A0005: Take a Picture

Introduction

Asking strangers for a favor can be pretty difficult for the less extrovert of us—even in our native language. But with a few Spanish words it's actually not that hard as Liliana and JP show us in this lesson. The keyphrase is tomar una foto – to take a picture.

- discussion: visit the readers' forum for this lesson to discuss it or to ask questions about it
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Dialogue

hombre: ¡Señorita!
mujer: ¿Sí?
hombre: ¡Disculpe! ¿Nos podría tomar una foto por favor?
mujer: ¿Cómo no? ¡Sonrían!
hombre: Gracias.
Dialogue with Translation

hombre: ¡Señorita!

miss

man: Miss!

mujer: ¿Sí?

yes

woman: Yes?

hombre: ¡Disculpe! ¿Nos podría tomar una foto por favor?

(you) excuse (for) us (you) could take a photo please

man: Excuse me, could you please take a picture for us?

mujer: ¿Cómo no? ¡Sonrían!

how not (you) smile

woman: How could I not? Smile!

hombre: Gracias.

thanks

man: Thanks.

Vocabulary for Dialogue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spanish</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>el hombre</td>
<td>the man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la mujer</td>
<td>the woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la señorita</td>
<td>the miss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sí</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disculpar</td>
<td>to excuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¡(usted)</td>
<td>(you) excuse!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disculpe!</td>
<td>(formal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nos</td>
<td>(to/for) us</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poder</td>
<td>can</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

la señorita – the miss
(usted) podría  
verb (conditional tense)  
you could (formal)

tomar  
verb (infinitive)  
to take

un/una  
article (m./f.)  
a

la fotografía  
noun (feminine)  
the photo

la foto  
noun (feminine)  
the photo

por favor  
phrase  
please

¿cómo?  
adverb  
how?

no  
adverb  
not, no

sonreír  
verb (infinitive)  
to smile

¡(ustedes) sonrían!  
verb (imperative)  
(you) smile! (formal, plural)

gracias  
noun (feminine, plural)  
thanks

Vocabulary for Audio Lesson

el señor  
noun (masculine)  
the mister

la tarea  
noun (feminine)  
the exercise

la señora  
noun (feminine)  
the mistress

Don Pedro  
phrase  
very respectful form of address

Doña Paula  
phrase  
very respectful form of address

hasta luego  
phrase  
see you soon

More Vocabulary

This section includes grammatically related words. Some of them are required by the exercise Dialogue Recast.

poder  
infinitive  
can

(yo) podría  
conditional tense  
I could

(tú) podrías  
you could (informal, singular)

(él/ella) podría  
he/she(/it) could
(usted) podría  
(nosotros/-as) podríamos  
(vosotros/-as) podríais  
(ellos/ellas) podrían  
(ustedes) podrían  

(me) indirect object  
(pronoun)  

me  
te  
le  
le  
nos  
os  
les  
les  

disculpar  
infinite  

¡(tú) disculpa!  
¡(usted) disculpe!  
¡(nosotros/-as) disculpemos!  
¡(vosotros/-as) disculpad!  
¡(ustedes) disculpen!  

sonreír  
infinite  

¡(tú) sonríe!  
¡(usted) sonría!  
¡(nosotros/-as) sonriamos!  
¡(vosotros/-as) sonréid!  
¡(ustedes) sonrían!
tomar\textit{ infinitive} to take
(yo) tomo\textit{ present tense} I take
(tú) tomas you take (informal, singular)
(él/ella) toma he/she/it takes
(usted) toma you take (formal, singular)
(nosotros/-as) tomamos we take (m./f.)
(vosotros/-as) tomáis you take (informal, plural, m./f.)
(éllos/ellas) toman they take (m./f.)
(ustedes) toman you take (formal, plural)

Exercises

Dialogue Translation

Cover the right column, translate from Spanish to English and uncover the right column line by line to check your answers. If possible, read the Spanish sentences aloud.

¡Señorita! Miss!
¿Sí? Yes?
¡Disculpe! ¿Nos podría tomar una foto por favor? Excuse me, could you please take a picture for us?
¿Cómo no? ¡Sonrían! Of course./How could I not? Smile!
Gracias. Thanks.

Dialogue Recall

Now translate from English to Spanish. Remember to say the Spanish sentences aloud.

Miss!
Yes?
Excuse me! Could you take a photo for us, please? (formal)
Of course! Smile! (formal)
Thanks.

¡Señorita! Miss!
¿Sí? Yes?
¡Disculpe! ¿Nos podría tomar una foto por favor? Excuse me, could you please take a picture for us?
¿Cómo no? ¡Sonrían! Of course./How could I not? Smile!
Gracias. Thanks.
Dialogue Remix

Translate this variant of the dialogue from English to Spanish.

Sir! Excuse me!  ¿Señor! ¡Disculpe!
Yes? ¿Sí?
Could you take a picture for us?  ¿Nos podría tomar una foto?
No! ¡No!
Sir, please!  Señor, ¡por favor!
Yes, of course.  Sí, ¿cómo no?
Thanks!  Gracias!
Sir, miss, smile.  Señor, señorita, sonrían.

Dialogue Recast

This translation exercise requires some of the words from the More Vocabulary section.

Miss!  ¿Señorita!
Yes? ¿Sí?
Excuse me! Could you take a photo for me, please? (informal)  ¡Disculpa! ¿Me podrías tomar una foto por favor?
Of course! Smile! (informal)  ¿Cómo no? ¡Sonríe!
Thanks.  Gracias.

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