Spanish Essentials - Dates

Introduction

Dates

Here you can see at a glance the Spanish key language related to dates: days and months, seasons and weather asking and giving the date, asking and saying when a special event takes place and expressions of past, present and future time.

Days and Months

The tables below show the Spanish Days and Months. For practice, you can hide the Spanish and English columns and listen to audio prompts.

Days

Hide Spanish/Hide Englishadd audios and icones

(el) lunes Monday

(el) martes Tuesday

(el) miércoles Wednesday

(el jueves Thursday

(el) viernes Friday

(el) sábado Saturday

(el) domingo Sunday

el fin de semana The weekend

Know-How

days of the week are not capitalized in Spanish – unless, of course, they appear at the beginning of a sentence.

Days of the week are all masculine in Spanish – this means you’ll always have to use masculine articles – el, los, un and algunos – and masculine adjectives when talking about the days of the week. For example, if you want to say “Friday is my bithday” in Spanish, you say “el viernes es mi cumpleaños”;

“on Monday” in Spanish can’t be translated literally – for example, “I will eat with you on Monday” translates to “comeré contigo el lunes” in Spanish. Although you could be tempted to say “en”, don’t do it! The only correct way to talk about something happening on a specific day in Spanish is by using the pronouns ‘el’ and ‘los’ (e.g. “she visits her grandma every Sunday” will translate to “ella visita a su abuela todos los domingos”)

to make a day of the week plural, you add an s (if it doesn’t already end in one) – this means lunes will remain lunes for the plural form los lunes, but domingo will become domingos – los domingos.

In other words, the only days that get an s for their plural form are sábado and domingo: sábados y domingos.

Tips for Remembering all the Days in Spanish

Most of the days of the week in Spanish relate to Roman mythology. Or, remember that the planets were named after Roman gods, so they’re also based on our solar system.

Take a look to the names, Lunes for our lunar moon, martes for Mars, miércoles for Mercury, jueves for Jupiter, viernes for Venus. The weekend is the Sabbath (sábado) and the Lord’s Day — his dominion (domingo).

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Months

Hide Spanish/Hide English/Add audios and icons.

enero January

febrero February

marzo March

abril April

mayo May

junio June

julio July

agosto August

septiembre September

octubre October

noviembre November

diciembre December

**Know-how:**

These twelve words can be used when you make appointments, talk about birthdays and holidays, fill out forms, and to simply say what the date is. So, here are the names of ‘los meses del año’ (the months of the year) in Spanish. The names of the months are not capitalized in Spanish.

Voy a Colombia en marzo. (I’m going to Colombia in March.)

The conventions for talking about dates are a bit different in English and Spanish. In Spanish the month comes after the day. In English the month can come before or after the day.

Hoy es el lunes cuatro de enero

In both languages, the year usually comes after the month and day, whatever order they're in. Let’s take a look at how to write dates in each language!

Hoy es el 2 de abril Today is 2nd April

2 de marzo del 2021 March 2nd, 2021

dos de abril del dos mil veintiuno April, second two thousand twenty one

De vs. Del

In Spanish you can write the date using de or del before the year. Using del is usually considered a bit more formal.

2 de marzo de 1999 - dos de marzo de mil novecientos noventa y nueve

(but from the 2000) 2 de marzo del 2021 – dos de marzo del dos mil veintiuno

Writing the Date

When writing dates using only numerals, the day comes first in Spanish, while the month usually comes first in English . It’s really important to remember this when filling out customs or tax forms!

Saying the date in Spanish

When saying dates in Spanish, the day always comes before the month. The structure of a date in full is as follows:

El + (number) + de + month

For example:

El seis de febrero | The sixth of February

Spanish: 02/03/2017 = DD/MM/YYYY

Unlike English, Spanish uses cardinal numbers (like one, two or three) instead of ordinal numbers (like fourth, fifth or sixth) for every day of the month except the first. So, if you can count to 31, you can already say almost every date!

1 Primero

2 Dos

3 Tres

4 Cuatro.. etc.

EXAMPLES/ Add audios and icons.

Hoy es el dos de marzo. Today is March second.

Ayer fue el quince de junio. Yesterday was June fifteenth.

Although cardinal numbers are normally used for dates in Spanish, it’s common to hear an ordinal number used to talk about the first of the month, more frequently in Latin America

Hoy es el primero de marzo. Today is March first.

NOTE: Is Spain, you can also use the cardinal number

EXAMPLES: Hoy es el uno de marzo. Today is March first.

For all other dates, cardinal numbers are used in both Latin America and Spain!

LISTENING EXERCISES

**Asking and giving the date**

Listen to people talking about the date by clicking on the audio icons. The key language is summarised in the table.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| asking today’s date | giving today’s date | writing the date  Day - Month - Year |
| ¿Qué dia es hoy? | Hoy es el lunes tres de mayo | 26 de enero del 2021 |
| What day is today? | Today is Monday the third may |  |

Add audios and icons.

