simple Past - Recé vs I Prayed (Related words: **recé, I prayed**)

Spanish simple past (pretérito indefinido) shows completed actions. Regular -ar verbs add -é for 'yo' form.

- hablé → I spoke
- llamé → I called
- caminé → I walked

Imperative Commands - ¡Sálvame! (Related words: **¡Sálvame!, Save me!**)

Spanish imperatives give direct commands. Object pronouns attach to the end: 'salva' + 'me' = 'sálvame'.

- ¡Ayúdame! → Help me!
- ¡Escúchame! → Listen to me!
- ¡Mírame! → Look at me!

Future Tense - Iré vs I Will Go (Related words: **iré, I will go, Escucharé, I will listen**)

Spanish future tense uses one word with endings. English uses 'will' + verb. Spanish future often expresses promises.

- comeré → I will eat
- hablaré → I will speak
- viviré → I will live

Double Negation - Nunca iré (Related words: **Nunca iré al mar otra vez, I will never go to sea again**)

Spanish uses 'nunca' (never) with future tense directly. English puts 'never' between 'will' and verb.

- nunca volveré → I will never return
- nunca olvidaré → I will never forget

Spanish

24. **Pensé en** las lágrimas de mi padre. Recordé las advertencias de mi madre. Mi conciencia me **dolía**. **Había sido** un mal hijo. Me había ido sin permiso. **Había** roto sus corazones. Y ahora Dios me **estaba castigando**.

English

24. I thought of my father's tears. I remembered my mother's warnings. My conscience hurt me. I had been a bad son. I had left without permission. I had broken their hearts. And now God was punishing me.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
en	of	dolía	hurt	sin	without
las lágrimas	the tears	había	i had	permiso	permission
recordé	i remembered	sido	been	roto	broken
las advertencias	the warnings	un mal hijo	a bad son	sus corazones	their hearts
de mi madre	of my mother	me había	i had	dios	god
mi conciencia	my conscience	ido	left	estaba castigando	was punishing



Language tips



Pensar en vs Think of (Related words: Pensé, en, I thought, of)

Spanish 'pensar en' literally means 'think in', but translates to English 'think of' or 'think about'.

- pensar en → think of/about
- soñar con → dream about
- hablar de → talk about

Past Perfect - Había sido (Related words: Había, sido, I had, been)

Spanish past perfect uses 'había' + past participle. English uses 'had' + past participle. Shows actions completed before another past action.

- había comido → I had eaten
- había llegado → I had arrived
- había visto → I had seen

Imperfect vs Simple Past (Related words: dolía, hurt, Pensé, I thought)

Spanish imperfect 'dolía' shows ongoing past states. Simple past 'pensé' shows completed actions.

- vivía → I lived/was living
- comí → I ate
- hablaba → I was speaking

Progressive Past - Estaba castigando (Related words: estaba castigando, was punishing)

Spanish past continuous uses 'estaba' + gerund (-ando/-iendo). English uses 'was' + -ing form.

- estaba leyendo → was reading
- estaba comiendo → was eating
- estaba durmiendo → was sleeping

Spanish 🇪🇸

25. Toda la noche la tormenta continuó. **Hice** **promesa tras promesa** a Dios. **Sería** bueno. Siempre **obedecería** a mis padres. Solo por favor, por favor, ¡déjame vivir! Cada ola **parecía** **lista** para matarnos.

English 🇬🇧

25. All night the storm continued. I made promise after promise to God. I would be good. I would always obey my parents. Just please, please, let me live! Every wave seemed ready to kill us.

Spanish	English
toda	all
la noche	night
hice	i made
promesa tras promesa	promise after promise
a dios	to god
sería	i would be

Spanish	English
bueno	good
siempre	always
obedecería	i would obey
a mis padres	my parents
¡déjame	let me
cada	every

Spanish	English
ola	wave
parecía	seemed
lista	ready
matarnos	kill us



Language tips

Conditional Tense - Sería/Obedecería (Related words: Sería, I would be, obedecería, I would obey)



Spanish conditional uses one word with -ía endings. English uses 'would' + verb. Often expresses hypothetical situations or promises.

- hablaría → I would speak
- comería → I would eat
- viviría → I would live

Irregular Past - Hice vs I Made (Related words: **Hice, I made**)

Some Spanish verbs have irregular past forms. 'Hacer' changes to 'hice' for 'yo', not 'hacé'.

- tuve → I had
- puse → I put
- vine → I came

Repetition Phrases - Tras (Related words: **promesa tras promesa, promise after promise**)

'Tras' means 'after' or 'behind'. 'Promesa tras promesa' creates emphasis through repetition, like 'promise after promise'.

- día tras día → day after day
- vez tras vez → time after time
- año tras año → year after year

Parecer + Adjective (Related words: **parecía, lista, seemed, ready**)

Spanish 'parecer' + adjective means 'to seem' + adjective. 'Parecía lista' = 'seemed ready'. The adjective agrees with the subject.

- parece feliz → seems happy
- parecían cansados → they seemed tired
- parecía difícil → it seemed difficult

Spanish

26. Pero la mañana siguiente algo **cambió**. El viento **se volvió más calmado**. Las olas se volvieron **más pequeñas**. Salió el sol. Y de repente el océano no se veía tan terrible. En realidad **era** muy hermoso. Mi enfermedad se fue. Mi miedo desapareció también.

English

26. But the next morning something changed. The wind became calmer. The waves became smaller. The sun came out. And suddenly the ocean didn't look so terrible. Actually it was very beautiful. My illness went away. My fear disappeared too.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
la mañana siguiente	the next morning	el sol	the sun	hermoso	beautiful
cambió	changed	de repente	suddenly	mi enfermedad	my illness
más calmado	calmer	no se veía tan terrible	didn't look so terrible	se fue	went away
más pequeñas	smaller	en realidad	actually	mi miedo	my fear
salió	came out	era	it was	desapareció	disappeared



Language tips

Simple Past - Changed vs Cambió (Related words: **cambió, changed**)

Spanish past tense 'cambió' translates to 'changed'. Notice Spanish doesn't need 'it' as a subject - the verb ending shows who did the action.



- llegó → arrived
- empezó → started
- terminó → finished

Reflexive Verbs - Se volvió (Related words: **se volvió, became**)

'Se volvió' means 'became' or 'turned'. The 'se' shows the action happens to the subject itself. English doesn't use this reflexive structure.

- se puso → became/got
- se hizo → became/was made
- se sintió → felt

Comparative - Más + Adjective (Related words: **más calmado, calmer, más pequeñas, smaller**)

Spanish uses 'más' + adjective for comparatives. English adds '-er' to short adjectives or uses 'more' with longer ones.

- más grande → bigger
- más feliz → happier
- más alto → taller

Imperfect vs Simple Past (Related words: **era, it was, cambió, changed**)

'Era' (imperfect) describes how things were, while 'cambió' (simple past) shows a completed action. English uses 'was' vs 'changed'.

- tenía → had/was having
- vivía → lived/was living
- comió → ate

Spanish 🇪🇸

27. Mi amigo **me** **encontró** en cubierta. Se rió y **me** golpeó el hombro. "Estabas asustado anoche, ¿verdad? ¿Pensaste que ese pequeño viento nos mataría?" No podía creer sus palabras. "¿Pequeño viento?" dije. "¡Fue una tormenta terrible!"

English 🇬🇧

27. My friend found me on deck. He laughed and hit my shoulder. "You were scared last night, right? Did you think that little wind would kill us?" I couldn't believe his words. "Little wind?" I said. "It was a terrible storm!"

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
encontró	found	asustado	scared	sus palabras	his words
en cubierta	on deck	anoche	last night	¿pequeño viento	little wind
se rió	he laughed	¿verdad	right	dije	i said
me	my	¿pensaste	did you think	¡fue	it was
golpeó	hit	ese pequeño viento	that little wind	una tormenta terrible	a terrible storm
el hombro	shoulder	nos mataría	would kill us		
estabas	you were	no podía creer	i couldn't believe		



Language tips

Object Pronouns - Me encontré (Related words: **me, encontré, found**)



'Me' comes before the verb in Spanish but after in English: 'me encontré' becomes 'found me'. This word order difference is common.

- te veo → I see you
- lo compré → bought it
- nos llamó → called us

Tag Questions - ¿Verdad? (Related words: **¿verdad?, right?**)

Spanish uses '¿verdad?' at the end of statements to seek confirmation. English uses various tags like 'right?', 'isn't it?', or 'don't you?'

- ¿verdad? → right?
- ¿no? → isn't it?
- ¿cierto? → true?

Conditional - Mataría (Related words: **mataría, would kill**)

The conditional 'mataría' expresses 'would kill'. Spanish adds -ía endings to show conditional, while English uses 'would' + verb.

- comería → would eat
- viviría → would live
- hablaría → would speak

Ser vs Fue - Past Tense (Related words: **Fue, It was**)

'Fue' is the simple past of 'ser' (to be). It describes what something was at a specific moment, unlike 'era' which describes ongoing states.

- fue difícil → it was difficult
- fue ayer → it was yesterday
- fue bueno → it was good

Spanish

28. Se rió más fuerte. "¡Eso no fue nada! **Espera** hasta que veas una tormenta real. Solo eres un marinero nuevo. **Aprenderás.** ¡Ven, **bebamos** ponche. ¡Celebremos tu primera vez en el mar!" Fuimos abajo a beber.

English

28. He laughed louder. "That was nothing! Wait until you see a real storm. You're just a new sailor. You'll learn. Come, let's drink punch. Let's celebrate your first time at sea!" We went below to drink.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
más fuerte	louder	eres	you're	tu primera vez	your first time
¡eso no fue nada	that was nothing	un marinero nuevo	a new sailor	en el mar	at sea
espera	wait	aprenderás	you'll learn	fuimos	we went
hasta que	until	bebamos	let's drink	abajo	below
veas	you see	ponche	punch	beber	drink
una tormenta real	a real storm	¡celebremos	let's celebrate		



Language tips

Double Negation - No fue nada (Related words: **no fue nada, was nothing**)



Spanish uses double negatives: 'no fue nada' (literally 'not was nothing'). English uses single negation: 'was nothing'.

- no tengo nada → I have nothing
- no veo a nadie → I see nobody
- no quiero nada → I want nothing

Imperative Commands - Ven, Espera (Related words: Ven, Come, Espera, Wait)

Spanish commands like 'ven' (come) and 'espera' (wait) are direct orders. The form changes based on who you're talking to.

- mira → look
- escucha → listen
- habla → speak

Subjunctive for 'Let's' - Bebamos, Celebremos (Related words: bebamos, let's drink, Celebremos, Let's celebrate)

Spanish uses subjunctive forms ending in -emos/-amos for 'let's' suggestions. English uses 'let's' + base verb.

- comamos → let's eat
- vayamos → let's go
- hablemos → let's talk

Future Tense - Aprenderás (Related words: Aprenderás, You'll learn)

Spanish future tense adds endings to the infinitive: 'aprenderás' (you will learn). English uses 'will' + verb.

- hablarás → you'll speak
- comerás → you'll eat
- vivirás → you'll live

Spanish 🇪🇸

29. Bebimos. **Nos reímos.** Y en una noche **olvidé** todas **mis promesas** a Dios. **Olvidé** **mi miedo.** **Olvidé** la sabiduría de mi padre. El océano **estaba** calmado. Mi conciencia también. Alejé todos los pensamientos serios. Cuando trataron de volver bebí más ponche.

English 🇬🇧

29. We drank. We laughed. And in one night I forgot all my promises to God. I forgot my fear. I forgot my father's wisdom. The ocean was calm. My conscience too. I pushed away all serious thoughts. When they tried to return, I drank more punch.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
bebimos	we drank	mis promesas	my promises	serios	serious
nos reímos	we laughed	la sabiduría	the wisdom	trataron de	they tried to
una noche	one night	calmado	calm	volver	return
olvidé	i forgot	alejé	i pushed away	bebí	i drank
todas	all	los pensamientos	the thoughts		



Language tips

Past Tense - Pretérito Indefinido (Related words: olvidé, I forgot)



Spanish uses 'olvidé' for completed past actions. English uses 'I forgot'. The -é ending shows it's 'I' doing the action.

