**Working with numbers**

Being comfortable with numbers is vital at this level of Spanish study, as it is **GUARANTEED** that somewhere in an exam, your ability to understand and respond accurately using numbers will be tested. Examiners love to present numbers to you in the form of percentages, timetables or people’s ages, but all they want to do is check that you know them.

Luckily, as you know, it is often quite simple to form numbers in Spanish – there are just a few things to remember. Still, it can do no harm to refresh your memory, and be sure to look out for our TOP TIPS!

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **0** | cero |
| **1** | uno |
| **2** | dos |
| **3** | tres |
| **4** | cuatro |
| **5** | cinco |
| **6** | seis |
| **7** | siete |
| **8** | ocho |
| **9** | nueve |
| **10** | diez |

**0-10**

**11-15**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **11** | once |
| **12** | doce |
| **13** | trece |
| **14** | catorce |
| **15** | quince |

**TOP TIP!**

Note that these numbers are words in their own right: not formed with combinations of smaller ones (as many are below).

**16-19**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **16** | dieciséis |
| **17** | diecisiete |
| **18** | dieciocho |
| **19** | diecinueve |

**TOP TIP!**

These numbers are written as a shortened version of saying ‘10+6’, ‘10+7’ etc.

The preferred way of writing *‘*sixteen’, for example, is now *‘dieciséis’*, rather than ‘*diez y seis’.* This is because writing these numbers out in full like this is becoming more and more old-fashioned.

*(Note: the accent that is now required in 16!)*

**20-29**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **20** | veinte |
| **21** | veintiuno |
| **22** | veintidós |
| **23** | veintitrés |
| **24** | veinticuatro |
| **25** | veinticinco |
| **26** | veintiséis |
| **27** | veintisiete |
| **28** | veintiocho |
| **29** | veintinueve |

**TOP TIP!**

These numbers are written as a shortened version of saying ‘20+1’, ‘20+2’ etc.

Similarly, as above, the preferred way of writing *‘*twenty-one*’*, for example, is now *‘veintiuno’*, rather than ‘*veinte y uno’.*

*(Note: the accents that are now required with 22, 23 and 26!)*

**30-101**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **30** | treinta |
| **31** | treinta y uno  |
| **32** | treinta y dos |
| **40** | cuarenta |
| **50** | cincuenta |
| **60** | sesenta |
| **70** | setenta |
| **80** | ochenta |
| **90** | noventa |
| **100** | cien |
| **101** | ciento uno |

**TOP TIP!**

Beyond 30, numbers are written out as 30+1, 30+2 etc.

(E.g. ‘sixty-four’ is *‘sesenta y cuatro’)*

**Note:**

Unlike some examples above, with numbers above thirty, always write them out in full in this way. (E.g. ‘thirty-one’ is always ‘*treinta y uno’*, **never** *‘treintiuno’*)

**However,** note 101 is not written out as 100+1, rather ‘100 1’

(I.e. ‘one hundred and one’ is *‘ciento uno’,* **NOT** *‘ciento y uno’*)

**200-900**

**TOP TIP!**

Note that when writing numbers in the hundreds, do not use *‘y’* between the first and second digits.

(I.e. ‘four hundred and thirty’ is *‘cuatrocientos treinta’,* **NOT** *‘cuatrocientos y treinta’*)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **200** | doscientos |
| **250** | doscientos cincuenta  |
| **300** | trescientos |
| **400** | cuatrocientos |
| **500** | quinientos |
| **600** | seiscientos |
| **700** | setecientos |
| **800** | ochocientos |
| **900** | novecientos |

**1000+**

**TOP TIP!**

Note how digits over three figures long are written in Spanish! Instead of a comma or no punctuation, a full stop is used.

Also, saying ‘one million’ in Spanish is very similar to that in English. Just be careful to change ‘*millón’* to ‘*millones’* when writing ‘two million’ or more! Make those plurals agree, and look where the accent disappears!

