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## Lesson 8. At the supermarket 1

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### DIÁLOGO 1

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*Francisco:* Disculpe, ¿me puede decir dónde están los carritos y las cestas?

*Dependiente:* En la entrada principal.

*Francisco:* ¿Y sabe dónde puedo encontrar el aceite y la fruta?

*Dependiente:* El aceite está junto a la carne y la fruta en el pasillo central.

*Francisco:* *(En el puesto de la fruta)* Buenos días, ¿me puede poner un kilo de fresas, dos de plátanos y medio de kiwis?

*Dependiente:* ¿Algo más?

*Francisco:* Sí, dos kilos de manzanas, un melón y una sandía.

*Dependiente:* ¿Qué más?

*Francisco:* ¿Cuánto cuestan las uvas?

*Dependiente:* Dos con cincuenta el kilo.

*Francisco:* Vale. ¿Me puede poner medio kilo?

*Dependiente:* ¿Alguna cosa más?

*Francisco:* No. Eso es todo. ¿Pago aquí o en caja?

*Dependiente:* Se paga todo en caja.

*Francisco:* Muchas gracias. Hasta luego.

*Dependiente:* Hasta luego. ¿Quién es el siguiente?

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### DIÁLOGO 2

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*Francisco:* *(En el puesto de las verduras)* Hola, necesito medio kilo de cebollas, un pepino, una lechuga y dos pimientos verdes. ¿Tiene espárragos?

*Dependiente:* Sólo tenemos espárragos en lata. Están junto al azúcar y las galletas. ¿Qué más le pongo?

*Francisco:* Dos kilos de tomates, uno de zanahorias y medio de champiñones.

*Dependiente:* No me quedan champiñones. ¿Alguna otra cosa?

*Francisco:* No, eso es todo, gracias.

*Dependiente:* De nada.

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## DIALOGUE 1

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- Frank:* Excuse me, can you tell me where the trolleys and baskets are?
- Shop assistant:* At the main entrance.
- Frank:* And do you know where I can find the oil and the fruit?
- Shop assistant:* The oil is next to the meat, and the fruit in the central aisle.
- Frank:* (*At the fruit stall*) Good morning, can you give me one kilo of strawberries, two of bananas and a half of kiwis? (lit: can you put me ...)
- Shop assistant:* Anything else? (lit: anything more?)
- Frank:* Yes, two kilos of apples, a melon and a watermelon.
- Shop assistant:* What else? (lit: what more?)
- Frank:* How much do the grapes cost?
- Shop assistant:* Two fifty per kilo.
- Frank:* OK. Can you give me half a kilo? (lit: Can you put me ...)
- Shop assistant:* Anything else? (lit: Anything more?)
- Frank:* No. That's everything. Do I pay here or at the till?
- Shop assistant:* Everything's paid at the till.
- Frank:* Thank you very much. See you later.
- Shop assistant:* See you later. Who's next? (lit: Who is the next?)

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## DIALOGUE 2

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- Frank:* (*At the vegetable stall*) Hello, I need half a kilo of onions, a cucumber, a lettuce and two green peppers. Do you have asparagus?
- Shop assistant:* We only have tinned asparagus (lit: asparagus in tin). They're next to the sugar and the biscuits. What else can I give you? (lit: what more do I put you?)
- Frank:* Two kilos of tomatoes, one of carrots and a half of mushrooms.
- Shop assistant:* I don't have any mushrooms left. Anything else? (lit: any other thing?)
- Frank:* No, that's everything, thanks.
- Shop assistant:* You're welcome (lit: Of nothing).