- hablé → I spoke
- comí → I ate
- escribí → I wrote

Reflexive Verbs - Nos reímos (Related words: **Nos reímos, We laughed**)

Spanish 'reírse' is reflexive, meaning 'to laugh' (literally 'laugh oneself'). The 'nos' shows 'we' are doing it to ourselves.

- me río → I laugh
- te ríes → you laugh
- se ríe → he/she laughs

Possessive Adjectives - Mi/Mis (Related words: **mis promesas, my promises, mi miedo, my fear**)

Spanish 'mi' means 'my' for singular nouns, 'mis' for plural. English always uses 'my' regardless of number.

- mi casa → my house
- mis libros → my books
- tu amigo → your friend

Imperfect vs Simple Past (Related words: **estaba, was, olvidé, forgot**)

Spanish 'estaba' (imperfect) describes ongoing states in the past. 'Olvidé' (simple past) shows completed actions.

- era feliz → I was happy
- llegué tarde → I arrived late
- tenía hambre → I was hungry

Spanish 🇪🇸

30. En cinco o seis días **me sentí** como un marinero real. **Estaba** orgulloso de mí mismo. Había sobrevivido mi primera tormenta. No era un cobarde. **Tendría** aventuras. **Vería** el mundo. **¿Qué** sabía mi padre sobre la vida?

English 🇬🇧

30. In five or six days I felt like a real sailor. I was proud of myself. I had survived my first storm. I wasn't a coward. I would have adventures. I would see the world. What did my father know about life?

Spanish	English
cinco o seis	five or six
días	days
me sentí	i felt
como	like
un marinero	a sailor
real	real

Spanish	English
orgulloso	proud
de mí mismo	of myself
había sobrevivido	i had survived
mi primera tormenta	my first storm
no era un cobarde	i wasn't a coward
tendría	i would have

Spanish	English
vería	i would see
el mundo	the world
sabía	did know
la vida	life



Language tips

Reflexive Verbs - Me sentí (Related words: **me sentí, I felt**)

Spanish uses 'me sentí' (literally 'I felt myself') where English just says 'I felt'. The reflexive pronoun 'me' is part of the verb in Spanish.



- me sentí → I felt
- te sentiste → you felt
- se sintió → he/she felt

Past Tenses - Era vs Estaba (Related words: **Estaba, I was, No era, I wasn't**)

Spanish has two past tenses for 'to be': 'era' (ser) for permanent qualities and 'estaba' (estar) for temporary states. English uses 'was' for both.

- estaba feliz → I was happy
- era médico → I was a doctor
- estaba cansado → I was tired

Conditional Tense - Would (Related words: **Tendría, I would have, Vería, I would see**)

Spanish conditional 'tendría/vería' translates to English 'would have/would see'. It expresses hypothetical or future actions from a past perspective.

- comería → I would eat
- iría → I would go
- haría → I would do

Question Words - ¿Qué? (Related words: **¿Qué, What**)

Spanish questions use inverted punctuation marks ¿? while English only uses ? at the end. 'Qué' means 'what'.

- ¿Cómo? → How?
- ¿Dónde? → Where?
- ¿Cuándo? → When?

Spanish 🇪🇸

31. Pero era un tonto. Dios me había dado una advertencia. La tormenta era una oportunidad de regresar. **Debería haber escuchado.** La siguiente tormenta sería **mucho, mucho** peor. Casi **me mataría.**

English 🇬🇧

31. But I was a fool. God had given me a warning. The storm was an opportunity to return. I should have listened. The next storm would be much, much worse. It would almost kill me.

Spanish	English
era	i was
un tonto	a fool
me había dado	had given me
una advertencia	a warning

Spanish	English
una oportunidad	an opportunity
de	to
regresar	return
debería haber escuchado	i should have listened

Spanish	English
la siguiente tormenta	the next storm
sería	would be
mucho	much
me mataría	it would kill me



Language tips

Past Perfect - Había dado (Related words: **había dado, had given**)

Spanish 'había dado' means 'had given'. This tense shows an action completed before another past action, just like English past perfect.

- había comido → had eaten
- habías visto → you had seen



• habían llegado → they had arrived

Should Have - Debería haber (Related words: **Debería haber escuchado, I should have listened**)

Spanish 'debería haber escuchado' means 'I should have listened'. This expresses regret about past actions, similar to English.

- debería haber ido → I should have gone
- podrías haber dicho → you could have said
- habría sido → it would have been

Repetition for Emphasis (Related words: **mucho,, much,, mucho, much**)

Spanish repeats 'mucho, mucho' for emphasis, just like English repeats 'much, much'. This makes the description stronger.

- muy, muy grande → very, very big
- poco a poco → little by little
- más y más → more and more

Object Pronouns - Me mataría (Related words: **me mataría, it would kill me**)

In 'me mataría', the 'me' means 'me' as the object. Spanish puts object pronouns before the verb, while English puts them after.

- te veo → I see you
- lo quiero → I want it
- nos llaman → they call us

Spanish

32. Seis días **después de salir** de Hull llegamos a Yarmouth Roads. Este era un lugar donde los barcos **esperaban** buen viento. El viento había estado contra nosotros. Nuestro viaje era lento. Muchos barcos de Newcastle estaban allí también. Tiramos nuestra ancla y esperamos. **Nos quedamos** allí por **siete u ocho** días.

English

32. Six days after leaving Hull we arrived at Yarmouth Roads. This was a place where ships waited for good wind. The wind had been against us. Our journey was slow. Many ships from Newcastle were there too. We dropped our anchor and waited. We stayed there for seven or eight days.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
seis	six	los barcos	ships	muchos barcos	many ships
salir	leaving	esperaban	waited	de newcastle	from newcastle
de hull	hull	buen viento	for good wind	estaban	were
llegamos	we arrived	había estado	had been	tiramos	we dropped
a yarmouth roads	at yarmouth roads	contra	against	nuestra ancla	our anchor
este	this	nosotros	us	esperamos	waited
un lugar	a place	nuestro viaje	our journey	nos quedamos	we stayed
donde	where	lento	slow	siete u ocho	seven or eight



Language tips

Después de + Infinitive (Related words: **después de, after, salir, leaving**)



Spanish uses 'después de salir' (after + infinitive) where English uses 'after leaving' (after + -ing form). The structure is different but the meaning is the same.

- antes de comer → before eating
- después de llegar → after arriving
- al entrar → upon entering

Imperfect for Description - Esperaban (Related words: **esperaban, waited**)

Spanish uses imperfect tense 'esperaban' to describe ongoing past actions. English can use simple past 'waited' or past continuous 'were waiting'.

- vivían → they lived/were living
- trabajaba → he worked/was working
- comíamos → we ate/were eating

U Instead of O (Related words: **siete u ocho, seven or eight**)

Spanish changes 'o' (or) to 'u' before words starting with 'o' or 'ho' to avoid confusion. Similar to how 'y' changes to 'e'.

- uno u otro → one or another
- plata u oro → silver or gold
- ayer u hoy → yesterday or today

Reflexive Verb - Nos quedamos (Related words: **Nos quedamos, We stayed**)

Spanish 'nos quedamos' (literally 'we stayed ourselves') means 'we stayed'. The reflexive pronoun 'nos' shows the action affects the subject.

- me quedé → I stayed
- te fuiste → you left
- se levantaron → they got up

Spanish

33. El viento todavía **era** malo. **Soplaba** del suroeste. **No podíamos navegar río arriba.** Después de cuatro días el viento **se volvió** más fuerte. Mucho más fuerte. Pero nuestros marineros no estaban preocupados. Dijeron que Yarmouth Roads **era** seguro.

English

33. The wind was still bad. It blew from the southwest. We couldn't sail upriver. After four days the wind became stronger. Much stronger. But our sailors weren't worried. They said that Yarmouth Roads was safe.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
todavía	still	no podíamos navegar río arriba	we couldn't sail upriver	no estaban preocupados	weren't worried
malo	bad	cuatro días	four days	dijeron	they said
soplaba	it blew	más fuerte	stronger	yarmouth roads	yarmouth roads
del suroeste	from the southwest	nuestros marineros	our sailors	seguro	safe



Language tips

Imperfect Tense - Era vs Was (Related words: **era, was**)

Spanish uses 'era' (imperfect) for ongoing states in the past. English uses 'was' for both simple past and continuous past.



- era malo → was bad
- era joven → was young
- era difícil → was difficult

Subject Pronouns - Soplaba (Related words: **Soplaba, It blew**)

Spanish often drops the subject pronoun. 'Soplaba' alone means 'it blew'. English always needs the pronoun 'it'.

- Llovía → It rained
- Nevaba → It snowed
- Hacía frío → It was cold

Double Negation - No podíamos (Related words: **No podíamos navegar río arriba, We couldn't sail upriver**)

Spanish 'no podíamos navegar' uses 'no' before the verb. English puts 'couldn't' as one word combining 'could not'.

- no quiero → I don't want
- no puedo → I can't
- no entiendo → I don't understand

Reflexive Verbs - Se volvió (Related words: **se volvió, became**)

'Se volvió' means 'became' or 'turned'. The reflexive 'se' shows the change happened to itself. English just uses 'became'.

- se puso → became/got
- se hizo → became/made himself
- se convirtió → turned into

Spanish 🇪🇸

34. **Nuestra ancla** **era** fuerte. **Nuestro barco** **era** bueno. Entonces los hombres **bebieron** y **se rieron**. Contaron historias. Jugaron cartas. **Traté de** actuar como ellos. Quería ser un marinero real. Todo parecía bien.

English 🇬🇧

34. Our anchor was strong. Our ship was good. So the men drank and laughed. They told stories. They played cards. I tried to act like them. I wanted to be a real sailor. Everything seemed well.

Spanish	English
fuerte	strong
nuestro barco	our ship
entonces	so
bebieron	drank
se rieron	laughed

Spanish	English
contaron	they told
historias	stories
jugaron	they played
cartas	cards
traté de	i tried to

Spanish	English
actuar	act
ellos	them
un marinero real	a real sailor



Language tips

Possessive Adjectives - Nuestra/Nuestro (Related words: **Nuestra ancla, Our anchor, Nuestro barco, Our ship**)

Spanish possessives change with the noun's gender: 'nuestra' (feminine), 'nuestro' (masculine). English uses 'our' for both.

- nuestra casa → our house
- nuestro coche → our car
- nuestros amigos → our friends



Simple Past vs Imperfect - Bebieron/Era (Related words: **bebieron, drank, era, was**)

Spanish uses 'bebieron' (simple past) for completed actions and 'era' (imperfect) for descriptions. English uses past tense for both.

- comieron → they ate
- vivía → he/she lived
- trabajaban → they worked

Reflexive Verbs - Se rieron (Related words: **se rieron, laughed**)

'Se rieron' literally means 'they laughed themselves'. Spanish uses reflexive form, English doesn't need it.

- se durmió → fell asleep
- se levantaron → got up
- me vestí → I got dressed

Tratar de vs Try to (Related words: **Traté de, I tried to**)

Spanish uses 'tratar de' (literally 'to treat of') for 'try to'. It's always followed by an infinitive.

- trató de correr → he tried to run
- tratamos de ayudar → we tried to help
- tratan de entender → they try to understand

Spanish

35. Pero en **la octava mañana** todo cambió. El viento se volvió salvaje. El capitán ordenó a todos los hombres trabajar. "**¡Bajen** los mástiles de arriba!" gritó. "¡Aten todo! **¡Prepárense** para una tormenta!" Los marineros saltaron a obedecer. **Sabían** que esto era serio.

