

Taking a taxi.

Hailing a taxi + telling the driver where to go

Conversation 1

Passenger - ¡Taxi! ¡Taxi!

Driver - ¡Súbale! ¿A dónde la llevo?

Passenger - A la Condesa, por favor. Voy a la calle de Michoacán, **esquina con** Atlixco.

Driver - Claro, ¿por Insurgentes está bien?

Passenger - Sí, está perfecto.

Driver - Vale. Si encontramos mucho tráfico, podemos desviarnos por otras calles. ¿Le parece?

Passenger - Sí, sin problema.

Conversation 2

Passenger - Buenas tardes. ¿Me lleva al Centro Histórico, **porfa**?

Driver - Sí, pero el tráfico está muy **pesado** por Reforma. ¿Puedo tomar otra ruta?

Passenger - Claro, ¿por dónde se iría?

Driver - Podría ir por Circuito Interior y luego bajar por Eje Central. ¿Está bien?

Passenger - Sí, sí, por mí está bien.

Conversation 3

Passenger - ¡Taxi!

Driver - ¿A dónde va, jovencita?

Passenger - Voy a Álvaro Obregón, en la Roma, cerca del metro Insurgentes.

Driver - Híjole... ¡Me queda bien lejos, oiga!

Passenger - Ándale, no sea malito. Ahorita no hay tanto tráfico.

Driver - Órale, está bien. Nomás porque me cayó bien.

Passenger - Ay, muchísimas gracias.

Driver - Ándale pues.

Conversation 4

Passenger - Hola, ¿me lleva a Tlalpan?

Driver - Claro, ¿a qué parte de Tlalpan va?

Passenger - Voy a Six Flags.

Driver - Ah, sí, está en la Picacho, ¿correcto?

Passenger - Sí, exacto. ¿Sabe cómo llegar?

Driver - Sí, sin problemas.



When arriving at your destination

Driver - ¿Aquí está bien, jovencita?

Passenger - ¿Cree que pudiera dejarme del otro lado de la avenida?

Driver - Sí, está bien, solo tardaremos un poco en dar la vuelta por el tráfico y la tarifa incrementa.

Passenger - Sí, no hay problema.

Driver - Servida.



Glossary

¡Taxi! - This is what you need to say to get a taxi... and if the driver can't hear you, well, just wave/gesticulate frantically ;)

¡Súbale! - This is a **REALLY** common way of saying 'Get in!'.

¿A dónde lo/la llevo? - Say hello to the Spanish equivalent of 'Where to?'.

Esquina con - Being from London (which isn't exactly a city built in neat blocks), I wasn't really used to this term in English, but it's a **SUPER** useful one in Spanish!

Streets in Mexico City can go on forever*, so if you say, '*corner with*', you'll be able to specify where exactly you want to be dropped off.

*Erika and I live in the south of Mexico City, and the other day, we went to a party in Hidalgo (a state just **NORTH** of Mexico City). I kid you not, it was literally just one long, straight avenue to get there!

¿Por + a route + está bien? - Taxi drivers will often ask you if a particular route is ok, and they'll normally say '*por + the route they recommend + está bien*'.

Remember that '*por*' is generally used to talk about the "route" and '*para*' to talk about the "final destination".

Sí, está perfecto. - This means, 'yes, that's perfect'.

BUT I thought I'd scribble a quick note to explain why 'está' is used instead of 'es'!

So, in Mexico, you're gonna hear 'estar' used **A LOT** to talk about the characteristics of something if it's the speaker's personal, subjective opinion.

Which is why you'll hear things like -

Está buena la fiesta.

The party is good.

Uf, qué rico está el arroz!

Wow, the rice is so tasty!

¿Le parece? - Is that ok? / Sound good?

¿Me lleva a + your destination + por favor/porfa? - Can you take me to + wherever it is that you're going + please?

'Porfa' is just a friendly variation of 'por favor' that's sure to make you sound more native.

Pesado - In English we'd say 'heavy traffic' and, well, in Spanish you can also describe traffic as 'pesado' - a fun lil' collocation for y'all.

¿Por dónde se iría? - Which way would you go?

¿A dónde va? - This is another way of saying 'Where to?'.

Joven / Jovencita - Young man (sir) / Young lady (miss)

Warning: you might get called 'joven' even if you're not particularly young...

Voy a + your destination. - I'm going to + your destination.

For example -

Voy al Centro de Tlapan.

I'm going to Centro de Tlapan.

Voy a la Arena México.

I'm going to Arena México.



Voy a la Arena México.

Híjole - '*Híjole*' is the Mexican equivalent of 'jeez', 'darn', or 'damn'... I go into further detail in the slang section as it's **REALLY** common!

Me queda bien lejos. - It's really far from me (i.e., wherever the driver wants to end up).