¿Cuál es la fecha de hoy? What is the date today?

¿A qué día estamos hoy? What day is today?

Hoy estamos a 7 de enero Today is the 7th

What day is today? – ¿Qué día es hoy?

What’s today’s date? – ¿Cuál es la fecha de hoy?

Today is Sunday. – Hoy es domingo.

Today is January 1st. – Hoy es primero de enero.

¿Cuándo es la reunión? - When is the meeting?

La reunión es el cuatro de diciembre - (the meeting is on the 4th of December).

**Asking and saying when a special event takes place**

Listen to people talking about the date by clicking on the audio icons. The key language is summarised in the table.

asking when a special event takes place saying when a special event takes place

¿Cuándo es tu cumpleaños? Mi cumpleaños es el 27 de septiembre

When is your birthday? Mi birthday is on 27 September

¿Cuándo es la fiesta de la independencia? - When is the Independance Day?

¿Cuándo es la próxima fiesta nacional? - When is the next bank holiday?

¿Cuándo es la reunión con el jefe? – When is the meeting with the boss?

**Expressions of time: past, present and future**

Listen to the people below talking about the past, the present and the future by clicking on the audio icons. The key language is summarised in the table.

Add audios and icons.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| the past- **el pasado** | the present-**el presente** | **the future**- el futuro |
| ayer - **yesterday** | hoy - **today** | mañana - **tomorrow** |
| antes de ayer – **the day before yesterday** | ahora - **now** | pasado mañana – **the day after tomorrow** |
| ayer por la mañana- **yesterday morning** | Esta mañana – **this morning** | mañana por la mañana – **tomorrow morning** |
| ayer al mediodía - **yesterday noon** | Hoy al mediodía – **today at noon** | Mañana al mediodía – **mid day tomorrow** |
| ayer por la tarde - **yesterday afternoon** | Esta tarde – **this afternoon** | Mañana por la tarde – **tomorrow afternoon** |
| ayer por la noche - **yesterday night** | Hoy por la noche – **today at night** | Mañana por la noche- **tomorrow night** |
| anoche - **last night** | Esta noche - **tonight** | Mañana a la medianoche- **tomorrow at midnight** |
| La semana pasada – **last week** | Esta semana – **this week** | La semana próxima – **next week** |
| El mes pasado **– last month** | Este mes – **this month** | El próximo mes – **next month**  el mes que viene – **the month that is coming** |
| El año pasado – **last year** | Este año – **this year** | El año próximo – **next Year**  El año que viene – **the Year that is coming**  En un año – **in a year** |

**Important words add audios and listening icons**

Day – El día

Date – La fecha

Month – El mes

Year – El año

Weekend – El fin de semana

Now – Ahora

Next – La próxima

Last – Pasado

Soon – Pronto

Early – Temprano

Late – Tarde

Earlier – Más temprano

Later – Más tarde

Some days – Algunos días

Everyday – Todos los días

Every Saturday – Cada sábado

On Saturday – El sábado

On Saturday morning – El sábado por la mañana

Tomorrow afternoon – Mañana por la tarde

Tomorrow evening – Mañana por la tarde

Tomorrow night – Mañana por la noche

**Exercises**

Here are different types of exercises for practicing expressions for dates.

**Reconstruct the text (days and months)**

Fill in the table below by dragging the days and months to the appropriate column marked by .

**The following words must be presented scrambled and in a cloud to be picked up and dragged**

lunes martes miércoles jueves viernes sábado domingo enero febrero marzo abril mayo junio julio agosto septiembre octubre noviembre diciembre

dias de la semana - days mes del año - months

**Listen to the dates in use**

In this exercise you’ll hear 5 sentences. Click on the icon to hear one, then select from the list the one you heard. If your choice is correct the sentence will turn green and you’ll hear it again.

**We need to create 5 audios to accompany these sentences**

Me llamo Carlos. Mu cumpleaños es el primero de marzo.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Soy Federico. Y mi cumpleaños es el ventidós de diciembre.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

El cumpleaños de mi hija Margarita es el veintiocho de octubre.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

¡Hola! El sábado es el 12 de enero y es el cumpleaños de mi hermano Francisco.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Hoy es el 13 de marzo y estamos celebrando el cumpleaños de mi abuelo.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Complete the sentences (dates)

In the dialogues below, first listen to the dialogue then select the correct expression. You can use this exercise to practice your reading and audio comprehension.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cine Adriano, buenas noches.

Buenas noches, me gustaría reservar dos entradas para ver La Estrategia del Caracol.

¿Qué día?

Para el\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Está bien, ¿a qué hora?

A las 8.30, gracias.