English

35. But on the eighth morning everything changed. The wind became wild. The captain ordered all the men to work. "Lower the topmasts!" he shouted. "Tie everything down! Prepare for a storm!" The sailors jumped to obey. They knew that this was serious.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
la octava mañana	the eighth morning	¡bajen	lower	una tormenta	a storm
salvaje	wild	los mástiles de arriba	the topmasts	los marineros	the sailors
el capitán	the captain	gritó	he shouted	saltaron	jumped
ordenó	ordered	¡aten	tie	obedecer	obey
a todos los hombres	all the men	todo	everything down	sabían	they knew
trabajar	to work	¡prepárense	prepare	serio	serious



Language tips

Ordinal Numbers - La octava (Related words: **la octava mañana, the eighth morning**)

Spanish ordinals agree with gender: 'la octava mañana' (feminine). English uses 'eighth' for all genders.

- el primer día → the first day
- la segunda vez → the second time
- el tercer año → the third year

Imperative Commands - ¡Bajen! (Related words: **¡Bajen, Lower**)



Spanish imperatives change with formality: 'bajen' is formal plural. English uses the same form 'lower' for everyone.

- ¡Corre! → Run!
- ¡Hablen! → Speak!
- ¡Escucha! → Listen!

Reflexive Commands - Prepárense (Related words: ¡Prepárense, Prepare)

'Prepárense' means 'prepare yourselves'. The reflexive pronoun attaches to the imperative in Spanish.

- ¡Levántate! → Get up!
- ¡Siéntense! → Sit down!
- ¡Vámonos! → Let's go!

Imperfect for Knowledge - Sabían (Related words: Sabían, They knew)

Spanish uses imperfect 'sabían' for knowing something in the past. English uses simple past 'knew'.

- conocía → knew/was familiar with
- entendían → they understood
- creía → believed

Spanish 🇪🇸

36. Al mediodía las olas **eran** como montañas. Nuestro barco **subía** y bajaba, **subía** y bajaba. Agua **se estrellaba** sobre la cubierta. Una vez, dos veces, pensamos **que** nuestra ancla **se había soltado**. El capitán **ordenó que tiraran** otra ancla. Ahora tenemos dos anclas sosteniéndonos.

English 🇬🇧

36. At noon the waves were like mountains. Our ship went up and down, up and down. Water crashed onto the deck. Once, twice, we thought that our anchor had come loose. The captain ordered them to throw another anchor. Now we had two anchors holding us.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
al mediodía	at noon	se estrellaba	crashed	que	them to
eran	were	sobre	onto	tiraran	throw
montañas	mountains	la cubierta	the deck	otra ancla	another anchor
subía	up	una vez	once	teníamos	we had
bajaba	down	pensamos	we thought	dos anclas	two anchors
agua	water	se había soltado	had come loose	sosteniéndonos	holding us



Language tips

Past Tense - Imperfect vs Simple Past (Related words: eran, were, subía, went up)

Spanish uses 'imperfecto' (eran, subía) for ongoing actions in the past. English often uses 'was/were' + -ing or simple past for these continuous actions.

- hablaba → was speaking/spoke
- comían → were eating/ate
- vivía → was living/lived

Reflexive Verbs - Se estrellaba (Related words: se estrellaba, crashed)



Spanish uses reflexive pronouns (se) with some verbs where English doesn't. 'Se estrellaba' means 'crashed' without needing 'itself'.

- se rompió → broke
- se cayó → fell
- se movía → moved

Past Perfect - Se había soltado (Related words: **se había soltado, had come loose**)

Spanish past perfect (había + past participle) works like English (had + past participle) to show an action completed before another past action.

- había comido → had eaten
- habíamos llegado → we had arrived
- habían visto → they had seen

Subjunctive After Commands - Ordenó que tiraran (Related words: **ordenó, ordered, que, tiraran, throw**)

After verbs of ordering or requesting, Spanish uses subjunctive (tiraran). English uses infinitive ('to throw') or 'that they throw'.

- pidió que viniera → asked him to come
- quería que estudiaran → wanted them to study
- dijo que esperaran → told them to wait

Spanish

37. Entonces la tormenta real **golpeó**. No tengo palabras para lo terrible que fue. Hasta los marineros viejos **tenían** **miedo**. Vi **miedo** en sus ojos. El capitán pasó por mi camarote muchas veces. **Lo escuché** susurrar, "¡Señor **ten piedad** de nosotros!"

English

37. Then the real storm hit. I have no words for how terrible it was. Even the old sailors were afraid. I saw fear in their eyes. The captain passed by my cabin many times. I heard him whisper, "Lord have mercy on us!"

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
la tormenta real	the real storm	vi	i saw	veces	times
no tengo palabras	i have no words	sus ojos	their eyes	lo escuché	i heard him
lo terrible	how terrible	pasó	passed	susurrar	whisper
los marineros viejos	the old sailors	por	by	¡señor	lord
tenían	were	mi camarote	my cabin	ten piedad	have mercy
miedo	fear	muchas	many	de	on



Language tips

Simple Past - Pretérito Indefinido (Related words: **golpeó, hit**)

Spanish uses the simple past (pretérito indefinido) for completed actions. 'Golpeó' means 'it hit' - a single, completed event in the past.

- llegó → arrived
- empezó → started
- terminó → ended



Tener Miedo - To Be Afraid (Related words: **tenían, miedo, were, afraid**)

Spanish uses 'tener miedo' (literally 'to have fear') where English uses 'to be afraid'. This is a common expression with 'tener'.

- tengo hambre → I am hungry
- tiene sed → he is thirsty
- tenemos frío → we are cold

Object Pronouns - Lo (Related words: **Lo escuché, I heard him**)

In 'Lo escuché', 'lo' means 'him' and comes before the verb. English puts object pronouns after: 'I heard him'.

- la veo → I see her
- los conocemos → we know them
- te quiero → I love you

Imperative Mood - Commands (Related words: **ten piedad, have mercy**)

Spanish 'ten piedad' is a command form meaning 'have mercy'. The imperative is used for requests and commands.

- ven aquí → come here
- habla más → speak more
- come esto → eat this

Spanish

38. "¡Estamos todos perdidos!" el capitán continuó susurrando. "¡Somos todos hombres muertos!" Cuando el capitán dijo esas palabras mi valor murió. Este hombre **había navegado** por treinta años. Si él **tenía** miedo estábamos condenados. **Me quedé** en mi camarote. **Estaba** helado de miedo.

English

38. "We are all lost!" the captain continued whispering. "We are all dead men!" When the captain said those words my courage died. This man had sailed for thirty years. If he was afraid we were doomed. I stayed in my cabin. I was frozen with fear.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
¡estamos	we are	mi valor	my courage	condenados	doomed
perdidos	lost	este hombre	this man	me quedé	i stayed
susurrando	whispering	había navegado	had sailed	helado	frozen
¡somos	we are	treinta años	thirty years	de	with
hombres muertos	dead men	tenía	was		
esas palabras	those words	estábamos	we were		



Language tips

Ser vs Estar - Both Mean 'To Be' (Related words: **Somos, Estamos, We are**)

Spanish has two verbs for 'to be': 'ser' for permanent states and 'estar' for temporary conditions. 'Somos muertos' (permanent) vs 'estamos perdidos' (temporary state).

- soy doctor → I am a doctor
- estoy cansado → I am tired
- es grande → it is big



Past Perfect - Había + Past Participle (Related words: **había navegado, had sailed**)

Spanish forms the past perfect with 'había' + past participle. 'Había navegado' means 'had sailed' - an action completed before another past action.

- había comido → had eaten
- habíamos llegado → we had arrived
- habías visto → you had seen

Reflexive Verbs - Me Quedé (Related words: **Me quedé, I stayed**)

Spanish 'quedarse' is reflexive, meaning 'to stay'. The 'me' shows the action reflects back to the subject. English just uses 'stayed'.

- me levanté → I got up
- se durmió → he fell asleep
- nos fuimos → we left

Imperfect Past - Continuous Past States (Related words: **Estaba, I was, tenía, was**)

Spanish imperfect tense (estaba, tenía) describes ongoing past states or conditions. It translates to 'was/were' + -ing or simple past for states.

- hablaba → was speaking
- vivían → they lived
- comíamos → we were eating

Spanish

39. **No podía moverme.** No podía pensar. **Me había reído** de la primera tormenta. Había bebido ponche y olvidado mis promesas a Dios. Ahora Dios estaba realmente enojado. Esta tormenta nos mataría a todos. **No había escape** esta vez.

English

39. I couldn't move. I couldn't think. I had laughed at the first storm. I had drunk punch and forgotten my promises to God. Now God was really angry. This storm would kill us all. There was no escape this time.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
no podía moverme	i couldn't move	había bebido	i had drunk	no había escape	there was no escape
no podía pensar	i couldn't think	olvidado	forgotten	esta	this
me había reído	i had laughed	realmente	really	vez	time
de	at	esta tormenta	this storm		
la primera tormenta	the first storm	nos mataría a todos	would kill us all		



Language tips

Double Negation - No podía (Related words: **No podía moverme, I couldn't move**)

Spanish uses double negation frequently. 'No podía' means 'I couldn't' - the 'no' creates the negative, unlike English which uses 'couldn't' alone.

- no quiero nada → I don't want anything
- no veo a nadie → I don't see anyone
- no tengo tiempo → I don't have time



Reflexive Past Perfect - Me había reído (Related words: Me había reído, I had laughed)

This combines reflexive pronouns with past perfect. 'Me había reído' means 'I had laughed (at myself/internally)'. The reflexive adds emotional involvement.

- se había dormido → he had fallen asleep
- nos habíamos ido → we had left
- te habías levantado → you had gotten up

Conditional Tense - Would/Could (Related words: mataría, would kill)

Spanish conditional 'mataría' expresses what would happen. It's formed by adding -ía endings to the infinitive. English uses 'would' + verb.

- hablaría → would speak
- comerían → they would eat
- viviríamos → we would live

No había - There Was No (Related words: No había escape, There was no escape)

Spanish 'había' means 'there was/were'. With 'no' it becomes 'there was no'. This impersonal form doesn't change for singular or plural.

- había comida → there was food
- no había nadie → there was nobody
- había muchos → there were many

Spanish 🇪🇸

40. Finalmente **me forcé** a ir a cubierta. Lo que vi allí todavía me da pesadillas. El mar **era** negro y blanco con espuma. Olas **tan altas como** iglesias se estrellaban sobre nosotros. El viento gritaba como mil demonios. Me agarré fuerte o **sería** arrastrado.

English 🇬🇧

40. Finally I forced myself to go on deck. What I saw there still gives me nightmares. The sea was black and white with foam. Waves as tall as churches crashed over us. The wind screamed like a thousand demons. I held on tight or I would be swept away.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
finalmente	finally	blanco	white	mil	a thousand
me forcé	i forced myself	espuma	foam	demonios	demons
a ir	to go	tan altas como	as tall as	me agarré	i held on
a cubierta	on deck	iglesias	churches	fuerte	tight
me da	gives me	se estrellaban	crashed	o	or
pesadillas	nightmares	sobre	over	arrastrado	swept away
negro	black	gritaba	screamed		



Language tips

Reflexive Verbs - Me forcé (Related words: me forcé, I forced myself)

Spanish uses reflexive verbs like 'me forcé' (I forced myself) where English often uses 'myself'. The reflexive pronoun 'me' shows the action is done to oneself.

- me levanté → I got up
- se vistió → he/she dressed



• nos sentamos → we sat down

Past Tenses - Era vs Was (Related words: **era, was**)

Spanish 'era' (imperfect) describes ongoing states in the past. English uses 'was' for both ongoing and completed past actions.

- era grande → it was big
- estaba frío → it was cold
- había muchos → there were many

Comparisons - Tan...como (Related words: **tan altas como, as tall as**)

Spanish uses 'tan...como' for comparisons (as...as). English uses the same pattern but with different words.

- tan rápido como → as fast as
- tan bueno como → as good as
- tan grande como → as big as

Conditional - Sería (Related words: **sería, I would be**)

Spanish 'sería' expresses what would happen. English uses 'would be' to show the same conditional meaning.

- comería → I would eat
- viviría → I would live
- hablaría → I would speak

Spanish

41. Miré alrededor. Dos barcos cerca de nosotros **habían cortado** sus mástiles. Otro barco **como a** una milla de distancia **se estaba hundiendo**. Lo vi desaparecer bajo las olas. Todos **esos** hombres se estaban ahogando en el agua negra y fría. Dos barcos más se habían soltado de sus anclas.

