

Spanish Voices 1

Authentic Listening
and Reading Practice in
Spanish from Around
Latin America and Spain



Spanish Voices

1

**Authentic Listening and Reading
Practice in Spanish from
Around Latin America and Spain**



lingualism

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website: www.lingualism.com

email: contact@lingualism.com

Sample

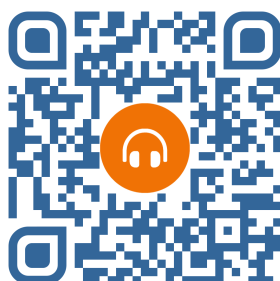
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Accompanying audio and online resources are available at:

www.lingualism.com/sv1



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- 2.10 Daily Routine
- 2.14 Vacation
- 2.22 Culture
- 2.28 Social Issue

Sandra Mexico

- 2.3 Introduction
- 2.9 Daily Routine
- 2.16 My Hometown
- 2.21 Culture
- 2.27 Social Issue

Francisco Spain

- 2.5 Introduction
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- 2.17 My Hometown
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Chelo Spain

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Jared The Dominican Republic

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Laura Costa Rica

- 2.1 Introduction
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Melanie Mexico

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Gisela Venezuela

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Jorge Peru

- 2.2 Introduction
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- 2.13 Vacation
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Felipe Colombia

- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.7 Daily Routine
- 1.10 Childhood Memory
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Jaime Chile

- 1.6 Introduction
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Florencia Argentina

- 2.6 Introduction
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Introduction

What is *Spanish Voices*?

Spanish Voices is a two-part series of short audio essays by contributors from around Latin America and Spain. Each speaker has provided a total of five audio essays, including a self-introduction, essays on cultural and social issues, as well as various personal topics such as vacations, childhood memories, their daily routines, and their hometowns. Each book features six speakers and 30 audio essay chapters, called *segments*. A segment consists of a transcription (text), English translation, as well as exercises designed to help you expand your vocabulary and improve your listening skills.

On www.lingualism.com/sv1 you can:

- download or stream the accompanying audio tracks for **free**.
- practice the vocabulary and expressions with online interactive flashcards, quizzes, and games.

How is *Spanish Voices* different?

What makes *Spanish Voices* a unique and powerful learning tool is that the material is based on recordings of native speakers speaking naturally and off-the-cuff—*not* voice actors reading prepared scripts. You will hear the speakers occasionally make what you are sure are mistakes; and you're likely right. Words may be mispronounced or misused; grammatical rules may not always be followed; sentences may be left unfinished if the speaker decides to rephrase what they are saying. This poses an extra challenge for listening. However, it is also very insightful to hear natural, spoken Spanish at various speeds, in all its varieties, and by a range of native speakers. This is, unfortunately, something most coursebooks lack in favor of carefully prepared, unnaturally slow listenings in a neutral accent. **It is hoped that the *Spanish Voices* series fills this gap to provide some refreshingly natural, challenging opportunities for improving listening skills.**

Can I benefit from this book at my level of Spanish?

This book is best suited for intermediate and more advanced learners. However, even lower-level students can benefit from listening to and studying the segments. Just keep in mind that the goal is **not** to understand 100%. The first time you listen, depending on your level, you may understand, say, 1%, 10%, 50%, or 90% of what you hear in a segment. If, after going through the exercises and studying the text while relistening several times, you manage to increase the percentage you can understand, you will have made progress and are successfully developing your skills and pushing your level up. Taking this approach, the material in *Spanish Voices* can be useful to learners at a wide range of levels.