If you're being told this, presumably the driver is on his way home **OR** doesn't think he'll be able to get another punter to take back to his preferred area.

'Quedarse' is often used to talk about the distance of something relative to the speaker, which is why you can say -

¿Te queda cerca?

Is it near you?

Es que el aeropuerto me queda súper lejos.

It's just that the airport is really far away from me.

No sea malito - '*No sea malito*' (or '*no seas malito*') is another **SUPER** common Mexican chunk; it's used to persuade someone to do something (but in a friendly way!), a bit like 'be a dear' or 'pretty please' in English.

And '*ándale, no sea malito*' is just a classic way to convince a cabbie to go to a faraway location.

Nomás porque me cayó bien. - Just because you seem nice.

Muchísimas gracias - Thank you so much.

¿Cree que pudiera dejarme + place? - This is the most polite way of asking the driver to leave you in a certain place.

You can also just say '*me dejas + place*' -

Me dejas aquí, por favor.

Drop me off (or 'stop') here, please.

La tarifa - The taxi's fare... yep, the moolah you're gonna have to pay!

Taxis ain't free in Mexico, but they **ARE** a whole load cheaper than they are in London!

Servido - You'll hear this word a lot! Taxi drivers use it to let you know you've arrived at your destination (kind of like saying "served" in English!).



GAP FILL 1

Passenger - ¡.!

Taxi driver - ¡Súbale! ¿A dónde?

Passenger - a Álvaro Obregón, en la Roma.

Taxi driver - Ok, ipero está el tráfico a esta hora!

Passenger - Vamos Insurgentes, ¿le parece?... No hay tanto tráfico.

Taxi driver - pues.

MISSING WORDS

pesado / va / taxi / ándale / por / voy

GAP FILL 2

Passenger - ¡Taxi!

Taxi Driver - ¿A dónde lo?

Passenger - Voy a metro Etiopia.

Taxi Driver - Híjole... ¡Me bien lejos!

Passenger - No sea, ahorita no hay tanto tráfico.

Taxi Driver - Está bien, pero la será un poco más alta.

Passenger - Sí, no hay problema.

MISSING WORDS

malito / queda / tarifa / llevo

ANSWERS + TRANSLATIONS

GAP FILL 1

Passenger - ¡TAXI!

Taxi driver - ¡Súbale! ¿A dónde VA?

Passenger - VOY a Álvaro Obregón, en la Roma.

Taxi driver - Ok, ipero está PESADO el tráfico a esta hora!

Passenger - Vamos POR Insurgentes, ¿le parece?... No hay tanto tráfico.

Taxi driver - ÁNDALE pues.

GAP FILL 2

Passenger - iTaxi!

Taxi Driver - ¿A dónde lo LLEVO?

Passenger - Voy a metro Etiopia.

Taxi Driver - Híjole... ¡Me QUEDA bien lejos!

Passenger - No sea MALITO, ahorita no hay tanto tráfico.

Taxi Driver - Está bien, pero la TARIFA será un poco más alta.

Passenger - Sí, no hay problema.

Hailing a taxi + telling the driver where to go

Conversation 1

Passenger - Taxi! Taxi!

Driver - Hop in! Where can I take you?

Passenger - To La Condesa, please. I'm going to Michoacán Street, where it meets Atlixco.

Driver - Sure! Is it ok if I go via Insurgentes?

Passenger - Yes, that's perfect.

Driver - Alright. If we hit heavy traffic, we can take another route. Sound good?

Passenger - Yes, no problem.

Conversation 2

Passenger - Good afternoon. Can you take me to the Historic Center, please?

Driver - Sure, but there's really bad traffic on Reforma. Can I take a different route?

Passenger - Of course, which way would you go?

Driver - I could take Circuito Interior and then head down Eje Central. Is that okay?

Passenger - Yes, yes, that's fine by me.

Conversation 3

Passenger - Taxi!

Driver - Where to, miss?

Passenger - I'm going to Álvaro Obregón, in Colonia Roma, near metro Insurgentes.

Driver - Whoa... that's a bit far for me!

Passenger - Come on, don't be like that. There's not much traffic at the moment.

Driver - Alright, fine. Just because you seem nice.

Passenger - Oh, thank you so much.

Driver - Alright then.

Conversation 4

Passenger - Hi, can you take me to Tlalpan?

Driver - Sure, whereabouts in Tlalpan?

Passenger - I'm going to Six Flags.

Driver - Oh, right, that's in Picacho, right?

Passenger - Yes, exactly. Do you know how to get there?

Driver - Yes, no problem.

When arriving at your destination

Driver - Is here ok, miss?

Passenger - Do you think you could drop me off on the other side of the avenue?

Driver - Sure, but it'll take a bit of time to turn around because of the traffic, and the fare will go up.

Passenger - That's fine, no problem.

Driver - Here you go.