English

41. I looked around. Two ships near us had cut their masts. Another ship about a mile away was sinking. I saw it disappear under the waves. All those men were drowning in the black and cold water. Two more ships had broken loose from their anchors.

Spanish	English
miré	i looked
alrededor	around
dos	two
cerca de	near
habían	had
cortado	cut
sus mástiles	their masts
otro	another

Spanish	English
barco	ship
como a	about
una milla	a mile
de distancia	away
se estaba hundiendo	was sinking
lo vi desaparecer	i saw it disappear
bajo	under
esos	those

Spanish	English
hombres	men
se estaban ahogando	were drowning
el agua	the water
negra	black
fría	cold
se habían soltado	had broken loose
sus anclas	their anchors



Language tips

Past Perfect - Habían cortado (Related words: **habían, had, cortado, cut**)



Spanish uses 'habían' + past participle to show an action completed before another past action. English uses 'had' + past participle for the same meaning.

- había comido → had eaten
- habíamos llegado → we had arrived
- habían terminado → they had finished

Progressive Past - Se estaba hundiendo (Related words: **se estaba hundiendo, was sinking**)

Spanish uses 'estaba' + gerund (-ando/-iendo) for ongoing past actions. English uses 'was/were' + -ing form.

- estaba corriendo → was running
- estaban comiendo → they were eating
- estábamos durmiendo → we were sleeping

Distance Expressions - Como a (Related words: **como a, about**)

'Como a' means 'about' or 'approximately' for distances. English uses just 'about' without the extra word.

- como a dos metros → about two meters
- como a las tres → about three o'clock
- como unos cinco → about five

Demonstratives - Esos vs Those (Related words: **esos, those**)

Spanish 'esos' means 'those' (masculine plural). Spanish has gender for demonstratives while English doesn't.

- estos libros → these books
- esas casas → those houses
- aquellos días → those days

Spanish

42. Esa noche nuestra tripulación **le rogó** al capitán **que cortara** nuestros mástiles. **No quería hacerlo.** Un barco sin mástiles está indefenso. Pero el contraataque dijo, "¡Si no los cortamos el barco **se hundirá!**" El capitán finalmente estuvo de acuerdo. Tenían que salvar el barco.

English

42. That night our crew begged the captain to cut our masts. He didn't want to do it. A ship without masts is helpless. But the bosun said, "If we don't cut them the ship will sink!" The captain finally agreed. They had to save the ship.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
esa	that	nuestros mástiles	our masts	¡si	if
noche	night	no quería hacerlo	he didn't want to do it	no los cortamos	we don't cut them
nuestra tripulación	our crew	mástiles	masts	se hundirá	will sink
le rogó	begged	está	is	estuvo de acuerdo	agreed
al capitán	the captain	indefenso	helpless	tenían que	they had to
cortara	cut	el contraataque	the bosun	salvar	save



Language tips

Indirect Object Pronouns - Le rogó (Related words: **le rogó, begged**)

Spanish 'le' means 'to him/her'. It comes before the verb 'rogó'. English puts this after: 'begged him'.



- le dije → I told him
- les escribí → I wrote to them
- me dio → he gave me

Subjunctive After Requests - Que cortara (Related words: **que, cortara, to, cut**)

After verbs of requesting, Spanish uses subjunctive (cortara). English uses the infinitive 'to cut'.

- pidió que viniera → asked him to come
- quiero que estudies → I want you to study
- necesito que ayudes → I need you to help

Double Negation - No quería (Related words: **No quería hacerlo, He didn't want to do it**)

Spanish uses 'no' before the verb for negation. English uses 'didn't' or 'doesn't' as auxiliary verbs.

- no tengo → I don't have
- no come → he doesn't eat
- no fueron → they didn't go

Future Tense - Se hundirá (Related words: **se hundirá, will sink**)

Spanish future tense adds endings to the infinitive. English uses 'will' + verb for future actions.

- comerá → will eat
- viviremos → we will live
- llegarán → they will arrive

Spanish

43. Entonces **cortaron** el mástil de enfrente. ¡CRACK! Cayó **al mar**. Pero ahora el mástil principal **temblaba** terriblemente. Iba a romper el barco en pedazos. Tenían que cortar ese también. Ahora **no teníamos mástiles en absoluto**. Éramos como un corcho en el agua.

English

43. Then they cut the front mast. CRACK! It fell into the sea. But now the main mast was shaking terribly. It was going to break the ship into pieces. They had to cut that one too. Now we had no masts at all. We were like a cork in the water.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
cortaron	they cut	principal	main	ese	that one
el mástil	the mast	temblaba	was shaking	no teníamos mástiles en absoluto	we had no masts at all
de enfrente	front	iba a	it was going to	éramos	we were
¡crack	crack	romper	break	un corcho	a cork
cayó	it fell	en pedazos	into pieces		
al mar	into the sea	cortar	cut		



Language tips

Past Tense - Cortaron vs Cut (Related words: **cortaron, they cut**)

Spanish 'cortaron' (they cut) is in the simple past. English uses the same form 'cut' for present and past, so context shows it's past tense here.



- cortaron → they cut
- corté → I cut
- cortó → he/she cut

Contracted Forms - Al (Related words: **al mar, into the sea**)

Spanish combines 'a + el' into 'al' meaning 'to the' or 'into the'. English keeps these words separate.

- al parque → to the park
- del (de + el) → from the
- al niño → to the boy

Imperfect Tense - Temblaba (Related words: **temblaba, was shaking**)

Spanish 'temblaba' describes ongoing past action. English uses 'was shaking' to show the continuous nature of the action.

- hablaba → was speaking
- comía → was eating
- vivían → they were living

Double Negation - No...en absoluto (Related words: **no teníamos mástiles en absoluto, we had no masts at all**)

Spanish uses 'no teníamos...en absoluto' for emphasis. English simplifies this to 'had no...at all' without the double negative.

- no veo nada → I don't see anything
- no hay nadie → there's nobody
- no como nunca → I never eat

Spanish

44. No puedo describir mi terror. Era joven. **Nunca había visto** la muerte tan cerca. Pero peor que el miedo a la muerte era mi culpa. **Había roto** mis promesas a Dios. **Me había reído** de Su primera advertencia. Ahora Él me mataría.

English

44. I cannot describe my terror. I was young. I had never seen death so close. But worse than the fear of death was my guilt. I had broken my promises to God. I had laughed at His first warning. Now He would kill me.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
no puedo describir	i cannot describe	la muerte	death	mi culpa	my guilt
mi terror	my terror	tan	so	había roto	i had broken
joven	young	cerca	close	su primera advertencia	his first warning
nunca había visto	i had never seen	a	of	me mataría	would kill me



Language tips

Double Negatives - Nunca había (Related words: **Nunca había visto, I had never seen**)

Spanish uses 'nunca había visto' (never had seen) where English says 'had never seen'. The word order changes between languages.

- nunca he comido → I have never eaten
- jamás había ido → I had never gone
- nunca lo vi → I never saw it



Reflexive Verbs - Me había reído (Related words: Me había reído, I had laughed)

Spanish uses the reflexive 'reírse' (laugh at oneself) where English just uses 'laugh'. The 'me' shows who's laughing.

- me río → I laugh
- te ríes → you laugh
- se ríe → he/she laughs

Past Perfect - Había + Past Participle (Related words: había visto, had seen, Había roto, had broken)

Both languages use 'had + past participle' for actions before another past action. Spanish: había visto, English: had seen.

- había comido → had eaten
- habías llegado → you had arrived
- habían terminado → they had finished

Conditional - Would in English (Related words: mataría, would kill)

Spanish conditional 'mataría' equals English 'would kill'. It shows something that would happen under certain conditions.

- comería → would eat
- iría → would go
- hablaría → would speak

Spanish

45. Las palabras de mi padre regresaron a mí. **Tenía razón.** Estaba maldito. La tormenta empeoró. Hasta los marineros viejos dijeron que nunca habían visto algo así. Nuestro barco estaba pesado con carga. **Rodaba** terriblemente. Cada pocos minutos un marinero gritaría, "¡Se va a hundir!"

English

45. My father's words returned to me. He was right. I was cursed. The storm worsened. Even the old sailors said they had never seen anything like this. Our ship was heavy with cargo. It rolled terribly. Every few minutes a sailor would shout, "It's going to sink!"

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
las palabras	the words	empeoró	worsened	rodaba	it rolled
regresaron	returned	nunca habían visto	they had never seen	pocos	few
a mí	to me	algo así	anything like this	minutos	minutes
tenía	he had	pesado	heavy	gritaría	would shout
maldito	cursed	carga	cargo	¡se va a hundir	it's going to sink



Language tips

Tener Razón - To Be Right (Related words: Tenía, razón, He had, right)

Spanish uses 'tener razón' (have reason) to mean 'to be right'. English uses the verb 'to be' instead of 'have'.

- tengo razón → I am right
- tienes razón → you are right
- no tiene razón → he/she is not right

Adjective Position - Marineros viejos (Related words: marineros viejos, old sailors)

Spanish usually puts adjectives after nouns: 'marineros viejos'. English puts them before: 'old sailors'.



- casa grande → big house
- perro negro → black dog
- niña feliz → happy girl

Imperfect vs Simple Past (Related words: **Rodaba, It rolled**)

Spanish uses imperfect 'rodaba' for ongoing past actions. English often uses simple past or past continuous for the same meaning.

- caminaba → was walking/walked
- leía → was reading/read
- vivía → was living/lived

Future with 'Ir a' - Going to (Related words: **Se va a hundir, It's going to sink**)

'Se va a hundir' means 'It's going to sink'. Both languages use a similar structure for near future events.

- voy a comer → I'm going to eat
- va a llover → It's going to rain
- van a venir → They're going to come

Spanish 🇪🇸

46. No sabía qué significaba "hundir" hasta que alguien me explicó. Cuando un barco se "hunde" **se llena** de agua y va **al fondo** del mar. **Todos** se ahogan. Ahora entendía. **Todos moriríamos** en esta agua fría y oscura. Nuestros cuerpos nunca serían encontrados.

English 🇬🇧

46. I didn't know what "sink" meant until someone explained it to me. When a ship "sinks" it fills with water and goes to the bottom of the sea. Everyone drowns. Now I understood. We would all die in this cold and dark water. Our bodies would never be found.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
significaba	meant	va	goes	moriríamos	would all die
hundir	sink	al fondo	to the bottom	esta agua fría y oscura	this cold and dark water
alguien	someone	del mar	of the sea	nuestros cuerpos	our bodies
me explicó	explained it to me	todos	we	nunca serían encontrados	would never be found
se "hunde"	sinks	se ahogan	drowns		
se llena	it fills	entendía	i understood		



Language tips

Reflexive Verbs - Se hunde, Se llena (Related words: **se "hunde", "sinks", se llena, it fills**)

Spanish uses reflexive forms 'hundirse' and 'llenarse' where English just uses 'sink' and 'fill'. The 'se' shows the action happens to itself.

- se rompe → it breaks
- se abre → it opens
- se cierra → it closes

Passive Voice - Serían encontrados (Related words: **serían encontrados, would be found**)



Spanish passive 'serían encontrados' (would be found) uses ser + past participle. English uses the same structure with 'be + past participle'.

- fue visto → was seen
- será hecho → will be done
- son vendidos → are sold

Todos as Subject - Everyone/We all (Related words: **Todos, We, moriríamos, would all die**)

'Todos' can mean 'everyone' or 'we all' depending on context. Here 'Todos moriríamos' means 'We would all die'.

- todos vienen → everyone comes
- todos sabemos → we all know
- todos quieren → everyone wants

Contracted Forms - Al = a + el (Related words: **al fondo, to the bottom**)

Spanish contracts 'a + el' into 'al' (to the). 'Al fondo' means 'to the bottom'. English keeps them separate.