How to Use This Book

To get the most out of this book, you need to exercise a bit of **discipline**—discipline to resist reading the texts and their translations before you have thoroughly studied the listenings. This cannot be emphasized enough. Once you have read the texts and translations, the dynamics of what you can obtain from listening to the segments change fundamentally. You should first listen to a segment *several* times while working your way through the exercises. These have been designed to help you first understand the gist and gradually discover details as you relisten. Only once you have come to understand as much as you can through the exercises should you move on to study the text and translation that follow. This approach will result in maximum efficiency in improving your listening skills. A step-by-step guideline follows:

Guidelines

1. **CHOOSE A SEGMENT TO STUDY:** The segments can be studied in any order; however, there is somewhat of a gradual progression from shorter and slower segments to longer and faster segments through each book. The box to the right of the segment's title shows the speaker's name and country of origin, as well as the number of words in the audio essay and the rate of speech the speaker uses (words per minute). The MP3s that accompany *Spanish Voices* are available as free downloads at www.lingualism.com/sv1.
2. **TITLE AND KEY WORDS:** *Before you listen the first time, be sure to read the title of the segment and look over the "True or False" questions.* Going into a listening "blind"—without having any context, without even knowing the topic—makes listening comprehension in a foreign language extremely difficult. Just by knowing the general topic, we are able to improve the amount we can understand, as we are able to draw on knowledge from our past experiences, anticipate what might be said, recognize known words, and guess new words and phrases.
3. **TRUE OR FALSE:** *Answer the "True or False" questions.* (Do not read ahead to the multiple-choice questions as some of these questions themselves may answer the true-false questions.) If you feel unsure of your answers, listen to the audio again before checking your answers. You will notice that a small number follows most answers in the answer key. These numbers correspond to the line number in the text and translation that reveals the answer. If you do not understand *why* you got an answer wrong, quickly look at the text and/or translation for that line number. (Here's where you have to use your self-discipline *not* to read beyond the specified line number!) Listen again and place a check next to each *true or false* question as you hear the answer.
4. **EXPRESSIONS:** *Match the Spanish words and phrases to their English translations.* The vocabulary focuses mostly on high-frequency adverbs, connectors, and phrases. You will learn by spending time playing with the words, trying to match them up by process of elimination and educated guesses. So don't look up the answers too quickly! After you've matched the words and checked your answers, listen again while you check off the items as you hear them.
5. **MULTIPLE CHOICE:** *Answer the "Multiple Choice" questions.* Follow the same guidelines as for the *true or false* questions. Note that both the *true or false* and *multiple-choice* questions are based on

information found in the segment, according to the information provided by the speaker, regardless of the accuracy of the information. You can think of each question as being preceded by “According to *the speaker*,...” or “*The speaker* mentions that...”.

6. **TEXT AND TRANSLATION:** Now that you’ve worked your way through the first three exercises and have managed to pick up more of what has been said, you can feel free to move on to study the text and translation for the segment. This part is more *free-style*. Depending on your level of Spanish and level of comfort with the text, you can approach this in several ways. For instance, you can cover the Spanish side and first read the translation; then try to translate the English back into Spanish based on what you remember. Also, you can simply try to brainstorm some possible Spanish equivalents for the words or phrases in the English translation; then check the Spanish side and see how it was actually said. Conversely, you can cover the English side first and relisten while you read along with the Spanish, perhaps pausing the audio to repeat each line aloud. In any case, the side-by-side arrangement of the Spanish text and its English translation allows you to cover one side and test yourself in various ways. You should be able to match up most words and phrases with their equivalents in English. You may want to highlight useful and interesting vocabulary and phrases you want to learn.
7. **VOCABULARY:** Following the text and translation are two more exercises, which can be done while looking back at the text when needed. The “Vocabulary” exercise presents English translations for at least ten Spanish key words and phrases found in the segment. You can replay the audio while listening for the Spanish equivalents, and if needed, look back at the text. Each vocabulary item is followed by a reference to the line number where the Spanish word or phrase appears.
8. **TRANSLATE:** The “Translate” exercise requires two steps. First, you must circle the correct word(s) to complete each sentence. The purpose is to draw your attention to collocations and idioms and develop the very important skill of noticing *how* words are used together in sentences. The answer key shows the line number of the text where the structure in question can be found. The focus is on the little words—prepositions and pronouns, as well as verb forms such as the subjunctive. The second step is to translate the sentences into English. You will find suggested English translations in the answer key. Keep in mind that there is always more than one way to translate a sentence.
9. **LISTEN AGAIN:** Try listening to the segments you have already studied again later. You will find that you can understand more and with more ease the following day. (Studies have shown that material learned is consolidated and organized in the brain during sleep.)