## 8.1 New words

aceite (m)	oil	manzana (f)	apple
alguna	any, some (f)	medio	half
azúcar (m)	sugar	melón (m)	melon
caja (f)	till, box	necesito	I need
carrito (m)	trolley	no	no
cebolla (f)	onion	pago	I pay
central	central	pasillo (m)	aisle, corridor
cesta (f)	basket	pepino (m)	cucumber
champiñón (m)	mushroom	pimiento (m)	pepper, capsicum
cosa (f)	thing	plátano (m)	banana
cuánto cuestan ...	how much are ...	poner	to put
cuestan	they cost	principal	main
de nada	you're welcome	puesto (m)	stall
dependienta (f)	shop assistant	qué más	what else
disculpe	excuse me	quién	who
encontrar	to find	sabe	he/she/it knows, you [ud] know
espárrago (m)	asparagus	sandía (f)	watermelon
Francisco	Frank	se paga	it is paid, one pays
fresa (f)	strawberry	siguiente	next
fruta (f)	fruit	sólo	only
galleta (f)	biscuit	tomate (m)	tomato
junto a	next to	uva (f)	grape
kilo (m)	kilo	verdes	green (m/pl, f/pl)
kiwi (m)	kiwi	verduras (f/pl)	vegetables
lata (f)	tin, can	zanahoria (f)	carrot
lechuga (f)	lettuce		

## 8.2 Watch out for your pronunciation

- Let's practise the letter 'i'. Notice that, unlike in English, the Spanish 'i' always has the same sound: *microondas, varios, Francisco, pimientos, hielo, medio, cafetería*.
- Now let's compare the letters 'i' and 'e'. Listen to these words and repeat them: *limón, té, aire, sirve, tiene, pepino, aceite, disculpe*.

### 8.3 Important notes

- Stress: Make sure you know where to stress these words: *apartamento, habitaciones, principal, aparcar, supermercado, información, instrucciones, café, chocolate, jerez*.
- Difficult words: Listen to these words and practise saying them: *carritos, cestas, plátanos, uvas, caja, siguiente, verduras, espárragos, azúcar, zanahorias, champiñones*.

### 8.3 Important notes

- Nouns ending in ‘e’ can be either masculine or feminine. So, to know whether *aceite* or *leche* take *el* or *la*, the simplest thing is to learn *el aceite* and *la leche*, rather than just *aceite* and *leche*.
- *No me queda* and *no me quedan*. Notice the difference: *no me queda* is used with mass nouns (i.e. those referring to things that cannot be counted), like ‘water’: *no me queda agua* (I don’t have any water left). *No me quedan* is used with nouns that can be counted, like ‘peppers’: *no me quedan pimientos* (I don’t have any peppers left).
- Other useful expressions: *junto a* (next to), *¿me puede poner?* (can you give me?), *¿qué más?* (what else?), *¿cuánto cuestan ...?* (how much are ...?), *¿alguna cosa más?* (anything else?), *en lata* (tinned), *¿qué más le pongo?* (what else can I give you?), *no me quedan ...* (I don’t have any ... left), *¿alguna otra cosa?* (anything else?), *de nada* (you’re welcome).

### 8.4 Tip of the day

Reading the dialogues along with the Spanish speakers in the recordings will dramatically improve your pronunciation, intonation and speed.

## 8.5 You may wonder...

**What is the difference between sólo and solo?** *Sólo* means ‘only’, whereas *solo* (without the accent) means ‘alone’, ‘on its own’ or ‘on his own’.

**What is the difference between algo más, alguna cosa más and alguna otra cosa?** Not much, really. They all translate as ‘anything else’, although the first two literally mean ‘anything more’, and *alguna otra cosa* literally means ‘any other thing’.

**What is the difference between junto al and junto a?** *Junto al* (next to the) is used before *el* nouns: *junto al supermercado* (next to the supermarket). *Junto a* is used in all other occasions: *junto a los supermercados* (next to the supermarkets), *junto a la piscina* (next to the pool), *junto a las casas* (next to the houses), *junto a un supermercado* (next to a supermarket), etc.

**Can you say ¿dónde están los carritos? (where are the trolleys?) without ¿me puede decir? (can you tell me?)?** Yes, it is the same as in English. You can say ‘where are the trolleys?’ instead of ‘can you tell me where the trolleys are?’ The only difference is that it is not as polite.