- al parque → to the park
- del libro → from the book
- al niño → to the boy

Spanish

47. Entonces vi algo **que** heló mi sangre. El capitán **estaba rezando**. El contraestre **estaba rezando**. Estos hombres duros **que no temían nada** estaban de rodillas **pidiendo misericordia a Dios**. Si ellos estaban rezando estábamos realmente perdidos. Caí de rodillas también.

English

47. Then I saw something that froze my blood. The captain was praying. The boatswain was praying. These hard men who feared nothing were on their knees asking God for mercy. If they were praying we were really lost. I fell to my knees too.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
heló	froze	no temían nada	feared nothing	ellos	they
mi sangre	my blood	de rodillas	to my knees	estaban rezando	were praying
estaba rezando	was praying	pidiendo	asking	caí	i fell
el contraestre	the boatswain	misericordia	mercy		
estos hombres duros	these hard men	a dios	god for		



Language tips

Past Continuous - Estaba Rezando (Related words: **estaba rezando, was praying**)

Spanish uses 'estaba + gerund' for past continuous actions. English uses 'was/were + -ing' for the same meaning.

- estaba comiendo → was eating
- estaban corriendo → were running
- estaba leyendo → was reading

Double Negation - No Temían Nada (Related words: **no temían nada, feared nothing**)

Spanish uses double negation 'no...nada' (literally 'not...nothing'). English uses single negation 'feared nothing' or 'didn't fear anything'.



- no veo nada → I see nothing
- no como nada → I eat nothing
- no sé nada → I know nothing

Que as Relative Pronoun (Related words: **que, that, who**)

Spanish 'que' can mean 'that', 'who', or 'which' depending on context. It connects parts of a sentence.

- el libro que leo → the book that I read
- la mujer que canta → the woman who sings
- algo que necesito → something that I need

Word Order - Pidiendo Misericordia a Dios (Related words: **pidiendo, misericordia, a Dios, asking, God for, mercy**)

Spanish says 'asking mercy to God'. English rearranges to 'asking God for mercy'. The word order is more flexible in Spanish.

- dando flores a María → giving flowers to María
- escribiendo cartas a Juan → writing letters to Juan
- comprando regalos a los niños → buying gifts for the children

Spanish

48. En medio de la noche empeoró. Un marinero **vino corriendo** de abajo. "¡Tenemos una fuga!" gritó. "¡Cuatro pies de agua en la bodega!" El capitán saltó. "¡Todos **a** las bombas!" gritó. Esta **era** nuestra última oportunidad.

English

48. In the middle of the night it got worse. A sailor came running from below. "We have a leak!" he shouted. "Four feet of water in the hold!" The captain jumped. "Everyone to the pumps!" he shouted. This was our last chance.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
medio de	the middle of	¡tenemos	we have	¡todos	everyone
la noche	the night	una fuga	a leak	las bombas	the pumps
empeoró	it got worse	¡cuatro pies	four feet	nuestra última oportunidad	our last chance
corriendo	running	la bodega	the hold		
de abajo	from below	saltó	jumped		



Language tips

Exclamation Marks - ¡! vs ! (Related words: **"¡Tenemos, "We have, una fuga!", a leak!"**)

Spanish uses inverted exclamation marks at the beginning ¡ and regular ones at the end !. English only uses them at the end.

- ¡Hola! → Hello!
- ¡Ayuda! → Help!
- ¡Qué bonito! → How beautiful!

Gerunds - Vino Corriendo (Related words: **vino, corriendo, came, running**)

Spanish uses 'came running' (verb + gerund) just like English. The -ando/-iendo ending equals English -ing.



- salió corriendo → left running
- entró cantando → entered singing
- llegó llorando → arrived crying

Todos vs Everyone (Related words: "¡Todos, "Everyone, a, to")

'Todos' means 'all/everyone'. When giving commands, Spanish often uses 'todos a' (everyone to) where English uses 'everyone to'.

- todos a trabajar → everyone to work
- todos a comer → everyone to eat
- todos aquí → everyone here

Era vs Was - Imperfect Past (Related words: era, was)

Spanish 'era' (from ser) describes what something was like in the past. English uses 'was' for both temporary and permanent past states.

- era difícil → it was difficult
- era mi amigo → he was my friend
- era tarde → it was late

Spanish 🇪🇸

49. Mi corazón **se detuvo**. Caí hacia atrás en mi cama. **No podía moverme**. Estaba entrando agua. Nos hundiríamos. **Moriría** aquí en **el mar frío** y **oscuro**. Pero los marineros me levantaron. "¡Tú también!" dijeron. "¡Todos deben bombear o todos morimos!"

English 🇬🇧

49. My heart stopped. I fell back on my bed. I couldn't move. Water was coming in. We would sink. I would die here in the cold, dark sea. But the sailors lifted me up. "You too!" they said. "Everyone must pump or we all die!"

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
mi corazón	my heart	nos hundiríamos	we would sink	¡tú también	you too
se detuvo	stopped	moriría	i would die	deben	must
hacia atrás	back	el mar frío	the cold sea	bombear	pump
mi cama	my bed	oscuro	dark	todos morimos	we all die
estaba entrando	was coming in	me levantaron	lifted me up		



Language tips

Reflexive Verbs - Se Detuvo (Related words: se detuvo, stopped)

Spanish 'se detuvo' (literally 'stopped itself') translates to simply 'stopped' in English. Spanish uses more reflexive constructions.

- se rompió → it broke
- se abrió → it opened
- se cerró → it closed

Conditional Tense - Moriría (Related words: Moriría, I would die, hundiríamos, We would sink)

Spanish conditional ending -ría equals English 'would + verb'. It expresses what would happen under certain conditions.



- comería → I would eat
- vivirías → you would live
- hablarían → they would speak

No Podía vs I Couldn't (Related words: **No podía moverme, I couldn't move**)

Spanish 'no podía' + infinitive means 'couldn't' + verb. The imperfect tense shows ongoing inability in the past.

- no podía dormir → I couldn't sleep
- no podía ver → I couldn't see
- no podía hablar → I couldn't speak

Adjective Position - Mar Frío y Oscuro (Related words: **el mar frío, y, oscuro, the cold sea, and, dark**)

Spanish places multiple adjectives after the noun: 'sea cold and dark'. English puts them before: 'cold, dark sea'.

- casa grande y bonita → big, beautiful house
- niño pequeño y feliz → small, happy child
- día largo y difícil → long, difficult day

Spanish

50. Entonces fui a las bombas. **Trabajé** más duro de lo que **había trabajado** en mi vida. Todos lo hicimos. Nuestras manos sangraron. Nuestras espaldas **se rompieron**. Pero **seguimos bombeando**. El agua siguió entrando. Estábamos perdiendo la batalla. El barco se estaba muriendo.

English

50. Then I went to the pumps. I worked harder than I had worked in my life. We all did. Our hands bled. Our backs broke. But we kept pumping. The water kept entering. We were losing the battle. The ship was dying.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
trabajé	i worked	lo hicimos	did	bombeando	pumping
más duro	harder	nuestras manos	our hands	entrando	entering
de lo que	than	sangraron	bled	perdiendo	losing
había trabajado	i had worked	nuestras espaldas	our backs	la batalla	the battle
mi vida	my life	se rompieron	broke	se estaba muriendo	was dying
todos	we all	seguimos	we kept		



Language tips

Simple Past - Trabajé vs I Worked (Related words: **Trabajé, I worked**)

Spanish simple past (pretérito indefinido) shows completed actions in the past. The verb ending tells you who did the action, so pronouns are often dropped.

- hablé → I spoke
- comí → I ate
- viví → I lived

Past Perfect - Había trabajado (Related words: **había trabajado, I had worked**)



Spanish uses 'había' + past participle to show an action that happened before another past action. English uses 'had' + past participle in the same way.

- había comido → I had eaten
- habías llegado → you had arrived
- habían visto → they had seen

Reflexive Verbs - Se rompieron (Related words: **se rompieron, broke**)

Spanish uses reflexive pronouns (me, te, se) to show the action affects the subject itself. 'Se rompieron' literally means 'broke themselves' but translates as simply 'broke' in English.

- me caí → I fell
- te levantaste → you got up
- se durmió → he/she fell asleep

Continuous Actions - Seguir + Gerund (Related words: **seguimos, bombeando, we kept, pumping**)

Spanish uses 'seguir' + gerund (-ando/-iendo) to express continuing an action. English uses 'keep' + -ing form for the same meaning.

- sigo estudiando → I keep studying
- siguió corriendo → he kept running
- seguían hablando → they kept talking

Spanish

51. El capitán **disparó** cañones para pedir ayuda. ¡BUM! ¡BUM! Nunca había escuchado los cañones de un barco antes. Pensé que nos estábamos rompiendo en pedazos. **Me desmayé del miedo** Caí en la cubierta. Otro marinero me pateó a un lado y tomó mi lugar en la bomba.

English

51. The captain fired cannons to ask for help. BOOM! BOOM! I had never heard the cannons of a ship before. I thought that we were breaking into pieces. I fainted from fear. I fell on the deck. Another sailor kicked me to one side and took my place at the pump.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
disparó	fired	nos estábamos rompiendo	we were breaking	un lado	one side
cañones	cannons	pedazos	pieces	tomó	took
ayuda	help	me desmayé	i fainted	mi lugar	my place
¡bum	boom	del miedo	from fear	en	at
nunca había escuchado	i had never heard	otro marinero	another sailor	la bomba	the pump
los cañones	the cannons	me pateó	kicked me		



Language tips

Past Tense - Disparó vs Fired (Related words: **disparó, fired**)

Spanish uses 'disparó' (simple past) for completed actions. English uses 'fired' with the same meaning. Both languages use simple past here.

- comió → ate
- bebió → drank



• corrió → ran

Past Perfect - Había escuchado (Related words: **había escuchado, had never heard**)

Spanish 'había escuchado' means 'had heard'. Both languages use past perfect to show an action before another past action.

- había visto → had seen
- había comido → had eaten
- habíamos llegado → we had arrived

Reflexive Verbs - Me desmayé (Related words: **Me desmayé, I fainted**)

Spanish uses reflexive 'me desmayé' (literally 'I fainted myself'). English just says 'I fainted' without the reflexive pronoun.

- me levanté → I got up
- se cayó → he fell
- nos sentamos → we sat down

Contractions - Del (Related words: **del miedo, from fear**)

'Del' is a contraction of 'de + el' meaning 'from the' or 'of the'. Spanish always contracts these, English keeps them separate.

- del parque → from the park
- al mercado → to the market
- del libro → of the book

Spanish

52. Cuando desperté las cosas **estaban** peor. El agua estaba ganando. **No podíamos bombear** lo suficientemente rápido. El barco **se iba a** hundir. Nada podía salvarnos. ¡Pero entonces - un milagro! Un barco **pequeño** cerca de nosotros mandó un bote.

English

52. When I woke up things were worse. The water was winning. We couldn't pump fast enough. The ship was going to sink. Nothing could save us. But then - a miracle! A small ship near us sent a boat.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
desperté	i woke up	rápido	enough	pequeño	small
las cosas	things	se iba a	was going to	mandó	sent
estaba ganando	was winning	nada podía salvarnos	nothing could save us	un bote	a boat
no podíamos bombear	we couldn't pump	¡pero	but		
lo suficientemente	fast	un milagro	a miracle		



Language tips

Imperfect Tense - Estaban vs Were (Related words: **estaban, were**)

Spanish 'estaban' (imperfect) describes ongoing past states. English uses 'were' for the same purpose.

- comía → was eating
- vivían → they were living
- trabajábamos → we were working



Double Negative - No podíamos (Related words: No podíamos bombear, We couldn't pump)

Spanish 'no podíamos' becomes 'we couldn't' in English. Spanish uses 'no' + verb, English combines into one negative word.

- no quiero → I don't want
- no tengo → I don't have
- no sabe → he doesn't know

Near Future - Iba a (Related words: se iba a, was going to)

'Iba a' + infinitive expresses 'was going to' in English. Both languages use this structure for past intentions.

- iba a comer → was going to eat
- íbamos a salir → we were going to leave
- iban a venir → they were going to come

Adjective Position - Barco pequeño (Related words: barco, pequeño, ship, small)

Spanish can place adjectives before or after nouns. 'Pequeño' before 'barco' emphasizes size. English always puts adjectives before: 'small ship'.