The Texts and Translations

Lines

The text and translation for each segment have been divided into numbered “lines,” which are not necessarily complete sentences or even clauses but are manageable chunks that can be studied.

Fillers

Fillers, which are used to signal that the speaker is thinking of what to say next, are a common and natural part of spoken language. Fillers vary from speaker and region. The most common and universal, are eh... and em.... Other popular fillers include bueno, este..., pues, entonces. Keep your ears open for such words and how native speakers use them. Another trait of spoken discourse is that the speaker may misspeak, then back up to correct themselves. Also, a speaker may decide to rephrase a sentence or simply not finish it. These are all marked with ellipses (...) so that you can easily see that the *word* you didn’t catch is, in fact, not a complete word at all. These ellipses are meant to aid you in deciphering the listening. However, when you are reading for meaning, anything before an ellipsis can be ignored.

The Translations

Good style has been sacrificed in favor of direct translations so that Spanish words and phrases can easily be matched up to their translations. You are encouraged to think of alternative ways lines could be translated into English.

Presentaciones

Felipe

Felipe (Colombia)
214 words (107 wpm)



True or False

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Felipe lives alone in a small apartment in downtown Bogota. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. He hopes to marry his current girlfriend someday. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. He likes music, but he doesn't like dancing. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. He speaks four languages. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. His musical tastes are different from that of most people in his country. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |

Expressions

algún día	a bunch of
bueno	and the like
cerca de	anyway
como ya lo mencioné	as I mentioned
cosas por el estilo	everything that has to do with
de pronto*	I'd like to be able to
en fin	maybe
me gustaría poder	near
todo que tiene que ver con	someday
un montón de	things like that
y estas cosas	well, uh

Multiple Choice

- Felipe lives with his mother, ____.
a. brother, and nephew c. brother, and niece
b. sister, and niece d. sister, and nephew
- Felipe is a ____ and ____.
a. musician c. sound engineer
b. scientist d. linguist
- Which of the follow does Felipe **not** mention he is interested in?
a. traveling c. movies
b. sports d. techno music

Text

¡Hola! ¿Qué tal?	1	Hey! How's it going?
Mi nombre es Felipe.	2	My name is Felipe.
Tengo treinta años.	3	I am 30 years old.

