

Spanish Phrase Bank

Say you're new in a place, and you are looking to make an entrance. If you're looking to introduce yourself to someone, then you can say;

1. Me llamo — My name is
2. Mi nombre es — My name is

You could also begin with another word, such as 'soy, which means 'I am'

3. Soy — I am
4. Hola, soy Markus — Hi, I'm Markus

Now that you've introduced yourself and you're talking to someone, it is polite to let them introduce themselves to you, as well. If you wish to know their name(s), you say;

5. ¿Cómo te llamas? — What is your name?

If you've been introduced to someone, the words 'mucho gusto' which literally translate to 'pleasure', can be used. It can also be said to mean 'nice to meet you'. It helps if you're looking to be polite you say;

6. Mucho Gusto — Nice to meet you

Now that you know who you are talking to, perhaps you would like to share more about yourself. It is a great way to break the ice and continue the conversation. If you're trying to talk more about yourself, then these phrases can come in very handy;

7. Yo tengo ... años — I am ... years old.
8. Yo soy de — I come from

Greetings are the creators of conversations. If you're trying to start a conversation with someone, and you also wish to keep it going, then greetings are in order. Almost everyone knows 'hola' which means either 'hi' or 'hello',but why stop there when you can go further. To share a greeting in Spanish, and you say;

9. Buenos días — Good morning
10. Buenas tardes — Good afternoon
11. Buenas noches — Good evening / Good night

To keep things flowing, asking about the welfare of your companion is a nice step. Here are some sentences to do just that, and keep you very much in the conversation.

12. Cómo está usted? — How are you? (formal)

13. ¿Cómo estás? — How are you? (informal)
14. ¿Qué tal? — How are you? (informal) / What's up?
15. ¿Cómo te va? — How's it going?
16. ¿Qué haces? — What are you doing?
17. ¿Qué pasa? — What's happening?

Of course, it is not always the case that you are the one asking these questions. Perhaps your personality is so charming that they seek to continue speaking with you. In that case, if you're the one being greeted and you wish to respond, a big smile and these phrases are just what you need

18. Bien, gracias — Good, thank you
19. Muy bien — Very well
20. Así, así — So, so
21. Como siempre — As always

And you should not be forgetting this very vital follow up question,

22. ¿Y tú? — And you?

Now since you are pretty much still a beginner, and it may be difficult to keep up with native speakers, you might want to revert back to a more comfortable language for you, such as English. If it all becomes too overwhelming, and you're wondering if the person you're speaking with understands English, but you do not want to be rude by just switching to English, then you ask;

23. ¿Habla inglés? — Do you speak English?

If responding nicely is still your aim, then you say

24. ¡Gracias! — Thank you!
25. ¡Muchas gracias! — Thank you very much!
26. ¡De nada! — You're welcome! / No problem!

It's always nice to add these at the end of your sentences, so that you don't seem rude. They always come in quite handy!

27. Por favor — Please (generally used at the end of a sentence)
28. ¡Perdon! — Excuse me!
29. ¡Disculpe! — Excuse me! (to apologize in advance for troubling them a bit too much)
30. ¡Lo siento! — Sorry! (to apologize for a mistake)