- casa grande → big house
- día hermoso → beautiful day
- niño feliz → happy child

Spanish

53. **Esos hombres** valientes arriesgaron sus vidas para llegar a nosotros. Las olas tiraron su pequeño bote como un juguete. Pero **siguieron viniendo**. Nuestros marineros **les tiraron** una cuerda. Después de mucho peligro la agarraron. Jalaron su bote cerca de nuestro barco. "¡Salten!" gritaron.

English

53. Those brave men risked their lives to reach us. The waves threw their small boat like a toy. But they kept coming. Our sailors threw them a rope. After much danger they grabbed it. They pulled their boat close to our ship. "Jump!" they shouted.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
esos hombres	those men	su pequeño bote	their small boat	jalaron	they pulled
valientes	brave	un juguete	a toy	su bote	their boat
arriesgaron	risked	siguieron viniendo	they kept coming	cerca de	close to
sus vidas	their lives	les tiraron	threw them	¡salten	jump
llegar	reach	una cuerda	a rope	gritaron	they shouted
a nosotros	us	mucho peligro	much danger		
tiraron	threw	la agarraron	they grabbed it		



Language tips

Demonstratives - Esos vs Those (Related words: Esos hombres, Those men)

Spanish 'esos' means 'those' (masculine plural). Both languages use demonstratives to point to things far away.

- este libro → this book
- esa casa → that house
- estos niños → these children



Indirect Object Pronouns - Les (Related words: **les tiraron, threw them**)

'Les tiraron' means 'threw to them'. Spanish puts 'les' before the verb, English puts 'them' after.

- me dio → gave me
- te escribí → I wrote you
- nos llamó → called us

Continuous Past - Siguieron viniendo (Related words: **siguieron viniendo, they kept coming**)

'Siguieron viniendo' means 'they kept coming'. Spanish uses 'seguir' + gerund, English uses 'keep' + -ing form.

- siguió corriendo → kept running
- seguimos trabajando → we kept working
- siguió lloviendo → it kept raining

Imperative - ¡Salten! (Related words: **¡Salten!", "Jump!"**)

Spanish '¡Salten!' is a command meaning 'Jump!' (plural). Spanish uses inverted exclamation marks at the beginning.

- ¡Corre! → Run!
- ¡Mira! → Look!
- ¡Vengan! → Come! (plural)

Spanish

54. Uno por uno **saltamos** a su bote. **Estaba** tan asustado que apenas podía **moverme**. Los marineros **tuvieron que** tirarme como un saco de papas. Aterricé duro y me quedé allí temblando. El bote pequeño **estaba** lleno de hombres. Agua entró por los lados.

English

54. One by one we jumped into their boat. I was so scared that I could barely move. The sailors had to throw me like a sack of potatoes. I landed hard and stayed there trembling. The small boat was full of men. Water came in from the sides.

Spanish	English
uno por uno	one by one
saltamos	we jumped
a su bote	into their boat
apenas	barely
moverme	move

Spanish	English
tuvieron que	had to
tirarme	throw me
un saco de papas	a sack of potatoes
atterricé	i landed
temblando	trembling

Spanish	English
el bote pequeño	the small boat
lleno de	full of
entró	came in
por	from
los lados	the sides



Language tips

Past Tense - Pretérito vs Imperfecto (Related words: **saltamos, we jumped, Estaba, I was**)

Spanish has two main past tenses. 'Saltamos' (we jumped) is a completed action. 'Estaba' (I was) describes an ongoing state in the past.

- comí → I ate (completed)
- comía → I was eating (ongoing)
- llegué → I arrived (completed)

Reflexive Verbs - Moverme (Related words: **moverme, move**)

In Spanish, 'moverme' means 'to move myself'. The 'me' is attached to the infinitive. English just says 'move' without the reflexive pronoun.



- levantarme → to get up
- sentarme → to sit down
- vestirme → to get dressed

Tener que - Having to (Related words: **tuvieron que, had to**)

'Tuvieron que' means 'they had to'. Spanish uses 'tener que' + infinitive to express obligation, while English uses 'had to'.

- tengo que ir → I have to go
- tuvo que estudiar → he had to study
- tenemos que salir → we have to leave

Word Order - Adjective Position (Related words: **bote pequeño, small boat**)

Notice 'bote pequeño' (boat small). Spanish often places descriptive adjectives after the noun, while English puts them before.

- casa grande → big house
- día hermoso → beautiful day
- libro interesante → interesting book

Spanish 🇪🇸

55. **Quince minutos después** miré hacia atrás. Nuestro barco **se estaba yendo** bajo las olas. El mar **se lo tragó** completo. Ahora entendía lo que significaba "hundirse". **Toda** nuestra carga, **todas** nuestras posesiones, **todo** - se fue al fondo del mar. Tuvimos suerte de estar vivos.

English 🇬🇧

55. Fifteen minutes later I looked back. Our ship was going under the waves. The sea swallowed it completely. Now I understood what "to sink" meant. All our cargo, all our possessions, everything - went to the bottom of the sea. We were lucky to be alive.

Spanish	English
quince minutos después	fifteen minutes later
se estaba yendo	was going
se lo tragó	swallowed it
completo	completely
hundirse	to sink

Spanish	English
nuestra carga	our cargo
nuestras posesiones	our possessions
se fue	went
al fondo del mar	to the bottom of the sea
tuvimos	we had

Spanish	English
suerte	luck
estar	be
vivos	alive



Language tips

Time Expressions - Después (Related words: **Quince minutos después, Fifteen minutes later**)

'Quince minutos después' literally means 'fifteen minutes after'. English uses 'later' while Spanish uses 'después' (after).

- dos horas después → two hours later
- un día después → one day later
- más tarde → later

Progressive Past - Se estaba yendo (Related words: **se estaba yendo, was going**)

This combines 'estar' (was) + gerund to show an action in progress in the past. It emphasizes the ongoing nature of the sinking.



- estaba comiendo → was eating
- estaban durmiendo → were sleeping
- estábamos trabajando → we were working

Object Pronouns - Se lo (Related words: **se lo tragó, swallowed it**)

In 'se lo tragó', 'se' is reflexive (itself) and 'lo' means 'it'. Spanish puts these before the verb, English after.

- me lo dio → gave it to me
- te lo dije → I told you (it)
- nos lo explicó → explained it to us

Gender Agreement - Toda/Todas/Todo (Related words: **Toda, todas, todo**)

Spanish adjectives change based on gender and number. 'Toda' (feminine), 'todas' (feminine plural), 'todo' (masculine/neuter).

- todo el día → all day
- toda la noche → all night
- todos los niños → all the children

Spanish

56. **No podíamos** llegar al barco de rescate. La tormenta **era** muy fuerte. Entonces remamos hacia la orilla. Tomó horas. Cada ola **trató de** voltear nuestro bote. Cada ráfaga de viento **trató de** ahogarnos. Gente en la playa **nos vio** venir. Corrieron a ayudar.

English

56. We couldn't reach the rescue ship. The storm was too strong. So we rowed toward the shore. It took hours. Every wave tried to flip our boat. Every gust of wind tried to drown us. People on the beach saw us coming. They ran to help.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
no podíamos	we couldn't	horas	hours	gente	people
al barco de rescate	the rescue ship	trató de	tried to	la playa	the beach
remamos	we rowed	voltear	flip	nos vio	saw us
hacia	toward	nuestro bote	our boat	venir	coming
la orilla	the shore	ráfaga de viento	gust of wind	corrieron	they ran
tomó	it took	ahogarnos	drown us	ayudar	help



Language tips

Negative Past - No podíamos (Related words: **No podíamos, We couldn't**)

To make verbs negative in Spanish, just add 'no' before the verb. English uses 'couldn't' or 'didn't' structures.

- no quería → didn't want
- no sabía → didn't know
- no tenía → didn't have

Ser vs Estar - Era (Related words: **era, was**)

'Era' (from ser) describes permanent characteristics. Here the storm 'was' strong as its nature. Estar would describe temporary states.

- era grande → was big (inherently)
- estaba mojado → was wet (temporarily)



• era difícil → was difficult

Tratar de - Trying to (Related words: **trató de, tried to**)

'Trató de' means 'tried to'. Spanish uses 'tratar de' + infinitive, while English uses 'tried to' + base verb.

- trato de entender → I try to understand
- tratamos de ayudar → we try to help
- trataron de escapar → they tried to escape

Object Pronouns - Nos vio (Related words: **nos vio, saw us**)

In 'nos vio', 'nos' (us) comes before the verb. English puts object pronouns after: 'saw us'.

- me llamó → called me
- te busco → I'm looking for you
- los encontré → I found them

Spanish

57. Finalmente, finalmente, **llegamos** a la orilla. Hombres jalaron nuestro bote a la arena. Estábamos seguros. Vivos. Caí en la playa y no pude levantarme. Estaba vivo pero **me sentía muerto** por dentro. Dios **me había salvado** pero ¿por qué? **No lo merecía.**

English

57. Finally, finally, we arrived at the shore. Men pulled our boat to the sand. We were safe. Alive. I fell on the beach and couldn't get up. I was alive but I felt dead inside. God had saved me but why? I didn't deserve it.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
a	at	no pude levantarme	couldn't get up	me había salvado	had saved me
jalaron	pulled	vivo	alive	no lo merecía	i didn't deserve it
la arena	the sand	me sentía muerto	i felt dead		
seguros	safe	por dentro	inside		



Language tips

Past Tenses - Llegamos vs We Arrived (Related words: **llegamos, we arrived**)

Spanish 'llegamos' can mean 'we arrive' (present) or 'we arrived' (past). Context tells you which. English uses different forms for present and past.

- llegamos hoy → we arrive today
- llegamos ayer → we arrived yesterday
- comemos → we eat/we ate

Reflexive Verbs - Me Sentía (Related words: **me sentía muerto, I felt dead**)

Spanish uses reflexive pronouns with feelings: 'me sentía' (I felt myself). English just says 'I felt' without the reflexive.

- me siento bien → I feel good
- se siente mal → he/she feels bad
- nos sentimos felices → we feel happy

Past Perfect - Había Salvado (Related words: **me había salvado, had saved me**)



Spanish 'había salvado' (had saved) shows an action completed before another past action. It works the same as English 'had saved'.

- había comido → had eaten
- habías llegado → you had arrived
- habían terminado → they had finished

Double Negation - No Merecía (Related words: **No lo merecía, I didn't deserve it**)

Spanish 'no lo merecía' uses 'no' + verb for negation. English contracts this to 'didn't deserve' with a helper verb.

- no tengo → I don't have
- no sabía → I didn't know
- no puede → he/she can't

Spanish

58. La gente de Yarmouth **era** muy amable. **Nos dieron** comida y ropa caliente. **Nos dieron** lugares para dormir. Los oficiales **del pueblo nos dieron** dinero. Podíamos ir a Londres o regresar a Hull. **Nos** trataron como héroes pero **me sentía** como un tonto.

English

58. The people of Yarmouth were very kind. They gave us food and warm clothes. They gave us places to sleep. The town officials gave us money. We could go to London or return to Hull. They treated us like heroes but I felt like a fool.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
yarmouth	yarmouth	ropa caliente	warm clothes	podíamos	we could
amable	kind	lugares	places	hull	hull
nos	us	dormir	sleep	trataron	they treated
dieron	gave	los oficiales	the officials	héroes	heroes
comida	food	del pueblo	of the town	me sentía	i felt



Language tips

Past Tense - Era vs Was (Related words: **era, was**)

Spanish 'era' (imperfect) describes ongoing states in the past. English uses 'was' for both ongoing and completed past actions.

- era amable → was kind
- era grande → was big
- éramos felices → we were happy

Object Pronouns - Nos vs Us (Related words: **Nos, dieron, gave, us**)

Spanish 'nos' means 'us' and goes before the verb. English 'us' comes after the verb.