Soy de Bogotá, la capital de Colombia.	4	I am from Bogota, the capital of Colombia.
Vivo con mi mamá, mi hermana y mi sobrino.	5	I live with my mother, my sister, and my nephew.
Vivimos en Cogua, un pueblo cerca de Bogotá.	6	We live in Cogua, a small town near Bogota.
No soy casado pero tengo novia.	7	I am not married, but I have a girlfriend.
De pronto, nos casaremos algún día.	8*	Maybe someday we will get married.
Bueno, yo soy músico, productor de música, ingeniero de sonido.	9	Well, I am a musician, music producer, sound engineer.
Y bueno, me apasiona todo lo que tiene que ver con audio y estas cosas.	10	And well, I am passionate about everything related to audio and things like that.
Crecí en Bogotá; es una ciudad muy grande, muy chévere.	11	I grew up in Bogota; it is a very big city, and very cool.
Y bueno, me encanta viajar, conocer sitios nuevos, culturas, probar cosas nuevas.	12	And well, I love traveling, getting to know new places, cultures, trying new things.
También me encanta estudiar, aprender, todo lo que tiene que ver con lenguas... idiomas,	13	I also love studying, learning, everything about languages,
también ciencia, matemáticas, antropología, historia, psicología.	14	also, science, math, anthropology, history, psychology.
Bueno, en fin, un montón de cosas me interesan.	15	Well, anyway, a bunch of things interest me.
Eh... Hablo dos idiomas; estoy aprendiendo el tercero.	16	Uh... I speak two languages; I'm learning my third language now.
Me gustaría poder hablar muchos idiomas algún día.	17	I would like to be able to speak a lot of languages someday.
Em... En mi tiempo libre me gusta estar con mi novia,	18	Um... In my free time I like being with my girlfriend,
jugar con mi sobrino, ir a cine, ver películas, bailar, conversar, escuchar música, leer,	19	playing with my nephew, going to the cinema, watching movies, dancing, talking, listening to music, reading,
bueno, cosas por el estilo.	20	well, things like that.
¿Mi trabajo? Bueno, yo soy, como ya lo mencioné, músico,	21	My job? Well, as I mentioned, I am a musician,
y produzco música aquí en mi estudio.	22	and I produce music here in my studio.
Me gusta el house y el techno,	23	I like house and techno,
un poco diferente a lo que le gusta a la gente en este país,	24	[which is] a little different from what people in this country like,
pero bueno, es lo que me gusta.	25	but, well, it is what I like.
Bueno pues, ¡chao!	26	Alright, bye!

*8 To most Spanish speakers, *de pronto* means 'suddenly', but in Colombia it means 'maybe'.

Vocabulary

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|-------|
| 1. nephew ⁵ | _____ | 6. cool ¹¹ | _____ |
| 2. small town ⁶ | _____ | 7. to get to know ¹² | _____ |
| 3. to get married ⁸ | _____ | 8. to try (out) ¹² | _____ |
| 4. engineer ⁹ | _____ | 9. to mention ²¹ | _____ |
| 5. to grow up ¹¹ | _____ | 10. to produce ²² | _____ |

Translate

1. Juan vive en Oakland, una ciudad *cerca a* / *cerca de* San Francisco.
2. *Casaron* / *Se casaron* el año pasado
3. *Apasiono a* / *Me apasiona* la poesía.
4. Me encanta *viajar* / *viajando*.
5. Soy *médico* / *un médico*.
6. Es *qué* / *lo que* me gusta.

notes

True or False: 1. F⁶ 2. T⁷⁻⁸ 3. F¹⁸⁻¹⁹ 4. F¹⁶ 5. T²³⁻²⁵ **Expressions:** algún día - someday / Bueno – well, uh / cerca de - near / como ya lo mencioné - as I mentioned / cosas por el estilo - things like that / de pronto* - maybe / en fin - anyway / me gustaría poder - I'd like to be able to / todo que tiene que ver con - everything that has to do with / un montón de - a bunch of / y estas cosas - and the like **Multiple Choice:** 1. d⁵ 2. a, c⁹ 3. b **Vocabulary:** 1. sobrino 2. pueblo 3. casarse 4. ingeniero 5. crecer 6. chévere 7. conocer 8. probar 9. mencionar 10. producir **Translate:** 1. cerca de⁶ Juan lives in Oakland, a city near San Francisco. 2. se casaron⁸ They got married last year. 3. me apasiona¹⁰ I'm passionate about poetry. 4. viajar¹² I love traveling. 5. médico⁹ I'm a doctor. 6. lo que²⁵ That's what I like.