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1.000** | mil |
| **1.500** | mil quinientos  |
| **2.000** | dos mil |
| **10.000** | diez mil |
| **10.500** | diez mil quinientos |
| **100.000** | cien mil |
| **150.000** | ciento cincuenta mil |
| **250.000** | doscientos cincuenta mil |
| **500.000** | quinientos mil |
| **1.000.000** | un millón |
| **2.000.000** | dos millones |
| **2.500.000** | dos millones quinientos mil |

**Common ways you’ll have to deal with numbers**

So, you’ve learnt what the numbers themselves are, but of course there are several ways numbers are used in a language that go beyond counting! You will need to be familiar with the common ways numbers manifest themselves in everyday speech, so review this section diligently.

**Putting things in order:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **NUMBER** | **SPANISH SPELLING** | **SPANISH ABBREVIATION** |
| *First* | **primero** | **1º** |
| *Second* | **segundo** | **2o** |
| *Third* | **tercero** | **3º** |
| *Fourth* | **cuarto** | **4º** |
| *Fifth* | **quinto** | **5º** |
| *Sixth* | **sexto** | **6º** |
| *Seventh* | **séptimo** | **7º** |
| *Eighth* | **octavo** | **8º** |
| *Ninth* | **noveno** | **9º** |
| *Tenth* | **décimo** | **10º** |

The Spanish ordinal numbers listed before are correct when simply forming a list, for example when saying the order in which sprinters finished in a race, but, agreements have to be made when they appear before nouns. Of course, these agreements are determined by the noun’s gender, as well as if they are in the singular or plural.

**For example:**

Masculine noun (singular): ***El*** *segundo año* The second year

Feminine noun (singular): ***La*** *segund****a*** *vez* The second time

**TOP TIP!**

As stated above, these agreements are pretty simple to make, just look out for the couple of oddities when using the Spanish equivalents of ‘first’ and ‘third’ before a noun!

Unlike *‘segundo’,* for example, to make ‘first’ agree with a singular masculine noun, it is simply ‘*primer’* – without an ‘o’ at the end. However, the singular feminine form is a more standard *‘primera’.* Also, the plural masculine form is *‘primeros’.* It is the same story with ‘third’: *‘tercer’, ‘tercera’, ‘terceros’, ‘terceras’.*

**Telling the time:**

Of course, asking and telling the time is a very common use of numbers in everyday language. Also, there is a strong possibility that you will have to interpret times or timetables in some way in your reading or listening exam. Although you will probably feel comfortable with this section already, make sure you’ve learned it well enough to avoid any silly errors in the future!

**TOP TIP!**

Note that one o’clock is the only time in the singular!

This is because the feminine articles; ‘*la’* and ‘*las’* refer to *‘hora’* (meaning ‘hour’), and there is only one hour that needs to be referred to for 1 o’clock!

*It’s one o’clock* ***Es la una***

*It’s two o’clock* ***Son las dos***

*It’s three o’clock* ***Son las tres***

*It’s four o’clock* ***Son las cuatro***

*It’s five o’clock* ***Son las cinco***

*It’s six o’clock* ***Son las seis***

***(and so on…)***

In Spanish, phrases like ‘half past’ and ‘quarter to’ are formed just as simply as they are in English. All you need to do is write the hour followed by *‘y’* or *‘menos’* plus the number of minutes past/before the hour you want to say! See below:

*It’s five past one* ***Es la una y cinco***

*It’s ten past two* ***Son las dos y diez***

*It’s quarter past three* ***Son las tres y cuarto***

*It’s half past four* ***Son las cuatro y media***

*It’s quarter to five*  ***Son las* *cinco menos cuarto***

*It’s ten to six*  ***Son las seis menos diez***

*It’s five to seven* ***Son las siete menos cinco***

*It’s midday*  Es medi**o**día

*It’s midnight*  Es medi**a**noche

**TOP TIP!**

Note that *‘mediodía’* takes an ‘o’ in the middle, and *‘medianoche’* takes an ‘a’.

This is because *‘día’* is a masculine word in its own right and *‘noche’* is feminine!

To distinguish between a.m. and p.m. in Spanish, all you need to do is insert *‘de la mañana’* (in the morning), *‘de la tarde’* (in the afternoon) or *‘de la noche’* (in the evening), after the time!

For example:

* **“It’s 8am.”**

*“Son las ocho de la mañana.”*

* **“What is the time?”**

**“It’s 2:30pm.”**

*“¿Qué hora es?”*

*“Son las dos y media de la tarde”*

* **“Come to the studio at 9pm.”**

*“Venga al estudio a las nueve de la noche.”*