**DRAGGING OPTIONS**

\_ el sábado próximo - ayer - el próximo mes

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

RENFE, dígame.

Me gustaría un billete de ida a Madrid.

¿Qué día?

Para, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gracias.

**DRAGGING OPTIONS**

El 25 de mayo – la semana pasada – el próximo verano

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Hola dígame.

Buenos días Carla, habla Luisa ¿qué día es la reunión con el director?

La reunión es \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_a las 16.00 horas

**DRAGGING OPTIONS**

En dos semanas – el próximo jueves – el fin de semana pasado

Buen día, oficina de turismo. ¿Le puedo ayudar en algo?

¿Hay algo especial en Valencia este mes?

Si seguro. ¡Es la fiesta de San Pedro y San Pablo!

Se celebra \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**DRAGGING OPTIONS**

En dos semanas – el 29 de junio – en el verano pasado

**Las estaciones del año** – the seasons of the year

Most of the Spanish-speaking world talks about four seasons of the year (estaciones del año), just as in English:

el invierno — winter

la primavera — spring

el verano — summer (Another word for summer, el estío, has mostly literary use.)

el otoño — autumn or fall

**Know-how**

The names of the four seasons are typically used with definite articles in Spanish.

Spanish speakers in the tropics often refer to two seasons, the rainy and dry seasons.

It is common to use "de + season" to speak of the seasons in adjective form.

As in English, seasons are deemed to begin and end—in a formal sense—on the year's longest and shortest days. For example, summer begins around June 21 in the Northern Hemisphere but around Dec. 21 in the Southern Hemisphere. But in a popular sense, summer can also be thought of as including the hottest months, typically June, July, and August in the Northern Hemisphere, but December, January, and February in the Southern Hemisphere.

In much of the tropics, however, just two seasons are recognized locally:

la estación lluviosa — rainy season or wet season, which can also be called invierno

la estación seca — dry season, which can also be called Verano.

**THE Weather –**

**¿Qué tiempo hace?**

Even though Spanish and/or Latin American people are not obsess with the weather. The sun and the rain are the best icebreakers 😊. In any situation a weather conversation is something that everyone will welcome with an opinion on, which makes it a great conversation topic. You are afraid of those awkward silences… Just talk about the weather!

Spanish weather expressions can be classified into three main categories: Times when the weather does, times when the weather is, and times when there is some kind of weather.

You can use the words “mucho” or “muy”(very) for all of the above phrases to emphasize that it’s not just cold or warm, but very cold or very warm.

Times when the weather "does" – HACE…

For some weather phrases you're going to use the verb hacer, which usually means "to do" or "to make".

In this case, it's used to describe what the weather "does":

**Add audios and icons to Play**

Hace (mucho) calor - It is hot

Hace (mucho) frío - It is cold

Hace fresco - It is cool

Hace (muy) buen tiempo - The weather is nice

Hace (muy) mal tiempo - The weather is bad

Times when the weather "is" – ESTÁ - For the following weather conditions, we need to use the verb estar.

Está (muy) nublado - It is cloudy

Está (muy) soleado - It is sunny

Está (muy) despejado -It is clear

Está lloviendo (mucho) - It is raining

Está nevando (mucho) - It is snowing

Times when "there is" some weather. Lastly there are times we'll use the verb form "hay" to indicate that there is some kind of exciting weather.

Hay (mucho) viento - It's windy (literally "there is wind")

Hay (mucha) niebla - It is foggy (literally "there is fog")

Hay (muchas) tormentas – stormy weather

Hay chubascos – there is shower

Exciting Spanish weather expressions!

¡Llueve a cántaros! - "It's raining pitchers/buckets!"

¡Llueve a mares! - "It's raining oceans!"

¡Hace un frío que pela! "It's so cold it burns your skin!"

¡Me estoy congelando! - "I'm freezing!"

¡Ay, qué calor! - "What heat!"

¡Es un horno! - "It's an oven!"

**Listening and comprehension activity - Create a video clip with (play video icons)**

Un año tiene cuatro estaciones: primavera, verano, otoño e invierno.

A year has four seasons: spring, summer, fall and winter.

El otoño es un buen momento para visitar México. (Fall is a good time to visit Mexico.)

La estación lluviosa dura en el interior del país desde mayo hasta octubre. (The rainy season lasts in the country's interior from May until October.)

¿Cuánto costará esquiar en Chile este invierno? (How much will it cost to ski in Chile this winter?)

Los días de verano son largos. (Summer days are long.)

El riesgo de incendios forestales en la estación seca aumentará este año. (The risk of forest fires in the dry season will increase this year.)

Fue un verano inolvidable. (It was an unforgettable summer.)

En el estado de Maine, el otoño es la estación más agradable del año. (In the estate of Maine, autumn is the most pleasant season of the year.)