Sample

True or False

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Melanie once moved to California for work. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. She has a large family. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. She enjoys her current job. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. She thinks her hometown is pretty boring. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. It takes Melanie nearly half an hour to climb up to the lighthouse (<i>el faro</i>). | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |

Expressions

a finales de	alongside
a un lado de	another thing
apenas	at least
cada dos semanas	at the end of
este	barely, just
la mayor parte de	every other week
más de	I had to
me tuve que	less than
menos de	more than
otra cosa	most of
por lo menos	well, um

Multiple Choice

- Melanie is currently ___ and _____.
 - working as a teacher
 - working at a hotel
 - studying to be an English teacher
 - studying hotel and tourism management
- In her free time, Melanie enjoys ___ and _____.
 - going to the beach
 - walking her dogs
 - going camping with her cousins
 - skating along the boardwalk
- How many aunts and uncles does Melanie have?
 - 8
 - 10
 - 18
 - 40

Text

Hola, Soy Melanie. Tengo veintitrés años.	1	Hi, I'm Melanie. I'm 23 years old.
Soy mexicana y vivo en Mazatlán, Sinaloa.	2	I'm Mexican and I live in Mazatlan, Sinaloa.
He vivido aquí la mayor parte de mi vida.	3	I've lived here most of my life.
Solamente me he mudado en dos ocasiones.	4	I've moved only twice.
Una cuando tenía doce años, me fui a vivir con mi familia a California en Estados Unidos.	5	Once when I was 12 years old, I moved with my family to California, in the U.S.
Y la segunda vez que me mudé tenía dieciocho años y me mudé yo sola a Cozumel.	6	And the second time I moved I was 18 years old, and I moved by myself to Cozumel.

¿Español o Europeo?

Chelo (Spain)
267 words (137 wpm)

27

True or False

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Most young Spaniards now agree that they feel more European than Spanish. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. National sports teams are in part to thank for maintaining a Spanish identity. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. The Erasmus program is designed to promote Spanish culture and identity. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Many young Spaniards go abroad to study or work. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Chelo says that she personally feels she is first Spanish, then European. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |

Expressions

a decir verdad	abroad
actualmente	although
aunque	and also
diría que	and so
el hecho de	be it; whether
en el extranjero	currently
en mi opinión	especially
incluso	even
muchas veces	for that reason
por lo que	I have to say; it's true that
por otra parte	I would say that
sí que es verdad que	in my opinion
sobre todo	often
y además	on the other hand
y así	the fact that
ya sea	to be honest

Multiple Choice

- Chelo thinks young people in Spain today feel more __, but __.
a. Spanish c. do not realize it
b. European d. do not want to admit it
- Chelo does **not** say that __.
a. many young people enjoy cultural exchanges c. Spain wouldn't be the same without Europe
b. the European economy is bad nowadays d. hosting the Olympics may bolster national pride and identity
- Chelo concludes that most young Spaniards feel __.
a. both Spanish and European c. European more than Spanish
b. Spanish more than European d. like citizens of the world