- nos dio → gave us
- me llamó → called me
- te vio → saw you

Reflexive Verbs - Me sentía (Related words: **me sentía, I felt**)

Spanish uses reflexive 'sentirse' (to feel oneself). English just uses 'to feel' without the reflexive pronoun.

- me siento → I feel
- se levanta → he/she gets up



- nos divertimos → we have fun

Contracted Forms - Del (Related words: **del pueblo, of the town**)

'Del' is a contraction of 'de + el' meaning 'of the' or 'from the'. It's mandatory in Spanish when these words come together.

- del parque → from the park
- al mercado → to the market
- del libro → of the book

Spanish

59. Ahora era mi oportunidad. **Debería** **ir** **a casa.** **Debería** caer a los pies de mi padre y rogar perdón. Él **me** **recibiría** de vuelta. Como el hijo pródigo en la Biblia mataría el becerro gordo para mí. Pensaba que estaba muerto. **¡Qué** **alegría** verme vivo!

English

59. Now was my opportunity. I should go home. I should fall at my father's feet and beg forgiveness. He would receive me back. Like the prodigal son in the Bible he would kill the fatted calf for me. He thought I was dead. What joy to see me alive!

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
mi oportunidad	my opportunity	recibiría	would receive	pensaba	he thought
debería	i should	de vuelta	back	¡qué	what
caer	fall	el hijo pródigo	the prodigal son	alegría	joy
a los pies	at the feet	la biblia	the bible	verme	to see me
rogar	beg	mataría	he would kill		
perdón	forgiveness	el becerro gordo	the fatted calf		



Language tips

Conditional Tense - Would/Should (Related words: **Debería, I should**)

Spanish conditional 'debería' means 'I should'. The -ía ending shows hypothetical actions, like English 'would' or 'should'.

- podría → I could
- querría → I would want
- haría → I would do

Ir a casa vs Go home (Related words: **ir, a casa, go, home**)

Spanish says 'ir a casa' (go to house). English just says 'go home' without 'to' or 'the'.

- voy a casa → I go home
- está en casa → is at home
- de casa → from home

Object Pronoun Position (Related words: **me, recibiría, would receive, me**)

Spanish 'me recibiría' places 'me' before the verb. English puts it after: 'would receive me'.

- te veo → I see you
- lo quiero → I want it
- nos llama → calls us

Exclamations - ¡Qué...! (Related words: **¡Qué, alegría, What, joy**)

Spanish uses '¡Qué...!' for exclamations meaning 'What...!' or 'How...!' English only uses 'What' for this.



- ¡Qué bueno! → How good!
- ¡Qué día! → What a day!
- ¡Qué sorpresa! → What a surprise!

Spanish

60. Pero **no fui** a casa. ¿Por qué? No puedo **explicarlo**. Algo oscuro me **empujó** hacia adelante. Mi mente **decía** "¡Ve a casa!" Pero mis pies no obedecían. ¿Era el destino? ¿Era el Diablo? ¿Estaba maldito? **No lo sé**. Solo sé que **no fui** a casa.

English

60. But I didn't go home. Why? I can't explain it. Something dark pushed me forward. My mind said "Go home!" But my feet didn't obey. Was it destiny? Was it the Devil? Was I cursed? I don't know. I only know that I didn't go home.

Spanish	English
no fui	i didn't go
explicarlo	explain it
empujó	pushed
hacia adelante	forward
mi mente	my mind

Spanish	English
decía	said
¡ve	go
mis pies	my feet
no obedecían	didn't obey
¿era	was it

Spanish	English
el destino	destiny
el diablo	the devil
¿estaba	was i
no lo sé	i don't know
sé	i know



Language tips

Negative Past - No fui (Related words: **no fui, I didn't go**)

Spanish puts 'no' before the verb to make it negative. English uses 'didn't' + base verb: 'didn't go'.

- no comí → I didn't eat
- no vi → I didn't see
- no hice → I didn't do

Attached Pronouns - Explicarlo (Related words: **explicarlo, explain it**)

Spanish can attach 'lo' (it) to infinitives: 'explicarlo'. English keeps them separate: 'explain it'.

- verlo → see it
- hacerlo → do it
- comprarlo → buy it

Imperfect vs Simple Past (Related words: **decía, said, empujó, pushed**)

Spanish 'decía' (imperfect) shows ongoing past action. 'Empujó' (preterite) shows completed action. English uses different forms too.

- hablaba → was speaking
- habló → spoke
- comía → was eating

No lo sé - Special Negation (Related words: **No lo sé, I don't know**)

'No lo sé' means 'I don't know it'. Spanish includes 'lo' (it), but English often drops 'it' in 'I don't know'.

- no lo entiendo → I don't understand
- no lo veo → I don't see it
- no lo quiero → I don't want it



Spanish

61. Mi amigo me encontró después de tres días. **Se veía** terrible. **Había cambiado.** La tormenta había roto algo en él. "¿Cómo estás?" me **preguntó en voz baja.** Su voz **era** diferente. El muchacho que se reía se había ido. Ahora **se veía** como un hombre viejo.

English

61. My friend found me after three days. He looked terrible. He had changed. The storm had broken something in him. "How are you?" he asked me quietly. His voice was different. The boy who laughed had gone. Now he looked like an old man.

Spanish	English
tres días	three days
se veía	he looked
terrible	terrible
había cambiado	he had changed
había	had

Spanish	English
en él	in him
estás	are you
preguntó	he asked
en voz baja	quietly
diferente	different

Spanish	English
el muchacho	the boy
se reía	laughed
se había ido	had gone
un hombre viejo	an old man



Language tips

Reflexive Verbs - Se veía (Related words: **Se veía, He looked**)

The verb 'verse' (to look/appear) is reflexive in Spanish. 'Se veía' means 'he looked' referring to appearance, not the action of looking.

- me veo → I look
- te ves → you look
- se ve → he/she looks

Past Perfect - Había cambiado (Related words: **Había cambiado, had changed**)

Spanish uses 'había' + past participle to express actions completed before another past action, just like English 'had' + past participle.

- había comido → had eaten
- habías llegado → you had arrived
- habían salido → they had left

Imperfect vs Simple Past (Related words: **era, was, preguntó, asked**)

Spanish uses imperfect (era, veía) for ongoing past states and simple past (encontró, preguntó) for completed actions. English doesn't always make this distinction.

- era feliz → was happy
- comió → ate
- vivía → lived/was living

En voz baja - Idiomatic Expression (Related words: **en voz baja, quietly**)

'En voz baja' literally means 'in low voice'. English uses the single word 'quietly' or 'softly' instead.

- en voz alta → loudly
- en silencio → in silence
- con cuidado → carefully

Spanish

English



62. Su padre estaba con él. Cuando supo quién era yo el viejo capitán se volvió muy serio. "Joven," me dijo, "nunca debes ir **al mar** otra vez. Esta tormenta es la advertencia de Dios para ti. No estás destinado a ser mariner. **Ve** a casa **mientras** **puedas**."

62. His father was with him. When he found out who I was, the old captain became very serious. "Young man," he said to me, "you must never go to sea again. This storm is God's warning for you. You are not destined to be a sailor. Go home while you can."

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
con él	with him	nunca debes	you must never	a ser	to be
supo	he found out	la advertencia	the warning	marinero	a sailor
quién	who	de dios	from god	ve	go
el viejo capitán	the old captain	para ti	for you	mientras	while
joven	young man	no estás destinado	you are not destined	puedas	you can



Language tips

Contractions - Al mar (Related words: **al mar, to sea**)

'Al' is a contraction of 'a + el' (to the). Spanish always contracts these two words, while English keeps them separate as 'to the'.

- al parque → to the park
- del niño → from the boy
- al médico → to the doctor

Modal Verbs - Debes (Related words: **debes, you must**)

'Deber' means 'must' or 'should'. Spanish conjugates modal verbs like any other verb, while English modals don't change form.

- debo ir → I must go
- puede hablar → he can speak
- quiero comer → I want to eat

Imperative Mood - Ve (Related words: **Ve, Go**)

'Ve' is the command form of 'ir' (to go). Spanish has different imperative forms for tú, usted, etc. English just uses the base verb.

- come → eat
- habla → speak
- escucha → listen

Subjunctive - Mientras puedas (Related words: **mientras, while, puedas, you can**)

After 'mientras' (while), Spanish uses subjunctive 'puedas' to express uncertainty. English uses the regular 'can' form.

- cuando venga → when he comes
- antes de que salga → before she leaves
- hasta que termines → until you finish



63. "¿Su hijo **dejará de** navegar?" pregunté. El capitán **negó con la cabeza**. "Eso es diferente. Es su trabajo. Es su vida. ¿Pero tú? Viniste por aventura. ¡Y mira **lo que** pasó! Tal vez **estás** maldito. Tal vez **eres** como Jonás en la Biblia."

63. "Will your son stop sailing?" I asked. The captain shook his head. "That is different. It is his job. It is his life. But you? You came for adventure. And look what happened! Maybe you are cursed. Maybe you are like Jonah in the Bible."

Spanish	English
¿su hijo	will your son
dejará de	stop
navegar	sailing
pregunté	i asked
negó con la cabeza	shook his head

Spanish	English
es	it is
su trabajo	his job
su vida	his life
viniste	you came
¡y	and

Spanish	English
mira	look
tal vez	maybe
eres	you are
jonás	jonah



Language tips

Future Tense - Dejará (Related words: **dejará de, stop**)

Spanish future tense adds endings to the infinitive: 'dejar' becomes 'dejará'. English uses 'will' + base verb.

- hablaré → I will speak
- comerás → you will eat
- vivirán → they will live

Idiomatic Expression - Negó con la cabeza (Related words: **negó con la cabeza, shook his head**)

'Negar con la cabeza' literally means 'to deny with the head'. English simply says 'shook his head'.

- asintió con la cabeza → nodded
- encogió los hombros → shrugged
- frunció el ceño → frowned

Ser vs Estar - Es vs Estás (Related words: **eres, you are, estás, you are**)

Spanish uses 'ser' (eres) for permanent characteristics and 'estar' (estás) for temporary states. English uses 'to be' for both.

- es médico → he is a doctor
- está cansado → he is tired
- soy alto → I am tall

Lo que - Relative Pronoun (Related words: **lo que, what**)

'Lo que' means 'what' or 'that which' in relative clauses. It's neutral and refers to ideas or situations rather than specific nouns.

- lo que dices → what you say
- lo que pasó → what happened
- lo que quiero → what I want



64. Entonces **se enojó**. Su hijo **le había contado** mi historia. "¿Qué tipo de tonto se escapa de un buen padre? ¿Qué tipo de tonto tira una vida cómoda? ¡No navegaría contigo otra vez por mil libras! ¡Traes mala suerte! ¡Causas muerte!"

64. Then he got angry. His son had told him my story. "What kind of fool runs away from a good father? What kind of fool throws away a comfortable life? I wouldn't sail with you again for a thousand pounds! You bring bad luck! You cause death!"

Spanish	English
se enojó	he got angry
su hijo	his son
había contado	had told
mi historia	my story
tipo	kind
tonto	fool

Spanish	English
se escapa	runs away
un buen padre	a good father
tira	throws away
una vida cómoda	a comfortable life
¡no navegaría	i wouldn't sail
contigo	with you

Spanish	English
mil libras	a thousand pounds
¡traes	you bring
mala suerte	bad luck
¡causas	you cause
muerte	death



Language tips

Reflexive Verbs - Se enojó (Related words: **se enojó, he got angry**)

Spanish uses 'se enojó' (literally 'he angered himself') where English just says 'he got angry'. Reflexive verbs are very common in Spanish.

- se levantó → he got up
- se sentó → he sat down
- se fue → he left

Past Perfect - Había contado (Related words: **había contado, had told**)

Spanish 'había contado' means 'had told'. Both languages use a helper verb (había/had) plus the past participle to show an action before another past action.

- había comido → had eaten
- habías visto → you had seen
- habían llegado → they had arrived

Indirect Object Pronoun - Le (Related words: **le, him**)

Spanish 'le' means 'to him' or 'to her'. It comes before the verb in Spanish but after in English: 'le había contado' → 'had told him'.

