LOVE LA VIDA FOUNDATION

A Little Spanish

Basic phrases to learn before your trip to Chiapas.



The kids speak very little English, but that is not a barrier to connecting with them. They know some basic English, and there are always people available to translate. If you would like to practice a little Spanish on your trip, start here. Trying matters more than getting it right, and the kids may love helping you.

SAYING HELLO

Hola	Hi OH-lah
Buenos días	Good morning BWEH-nohs DEE-ahs
Buenas tardes	Good afternoon BWEH-nahs TAR-dehs
Buenas noches	Good evening or good night BWEH-nahs NOH-chehs
Me llamo ___	My name is ___ meh YAH-moh
¿Cómo te llamas?	What's your name? KOH-moh teh YAH-mahs
¿Cómo estás?	How are you? KOH-moh ehs-TAHS
Mucho gusto	Nice to meet you MOO-choh GOOS-toh

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

¿Cuántos años tienes?	How old are you? KWAHN-tohs AHN-yohs tee-EH-nehs
¿Qué te gusta hacer?	What do you like to do? keh teh GOOS-tah ah-SEHR
Me gusta mucho	I like it a lot meh GOOS-tah MOO-choh
¿Cómo se dice ___?	How do you say ___? KOH-moh seh DEE-seh
No entiendo	I don't understand noh ehn-tee-EHN-doh
Más despacio, por favor	More slowly, please mahs dehs-PAH-see-oh, por fah-VOR

WORKING AND EATING

¿Me ayudas?	Can you help me? meh ah-YOO-dahs
¿Dónde pongo esto?	Where do I put this? DOHN-deh POHN-goh EHS-toh
Con cuidado	Careful kohn kwee-DAH-doh
Buen provecho	Enjoy your meal bwehn proh-VEH-choh
Está delicioso	It's delicious ehs-TAH deh-lee-see-OH-soh

PLAYING TOGETHER

¿Jugamos?	Shall we play? hoo-GAH-mohs
¡Vamos!	Let's go! VAH-mohs
Te toca	Your turn teh TOH-kah
Pásala	Pass it PAH-sah-lah
¡Gol!	Goal! gohl
¡Otra vez!	Again! OH-trah vehs
¿Me enseñas?	Will you show me? meh ehn-SEHN-yahs

CHEERING THEM ON

¡Muy bien!	Very good! mwee byehn
¡Bien hecho!	Well done! byehn EH-choh
¡Tú puedes!	You can do it! too PWEH-dehs
¡Qué bonito!	How beautiful! keh boh-NEE-toh
¡Qué padre!	How cool! (Mexican slang) keh PAH-dreh

ALWAYS USEFUL

Por favor	Please por fah-VOR
Gracias	Thank you GRAH-see-ahs
De nada	You're welcome deh NAH-dah
Perdón	Sorry or excuse me pehr-DOHN
Adiós	Goodbye ah-dee-OHS
Hasta mañana	See you tomorrow AHS-tah mahn-YAH-nah
Fue un gusto conocerte	It was a joy to meet you fweh oon GOOS-toh koh-noh-SEHR-teh

How to say it: a = ah, e = eh, i = ee, o = oh, u = oo. The j sounds like h, ll like y, and ñ like the ny in canyon. Say the CAPITAL syllable a little louder. **At goodbye:** say how much you enjoyed them, but please do not promise a child that you will come back.