Text

Preguntar a los jóvenes si se sienten europeos o españoles es una pregunta muy peliaguda,	1	Asking young people if they feel [more] European or Spanish is a tricky question,
sobre todo porque no se puede generalizar una respuesta	2	especially since you can not generalize an answer,
y cada persona piensa una cosa distinta, a decir verdad.	3	and everyone thinks something different, to be honest.
En mi opinión... en mi opinión, diría que...	4	In my opinion... in my opinion, I would say that...
que creo que los jóvenes actuales españoles se sienten españoles,	4	that I think young people in Spain these days feel Spanish,
aunque ellos muchas veces no se den cuenta.	5	even if they often don't realize it.
Yo creo que también ha favorecido mucho el hecho de tener una selección de fútbol española,	6	I also think that having a national soccer team contributes to this,
o una selección en cualquier deporte, ya sea olímpico, de competición...	7	or a team in any sport, be it Olympic, a competition...
Creo que el deporte en este caso ha ayudado mucho a identificarse como España.	8	I think that, here, sports have helped a lot in maintaining a Spanish identity.
Por otra parte, creo que los jóvenes españoles también se sienten europeos.	9	On the other hand, I think that young Spaniards also feel European.
Yo creo que España no sería nada sin Europa.	10	I don't think that Spain would be the same without Europe.
Por ejemplo, muchos de los jóvenes actualmente están disfrutando de programas europeos,	11	For example, many young Europeans are now enjoying programs,
como el programa Erasmus u otras becas que ofrece la Unión Europea para jóvenes.	12	such as the Erasmus program or other scholarships that the European Union offers to young people.
Y así tienen la posibilidad de estudiar en el extranjero, aprender idiomas, estar en contacto con otra cultura.	13	And so, they have the opportunity to study abroad, learn languages, experience another culture.
Creo que es una cosa muy positiva y que los jóvenes españoles están aprovechando muchísimo.	14	I think it's a very positive thing and that young Spaniards are taking advantage of these a lot.
Incluso muchas veces, creo que también se plantean trabajar o ir a estudiar toda la carrera, no solamente con este programa, fuera de España.	15	Often, even, I think that they consider working or going to do all their university studies, not just with this program, outside of Spain.
Sí que es verdad que la situación económica en Europa ahora no es la más propicia.	16	I have to say that the economic situation in Europe is not very favorable right now.
Pero por otra parte, creo que el intercambio cultural está favoreciendo muchísimo a que los jóvenes se sientan de verdad europeos, y yo creo que es un factor muy importante todo esto;	17	But, on the other hand, I think that cultural exchanges are contributing to young people feeling truly European,
por lo que diría que los jóvenes españoles se sienten españoles y, además, europeos.	18	and I think that all this is an important factor.
	19	For that reason, I would say that young Spaniards feel Spanish as well as European.

Vocabulary

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|--|-------|
| 1. youth, young people ¹ | _____ | 8. to be in contact with ¹³ | _____ |
| 2. to feel ¹ | _____ | 9. to take advantage of ¹⁴ | _____ |
| 3. tricky ¹ | _____ | 10. to consider ¹⁵ | _____ |
| 4. to realize ⁵ | _____ | 11. studies ¹⁵ | _____ |
| 5. to contribute to ⁶ | _____ | 12. favorable ¹⁶ | _____ |
| 6. team ⁷ | _____ | 13. exchange ¹⁷ | _____ |
| 7. scholarship ¹² | _____ | | |

Translate

- Me siento *como* / - ciudadano del mundo.
- Cada *gente* / *persona* cree algo distinto.
- Creo que también *ha* / *haya* favorecido mucho el hecho de ser parte de la Unión Europea.
- Quiero aprovechar *de* / - esta oportunidad.
- Me *planeo* / *planteo* estudiar en Nueva York el próximo año.
- Muchos *españoles jóvenes* / *jóvenes españoles* trabajan fuera de España hoy en día.

notes

True or False: 1. F³ 2. T⁶⁻⁸ 3. F¹³ 4. T¹⁵ 5. F **Expressions:** a decir verdad - to be honest / actualmente - currently / aunque - although / diría que - I would say that / el hecho de - the fact that / en el extranjero - abroad / en mi opinión - in my opinion / incluso - even / muchas veces - often / por lo que - for that reason / por otra parte - on the other hand / sí que es verdad que - I have to say; it's true that / sobre todo - especially / y además - and also / y así - and so / ya sea - be it; whether

Multiple Choice: 1. a⁴, c⁵ 2. d^{10-12, 16} 3. a¹⁹ **Vocabulary:** 1. jóvenes 2. sentirse 3. peliagudo 4. darse cuenta 5. favorecer 6. selección 7. beca 8. estar en contacto con 9. aprovechar 10. plantearse 11. carrera 12. propicio 13. intercambio **Translate:** 1. -¹ I feel like a citizen of the world. 2. -³ Everyone thinks something different. 3. ha⁶ I think that being a part of the European Union has contributed a lot to this, as well. 4. -¹⁴ I want to take advantage of this opportunity. 5. planteo¹⁵ I'm thinking about studying in New York next year. 6. jóvenes españoles A lot of young Spaniards (or young Spanish people, Spanish youth) work outside of Spain these days.