- le digo → I tell him
- les escribo → I write to them
- te doy → I give to you

Conditional Mood - No navegaría (Related words: **No navegaría, I wouldn't sail**)

Spanish conditional 'navegaría' translates to 'would sail'. The negative 'no' comes before the verb in Spanish but forms 'wouldn't' in English.

- comería → I would eat
- no iría → I wouldn't go
- hablarías → you would speak



65. **Sus palabras** me **lastimaron**. Pero **no dije nada**. Tenía demasiado orgullo para admitir que tenía razón. Siguió hablando. "Marca mis palabras. Si no vas a casa **enfrentarás** desastre tras desastre. La maldición de tu padre te seguirá. Sufrirás hasta que desees estar muerto."

65. His words hurt me. But I didn't say anything. I had too much pride to admit he was right. He kept talking. "Mark my words. If you don't go home you'll face disaster after disaster. Your father's curse will follow you. You'll suffer until you wish you were dead."

Spanish	English
lastimaron	hurt
no dije nada	i didn't say anything
orgullo	pride
admitir	admit
razón	reason
siguió	he kept

Spanish	English
marca	mark
mis palabras	my words
no vas a casa	you don't go home
enfrentarás	you'll face
desastre tras desastre	disaster after disaster
la maldición	the curse

Spanish	English
de tu padre	of your father
seguirá	will follow
sufrirás	you'll suffer
desees	you wish
estar	to be



Language tips

Double Negation - No dije nada (Related words: **no dije nada, I didn't say anything**)

Spanish uses double negation 'no dije nada' (literally 'I didn't say nothing'). English uses single negation 'I didn't say anything'.

- no veo nada → I don't see anything
- no tengo nada → I don't have anything
- no como nada → I don't eat anything

Past Tenses - Lastimaron vs Hurt (Related words: **lastimaron, hurt**)

Spanish 'lastimaron' is simple past tense. English 'hurt' looks the same in present and past - only context tells you it's past.

- me lastimó → he hurt me
- lastimé → I hurt
- nos lastimaron → they hurt us

Possessive Adjectives - Sus vs His (Related words: **Sus palabras, His words**)

Spanish 'sus' can mean his, her, their, or your (formal). Context tells you which. Here it means 'his'.

- su casa → his/her house
- sus libros → his/her books
- mi casa → my house

Future Tense - Enfrentarás (Related words: **enfrentarás, you'll face**)

Spanish uses one word 'enfrentarás' for future. English uses 'will' + verb: 'you'll face'.

- hablaré → I'll speak
- comerás → you'll eat
- vivirán → they'll live



66. **Nos separamos.** Nunca **los vi** otra vez. Tenía dinero en mi bolsillo de la gente amable de Yarmouth. **Podía** ir a casa a York. O **podía** ir a Londres y encontrar otro barco. La elección era **mía.** Pero la vergüenza tomó mi decisión por mí.

66. We separated. I never saw them again. I had money in my pocket from the kind people of Yarmouth. I could go home to York. Or I could go to London and find another ship. The choice was mine. But shame made my decision for me.

Spanish	English
nos	we
separamos	separated
los	them
mi bolsillo	my pocket

Spanish	English
de yarmouth	of yarmouth
a york	to york
encontrar	find
la elección	the choice

Spanish	English
mía	mine
la vergüenza	shame
tomó	made



Language tips

Reflexive Verbs - Nos separamos (Related words: **Nos, separamos, We, separated**)

Spanish 'separamos' with 'nos' shows action done to ourselves. English just says 'we separated' without the reflexive pronoun.

- me levanto → I get up
- se ducha → he showers
- nos vemos → we see each other

Object Pronouns - Los vi (Related words: **los, vi, saw, them**)

Spanish puts object pronouns before the verb: 'los vi'. English puts them after: 'saw them'.

- la veo → I see her
- lo tengo → I have it
- nos llaman → they call us

Modal Verbs - Podía (Related words: **Podía, I could**)

Spanish 'podía' means 'I could' (ability in the past). It's followed by an infinitive 'ir' (to go).

- quería ir → I wanted to go
- debía estudiar → I should study
- sabía nadar → I knew how to swim

Possessive Pronouns - Mía vs Mine (Related words: **mía, mine**)

Spanish 'mía' agrees with the gender of what's owned (la elección). English 'mine' never changes.

- el libro es mío → the book is mine
- la casa es tuya → the house is yours
- los coches son suyos → the cars are theirs

Spanish

67. ¿Cómo podía ir a casa? Todos **se reían** de mí. "¡Ahí está el muchacho que **se escapó al mar!**" dirían. "¡Una tormenta y vino llorando a casa!" No podía enfrentar esa vergüenza. Mi orgullo era **más fuerte que** mi buen sentido. Esta es la locura de la juventud.

English

67. How could I go home? Everyone would laugh at me. "There's the boy who ran away to sea!" they'd say. "One storm and he came crying home!" I couldn't face that shame. My pride was stronger than my common sense. This is the madness of youth.



Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
podía	could i	t tormenta	storm	más fuerte que	stronger than
se reirían	would laugh	vino	he came	mi buen sentido	my common sense
¡ahí	there	llorando	crying	la locura	the madness
se escapó	ran away	no podía enfrentar	i couldn't face	la juventud	youth
dirían	they'd say	esa vergüenza	that shame		
¡una	one	mi orgullo	my pride		



Language tips

Conditional Tense - Se reirían (Related words: se reirían, would laugh)

Spanish 'se reirían' means 'they would laugh'. The conditional shows what would happen in a hypothetical situation.

- comería → I would eat
- vivirías → you would live
- hablarían → they would speak

Contractions - Al mar (Related words: al mar, to sea)

Spanish combines 'a + el' into 'al'. English keeps them separate: 'to the sea'.

- al parque → to the park
- del niño → from the boy
- al médico → to the doctor

Reflexive Verbs - Se escapó (Related words: se escapó, ran away)

Spanish 'se escapó' uses a reflexive pronoun. English 'ran away' doesn't need one - the meaning is built into the verb.

- me fui → I left
- se cayó → he fell
- nos perdimos → we got lost

Comparisons - Más fuerte que (Related words: más fuerte que, stronger than)

Spanish uses 'más...que' for comparisons. English uses the comparative form 'stronger than'.

- más alto que → taller than
- más feliz que → happier than
- menos caro que → less expensive than

Spanish

68. No tenemos vergüenza de hacer mal. Pero **tenemos vergüenza** de hacerlo bien. No tenemos vergüenza de ser tontos. Pero **tenemos vergüenza** de volvernos sabios. Entonces **fui** a Londres. En el camino peleé **conmigo mismo**. Pero **el orgullo** ganó cada argumento.

English

68. We are not ashamed to do wrong. But we are ashamed to do right. We are not ashamed to be foolish. But we are ashamed to become wise. So I went to London. On the way I fought with myself. But pride won every argument.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
no tenemos vergüenza	we are not ashamed	bien	right	peleé	i fought



hacer	do	tontos	foolish	conmigo mismo	with myself
mal	wrong	volvernos	become	el orgullo	pride
tenemos vergüenza	we are ashamed	sabios	wise	ganó	won
hacerlo	do it	el camino	the way	argumento	argument



Language tips

Tener Vergüenza - To Be Ashamed (Related words: **tenemos vergüenza, we are ashamed**)

Spanish uses 'tener vergüenza' (literally 'to have shame') where English uses 'to be ashamed'. This is a common expression pattern.

- tengo vergüenza → I am ashamed
- tiene vergüenza → he/she is ashamed
- tienen vergüenza → they are ashamed

Simple Past - Fui vs I Went (Related words: **fui, I went**)

Spanish 'fui' is the past tense of 'ir' (to go). Notice how the Spanish verb completely changes form, unlike English which adds 'went'.

- fui → I went
- fuieste → you went
- fue → he/she went

Reflexive - Conmigo Mismo (Related words: **conmigo mismo, with myself**)

'Conmigo mismo' means 'with myself'. Spanish combines 'con' + 'migo' (special form of 'me') + 'mismo' for emphasis.

- contigo mismo → with yourself
- consigo mismo → with himself
- conmigo → with me

Articles with Abstract Nouns (Related words: **el orgullo, pride**)

Spanish uses articles with abstract nouns like 'el orgullo' (pride). English often omits them: just 'pride'.

- el amor → love
- la felicidad → happiness
- el miedo → fear

Spanish

69. **En** Londres **me quedé** por algún tiempo. La memoria de la tormenta **empezó a** desvanecerse. Mi miedo se volvió más débil. Mi deseo de aventura se volvió más fuerte. **Pensé** menos **en** casa. **Pensé** menos **en** las lágrimas de **mi padre**. **Pensé** menos **en** las advertencias de Dios.

English

69. In London I stayed for some time. The memory of the storm began to fade. My fear became weaker. My desire for adventure became stronger. I thought less about home. I thought less about my father's tears. I thought less about God's warnings.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
algún tiempo	some time	débil	weaker	menos	less
la memoria	the memory	mi deseo	my desire		
desvanecerse	fade	de	for		



Language tips

Reflexive Verbs - Me Quedé (Related words: **me quedé, I stayed**)

'Me quedé' (I stayed) is reflexive in Spanish. The 'me' shows the action affects the subject. English just uses 'stayed'.

- me levanté → I got up
- se fue → he/she left
- nos sentamos → we sat down

Empezar a - Begin to (Related words: **empezó, began, a, to**)

Spanish uses 'empezar a' + infinitive (began to fade). The 'a' links the verb to the infinitive action.

- empezó a llover → it began to rain
- empiezo a entender → I begin to understand
- empezamos a correr → we began to run

Pensar en vs Think About (Related words: **Pensé, I thought, en, about**)

Spanish 'pensar en' literally means 'think in'. English uses 'think about' for the same meaning.

- pienso en ti → I think about you
- piensa en el futuro → think about the future
- pensamos en viajar → we think about traveling

Possessive + Family - Mi Padre (Related words: **mi padre, my father**)

Spanish doesn't use articles with possessives and family: 'mi padre'. English is the same: 'my father'.

- mi madre → my mother
- tu hermano → your brother
- su hija → his/her daughter

Spanish

70. Finalmente tomé mi decisión. **Encontraría** otro barco. **Trataría** otra vez. Probaría que no era un cobarde. **Le mostraría** a todos que podía ser un marinero. Era **el tonto más grande** que había vivido. Y pagaría caro por mi tontería.

English

70. Finally I made my decision. I would find another ship. I would try again. I would prove that I was not a coward. I would show everyone that I could be a sailor. I was the biggest fool who had ever lived. And I would pay dearly for my foolishness.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
tomé	i made	le mostraría	i would show	pagaría	i would pay
encontraría	i would find	a todos	everyone	caro	dearly
trataría	i would try	el tonto	the fool	mi tontería	my foolishness
probaría	i would prove	más grande	biggest		
no era un cobarde	i was not a coward	que había vivido	who had ever lived		



Language tips

Conditional Tense - Would (Related words: **Encontraría, I would find, Trataría, I would try**)



Spanish conditional endings (-ría) express 'would' in English. Notice how Spanish adds the ending to the infinitive.

- hablaría → I would speak
- comería → I would eat
- viviría → I would live

Le + Verb - Indirect Object (Related words: **Le mostraría, I would show**)

'Le mostraría' means 'I would show (to them)'. The 'le' is an indirect object pronoun that comes before the verb in Spanish.

- le digo → I tell him/her
- les escribo → I write to them
- te doy → I give you

Superlatives - El Más Grande (Related words: **el tonto, the fool, más grande, biggest**)

Spanish forms superlatives with 'el/la más' + adjective. 'El tonto más grande' = 'the biggest fool'.

- el más alto → the tallest
- la más bonita → the prettiest
- los más rápidos → the fastest ones

Past Perfect - Había Vivido (Related words: **había vivido, had ever lived**)

Spanish 'había vivido' (had lived) uses 'haber' + past participle, just like English uses 'had' + past participle.

- había comido → had eaten
- habías llegado → you had arrived
- habíamos visto → we had seen