

A / A* Spanish Speaking and Writing Tips

Use these tips alongside your class notes, examples and your red vocab book.

Ensure that you include as many of the tips highlighted in all of your coursework.

Holiday Speaking Assessment

1. Sequencers and connectives:

primero	firstly
después	then
luego	later
también	also
y	and
pero	but
finalmente	finally
por eso	That's why
por lo menos	At least

2. Opinions:

Fue una experiencia....	It was a ...experience
fantástica	fantastic
fenomenal	wonderful
inolvidable	unforgettable
terrible	Awful
horrible	Horrible
impresionante	impressive

...and justify opinions

porque....

3. Negatives:

no tenía.....ni...ni...	It had neither...nor
No habia...tampoco había...	There were no....nor...

4. Best/worst thing:

lo peor del hotel era	The worst thing about the hotel was that
Lo mejor del hotel era	The best thing about the hotel was that

5. Join ideas with connectives and try to use
more than one tense in sentences:

Example:

Me gusto el hotel porque era grande y lujoso, pero la próxima vez voy a ir a un alberge juvenil porque es más barato.

I liked (preterite) the hotel because it was (imperfect) big and luxurious, but next time I am going to go (near future) to a youth hostel because it's cheaper.

Free Time speaking

Remember to use the definite article after opinion verbs,

Use indefinite article to say to 'some'

e.g. Ponen unas películas muy buenas este fin de semana

They are showing some very good films this weekend

Algunas películas son buenas

Some films are good

Include expressions followed by an infinitive for variety

Me gusta- I like

Me encanta- I love

Prefiero- I prefer

Quiero- I want

Suelo- I usually

Odio- I hate

Antes de- before

Después de- after

+ jugar al fútbol

infinitive

Include adverbs of frequency

Todos los días-	every day
Dos veces al mes-	twice a month
Una vez a la semana	once a week
Los miércoles	on Wednesdays
Nunca	never

- Use direct object pronouns (Edexcel GCSE Spanish: page 107)

We use pronouns to avoid repeating a noun twice, this will make your Spanish sound more fluent.

	singular	plural
masc	El dinero → lo	Los libros → los
fem	La revista → la	las revistas → las

Compro **revistas**. **Las** compro cada quince días

*I buy **magazines**. I buy **them** every fortnight*

Ahorro **dinero**. **Lo** ahorro para comprar ropa

I save **money**. I save **it** to buy clothes

Include Comparatives

Más + adjective + que	More than
Menos+ adjective + que	Less than
Mejor que...-	Better than
Peor que...-	Worse than
Tan + adjective + como	As...as

Present continuous (page 112 Edexcel GCSE Spanish)

Try to include an example of this more complex tense.

(Present tense of *estar* + present participle of the verb)

Estoy mirando/ viendo...	I am watching
Estoy estudiando...	I am studying
Estoy leyendo-	I am reading

School writing

1. Add expressions of time/ season to add length and complexity:

a. En el recreo a las once, juego al tenis y voy al club de ajedrez.	At breaktime at 11, I play tennis and I go to chess club.
b. En invierno voy al club de idiomas	In the winter I go to language club
c. Después del colegio canto en el coro.	After school I sing in the choir

2. Use interesting phrases to give your opinion:

Me parece que....	It seems to me that..
No estoy de acuerdo (con)....	I do not agree (with)...
Para mí....	For me...
Pienso que.../Creo que....	I think that...
Estoy en contra (de)	I am opposed (to)
Sin embargo....	however
Por un lado...por otro lado...	On one hand .. on the other hand

3. Include a complex sentence (more than one tense in it):

e.g. Fui en Francia con mi colegio y fue una experiencia impresionante, pero como no hablo muy bien francés, no entendí mucho.

I went(preterite) to France with my school and it was(preterite) an impressive experience, but as I don't speak (present)French well, I did not understand(preterite) much.

Job application writing

1. Extend your sentences with connectives

Example:

Reparto leche, pero no me gusta mucho porque es un trabajo muy duro.

I deliver milk, but I don't really like it because it is a hard job

Gano poco pero eso es mejor que nada

I don't earn much but it's better than nothing

2. Use adjectives to describe the people you worked with on work experience:

Agresivo/a	aggressive
Maleducado/a-	rude
Alegre	happy
Maduro/a	mature
Orgullosa/a	proud

3. Remember to add sequencers:

Antes de...+ infinitive	before...
Despues de...+ infinitive	after

4. 'If' clauses are a good way to make your writing more complex

Sí apruebo mis exámenes ganaré mucho dinero

If I pass my exams I will earn lots of money

Sí trabajo mucho, iré a la Universidad

If I work hard, I will go to university

5. Use different expressions to talk about the future:

Pienso+ infinitive	I am thinking of
Quiero+ infinitive	I want to....
Espero+ infinitive	I hope to.....

6. Complex sentences

e.g. Si + present + future to talk about the future

and try to use 2 tenses in a sentence:

Terminábamos a las cinco y media, pero el último día salí a las tres porque no tenía nada que hacer, y mi jefe me dijo que podía salir temprano.

We used to finish at 5.30, but on the last day I left at 3 because there was nothing to do and my boss said that I could leave early

7.Connectives that take infinitives

Después de- after.....

6. Conditional tense

Me gustaría hacer.... I would like to do....

7. Future tense

Trabajaré- I will work....