**Why does champiñones not have an accent, unlike champiñón?** Roughly speaking, because *champiñones* is stressed on the second last vowel, which is the default, whereas *champiñón* is stressed on the last vowel, which is not the default. We have also seen: *habitación* and *habitaciones*.

## 8.6 Spanish words with something in common

- *Se sirve* (is served, one serves), *se deja* (is left, one leaves), *se paga* (is paid, one pays). We will come back to this on p. 153.
- *Verde* (green) and *las verduras* (vegetables, greens).
- *Pongo* (I put) and *poner* (to put).
- *Pago* (I pay) and *se paga* (is paid, one pays).

## 8.7 Building up new sentences

- *Necesito* (I need) and *necesitan* (you [uds]/they need). See page 234
- Looking at the verbs in this section, we can now tell that some patterns begin to merge. Verbs ending in ‘o’ refer to ‘I’, for example: *pongo* (I put) or *pago* (I pay); and those ending in ‘n’ to ‘you’ [uds] and ‘they’, for example: *necesitan* (you/they need) or *vienen* (you/they come). We will see more patterns as we progress. Alternatively, go to page 233
- *Cuánto* (how much) is used when followed by a verb like *cuestan* or *es*, and *cuántas* (how many) is used when followed by a feminine plural noun, like *noches*.

## 8.7 Building up new sentences

¿Dónde están las sandías?

*Where are the watermelons?*

¿Me puede poner dos kilos de zanahorias?

*Can you give me two kilos of carrots?*

¿Cuánto cuestan las manzanas?

*How much are the apples?*

El melón se paga en caja.

*The melon is paid for at the till.*

No nos quedan uvas.

*We don't have any grapes left.*

No me queda leche.

*I don't have any milk left.*

¿Quién es?

*Who is it?*



## 8.8 Exercises

(See solutions on p. 207)

**Exercise 1:** Say these sentences in Spanish:

1. Where are the grapes?
2. The sugar is next to the oil.
3. How much are the biscuits?
4. We have tinned mushrooms.
5. I only have two euros.
6. I need the car.
7. I don't have any towels left.
8. When can I see the apartment?
9. Can you [ud] give me two kilos of strawberries?
10. Who is Margaret?

**Exercise 2:** Which of the two words is being said?

- |               |              |                |              |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. el carrito | los carritos | 2. la cesta    | las cestas   |
| 3. la fresa   | las fresas   | 4. el plátano  | los plátanos |
| 5. la manzana | las manzanas | 6. la uva      | las uvas     |
| 7. el kilo    | los kilos    | 8. la caja     | las cajas    |
| 9. la cebolla | las cebollas | 10. la lechuga | las lechugas |

**Exercise 3:** Match the English with the Spanish expressions:

- |                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. yo también            | that's everything |
| 2. eso es todo           | let's see         |
| 3. cómo no               | at the end        |
| 4. quédese con el cambio | me too            |
| 5. ahora mismo           | as you can see    |
| 6. vamos a ver           | of course         |
| 7. como pueden ver       | you're welcome    |
| 8. cerca de aquí         | keep the change   |
| 9. al fondo              | near here         |
| 10. de nada              | right away        |

## 8.8 Exercises

**Exercise 4:** How would you translate these sentences?

1. ¿Puedo ver las cestas?

1. *Translation:* .....

2. ¿Dónde están los espárragos en lata?

2. *Translation:* .....

3. Hay diez niños en la piscina.

3. *Translation:* .....

4. La fruta está en la nevera.

4. *Translation:* .....

5. Vamos a tomar fresas.

5. *Translation:* .....

6. Quiero un zumo de manzana.

6. *Translation:* .....

7. ¿Cuándo vienen al supermercado?

7. *Translation:* .....

8. La carne está en el congelador.

8. *Translation:* .....

9. ¿Qué día vamos a cenar con mi amigo?

9. *Translation:* .....

10. No me quedan sandías grandes.

10. *Translation:* .....